

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Workshop of the President and the Board of Trustees
Held on May 23, 2011
In the Boardroom**

Trustee Lamb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board Present: Trustee Fay, Trustee Lamb, Trustee Racich, Trustee Rippy (7:10 p.m.), and Trustee Bonuchi. Board absent: Mayor Collins and Trustee Peck. Others present: Michelle Gibas, Village Clerk; Lou Haussmann, Engineer; Allen Persons, Public Works Director; Michael Garrigan, Planning Supervisor; and John Konopek, Interim Chief of Police. There were approximately 4 persons in the audience.

Trustee Bonuchi moved to approve the Temporary Chair appointments of Trustee Lamb (5/23/11), Trustee Fay (6/13/11), and Trustee Racich (6/27/11). Seconded by Trustee Racich. Vote by roll call. Fay, yes; Lamb, yes; Peck, absent; Racich, yes; Rippy, absent; Bonuchi, yes. 4 yes, 0 no, 2 absent. Motion carried.

Trustee Fay moved to approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Workshop held on May 9, 2011. Seconded by Trustee Bonuchi. Voice Vote. All in favor, 0 opposed. Motion carried.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTS

None

TRUSTEES COMMENTS

Trustee Lamb congratulated Sergeant Jennifer Myers on her recent graduation from the School of Police Staff and Command at Northwestern University.

Trustee Bonuchi also congratulated Sgt. Myers. Trustee Bonuchi also thanked Shirley's Turtles for their fundraising efforts for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Trustee Fay thanked Jon Proulx for running another successful River Sweep. Trustee Fay also encouraged everyone to attend the Memorial Day Walk and Ceremonies.

PUBLIC COMMENTS on Items Not on the Agenda

None.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

#1 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATES

Mr. Michael Garrigan stated that staff would like to initiate an update of several portions of the Village's Comprehensive Plan in order to address some of the recent market trends. The Village's Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2002 and no major updates have been approved since 2005. Mr. Garrigan reviewed some potential areas to be updated.

TRANSPORTATION:

Mr. Garrigan reviewed several Transportation Goals that have not been fully achieved and stated that he felt neighborhood interconnection was important.

Trustee Fay stated that he likes the interconnection between neighborhoods. He also would support extending 143rd Street east and west, and would like to see Drauden extended north. Trustee Fay suggested looking at ways to interconnect bikeways/pathways.

Trustee Bonuchi stated that she too agrees with interconnectivity. She suggested keeping the focus on what is realistic and things that we can expect to see completed. Mr. Garrigan pointed out that there are missing links that staff can focus on including extending 143rd Street west to Ridge and applying for CMAP grants.

Mr. Lou Haussmann, Baxter and Woodman, pointed out that CMAP will be accepting applications for grants for intergraded transportation and land use planning. The grant is an 80% funding to 20% local match. Mr. Haussmann anticipates that the grant will be approximately \$80,000 and feels that the Village has about a 30% chance of receiving a grant.

Trustee Bonuchi stated that she is in favor of pursuing the grant application.

Trustee Lamb supported pursuing the grant application and felt that even without grant funds that the project was worth doing. Trustee Lamb stated that the impact of the railroad on the community should also be taken into consideration for the transportation updates. He felt filling in the missing links is a high priority. He expressed some concerns regarding interconnecting the neighborhoods because people may fear that it will add extra and cut-through traffic to the neighborhood. You need to look at who benefits from the interconnectivity. Trustee Lamb also questioned the WIKADUKE Trail and the lack of commercial development.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Garrigan reviewed some of economic development goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Garrigan stated that the focus should be on creating a more competitive environment.

Trustee Fay stated that the Village should avoid pockets of retail.

Trustee Bonuchi stated that she would like to see quality over quantity. Don't put businesses in for the sake of having a business. She also agreed on avoiding retail strip malls.

Trustee Lamb stated that the focus should be on filling in the gaps. He felt that non-retail was a destination and did not necessary encourage retail; they need to intermix. Density is something we want to look for. He thought revitalizing downtown was an excellent idea and suggested using the Fazio building for non-retail uses.

Trustee Bonuchi stated parking will need to be addressed in the Village's downtown.

FUTURE LAND USE & DENSITY

Mr. Garrigan pointed out that the Comprehensive Plan's density and land use was based on growth and market trends from 2002. Mr. Garrigan suggested focusing on identifying areas within the Density Plan that no longer make sense and reviewed some specific areas of the Land Use Map.

Trustee Bonuchi stated that the Village needs to be sensitive to current homeowners.

Trustee Fay also thought the Village should be sensitive on impacting existing residents. He also felt that the Central Area Plan (downtown) should be pedestrian friendly, and suggested looking at what amenities there are currently and what is needed; a grocery store, for example. He suggested looking carefully at the Southwest and West Sector and to determine the needs as well.

Trustee Racich stated that the Village should not sacrifice what we have today by just putting anything in. We can look at the Comprehensive Plan and tighten it up, but can not dream. He pointed out a recent article in the New York Times regarding foreclosed homes. We need to get rid of that inventory before building new homes.

Trustee Lamb stated we need transportation in place to handle more people. He thought that infill was important. He also felt that more amenities needed to be traded for more density. More amenities also benefits existing home owners.

SCALE AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Garrigan stated that the current Comprehensive Plan is premised on the fact that the Village would have an ultimate build-out population of 120,000 people and a land mass of over 60 square miles. The focus should be on determining whether or not that is still realistic.

Trustee Lamb stated that even with a scale down, the Village can still be a great place to live.

Trustee Bonuchi stated that she would rather see quality over quantity. The Village needs to be more attractive to homebuyers as they will have the pick of the litter. Developers are working on more appealing floor plans to make smaller homes look bigger as well as having more amenities.

Trustee Fay asked the staff to make sure that they factor in the Buxton Report. He also suggested looking at other land uses where people want to congregate like a Sports Complex or a park.

Trustee Lamb suggested looking at facilities and housing for seniors.

Trustee Racich stated that hopefully Edward Hospital will expand and that will help revitalize the Village.

EMPLOYMENT CENTERS

Mr. Garrigan stated that there may be an opportunity to identify new employment centers in the Village that are not currently identified in the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Garrigan pointed out that 85% of the residents who work leave the Village for their employment.

Trustee Rippy cautioned that transportation and employment go hand in hand and we need to have transportation in place if we are going to attract more people.

Trustee Lamb agreed with Trustee Rippy and thought that the I-55 corridor may be a viable option for employment centers.

OPEN SPACE AND VILLAGE CHARACTER

Mr. Garrigan stated that consistent with the current Comprehensive plan, the preservation of open space and the creation of a series of greenways and network parks continue to be an important long term goal for the Village.

Trustee Fay suggested taking a look at other communities to see what works. He suggested even looking at places like Celebration, Florida.

WORK PLAN

Mr. Garrigan stated that the goal of this process is to create a working group of individuals made up of members of the Village Board, Plan Commission, staff, and other appropriate community members to meet once a month and to report to the whole Village Board on a monthly or bi-monthly schedule.

There was unanimous support to create a working group.

#2 PROPOSED CLOSURE OF OAK STREET AT ROUTE 59

Mr. Allen Persons stated that staff is seeking Board input on the closure of either Arnold Street, Oak Street, both, or neither. Mr. Persons pointed out that both streets intersect Route 59 at angles making it almost impossible for drivers to make a left hand turn across Route 59.

Trustee Lamb stated that it would make more sense to close Arnold since Oak Street leads to the downtown.

Trustee Bonuchi suggested making Arnold a right turn only and prohibit both streets from turning north. She would like to get the opinion of the residents prior to making any decision.

Trustee Fay suggested leaving both streets open and possibly restricting north turns from Arnold.

Trustee Rippy suggested closing Arnold and leaving Oak Street open.

Trustee Racich stated that the Board should consider the residents opinions. He did agree that restricting a north turn on Arnold Street was a good idea.

Mr. Persons stated that he will contact the area residents.

Chairman Lamb read the reminders. Trustee Racich encouraged everyone to attend the Memorial Day Celebration on May 30. Chief Konopek reviewed the details.

Trustee Fay moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Racich. Voice Vote. All in favor, 0 opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Michelle Gibas, Village Clerk