

VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
VILLAGE COUNCIL
Special Meeting
Long Range Planning
January 18, 2005

The Special Long Range Planning Meeting of the Franklin Village Council was called to order by President Mark Jahnke at the Franklin Village Office Building, 32325 Franklin Road, Franklin, at 7:03 p.m.

Present:

Council: Fred Gallasch, Alan Harnisch, Mark Jahnke, Bill Lamott, Randy McElroy, Ralph Sosin.

Planning Commission: Pam Hansen, Mary Hepler, Dean Moenck, Jim Stevens, Al Beke.

Historic Commission: Gary Roberts.

Village Officials: Administrator Jon Stoppels, Clerk Eileen Pulker, Police Chief Ed Glomb.

Citizens at Large: Connie Ettinger, David Goldberg, Glen Hoffrichter, Diane Lake, Mike Seltzer, Nancy Sheffield.

President Jahnke welcomed all in attendance and explained the purpose and format for the meeting. Participants then split into four groups with representatives in each group from Council, Planning, and Village Administration. For an hour the groups discussed what they felt to be long term planning priorities within the community. The meeting of the whole reconvened after one hour and each group presented its list of priorities.

Group One

Jim Stevens presented the findings of Group One and advised that all projects were considered to be significant, and were not rated in terms of importance:

1. Tree survey, tree replacement, vegetation enhancement, and Rouge River Enhancement were discussed as interrelated projects.
2. Police Services. The group felt there may be a need for additional officers in the future.
3. Financial Planning. Group One felt remuneration and benefits for current employees would possibly change in the future.
4. Village Boundaries. Changes to neighboring communities might impact Village boundaries. Aesthetic improvement of Village boundaries was also discussed.
5. Utility Lines. Lines could be buried, especially in the Historic District.

6. Historic Preservation. Is the Village doing enough to obtain grant monies?

Group Two

Bill Lamott presented the items of planning concern for Group Two:

1. Trees, including removing dead trees and planting new ones on both public and private property.
2. Access to the Village center from the northeast corner of the Village.
3. Bigfoot houses on small lots (seen as a negative).
4. "Tacky" downtown.
5. Future of the cider mill: how can the Village assist or promote its plans?
6. Increase in utilization of the Broughton House facility.
7. Employee retirement and health care planning.
8. Ordinance enforcement.
9. The continuation of shared services such as fire and police with Bingham Farms.
10. Retaining and maintaining the Village's open spaces.

Group Three

Group Three discussed many issues but deemed the following to be of highest importance, as reported by Pam Hansen:

1. Tree survey, tree replacement, and vegetation enhancement, including addressing the noxious weed problem.
2. Ordinance revisions and enforcement. It was suggested that Planning Commission and ZBA be consulted for input.
3. Rouge River enhancement, including education of the public about water quality and chemical contamination.
4. Financial Planning.

Group Four

Connie Ettinger presented Group Four's list of planning priorities.

1. Shared Services. The group suggested meeting periodically for discussion with Bingham Farms officials.

2. Ordinance Enforcement. This group felt more inspections might be necessary during the building process, and that penalties for violations should be reviewed.
3. Downtown Improvements, including looking at what can be done to attract business to the downtown area.
4. Rouge River Enhancement, including the banning of fertilizers containing phosphorus.
5. Cat licensing.
6. Tree Preservation. Group Four discussed educating the citizenry about tree disease, subsidizing tree plantings, and encouraging residents to plant the “right” trees.

Harnisch commented that his group had discussed piggybacking on other communities in order to share some services such as snow removal and garbage pick up.

Lake and Gallasch asked that potential planning topics be defined for the purpose of continuity of discussion.

Stevens added that, even though it wasn't on the list of suggested topics, communications services is an appropriate long term planning topic.

Lake suggested that funding be discussed relative to each potential project.

Stevens reminded those in attendance that the Master Plan should be considered before undertaking a project. For example, street lighting and sidewalks might be desirable, but the Master Plan is opposed to them. So, should the Master Plan be modified?

Sosin commented that he felt the Village was getting better, and that as community needs evolve, government should respond to these changes.

Harnisch asked if a memo summarizing this planning meeting and asking for citizen input could be posted on the Village website. Glomb suggested inviting the cable company to the next planning meeting.

Motion: Motion by Sosin, seconded by McElroy, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Gale