

**VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
VILLAGE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017, 7:00 PM
FRANKLIN VILLAGE HALL – BROUGHTON HOUSE
32325 FRANKLIN ROAD, FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN 48025**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Pam Hansen, at 7:02 PM at the Franklin Village Hall, Franklin, Michigan.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Fred Gallasch, Brian Gordon, Pam Hansen, Judy Moenck, Mira Stakhiv
Absent: Tom Morrow, Mike Seltzer
Also Present: Jim Creech, Village Administrator
Eileen Pulker, Village Clerk
Lance Vainik, Treasurer
John Staran, Village Attorney
Connie Ettinger, Chairman, Planning Commission
Deanna Yow, Executive Director of Main Street Franklin
Barry Silverstein, Chairman of MSF

Hansen noted that Morrow and Seltzer had indicated that they were unable to attend the meeting.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Gordon, seconded by Moenck to adopt the agenda, as presented.

Hansen requested that in addition to item A. she would like Council members to make personal recommendations in addition to the individual Commission's recommendations.

Motion by Gordon to adopt the agenda, as amended.

Ayes: Gallasch, Gordon, Hansen, Moenck, Stakhiv

Absent: Morrow, Seltzer

Nays: None

Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS

No comments were made at this time.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Hansen thanked the Council members for talking and working with the various Boards and Commissions about their input and recommendations. She has spoken with Morrow who is supportive of this budget gathering process and making the information collected tonight available to all commissioners and Council Members.

She stated that there were a couple of goals for this evening: the Council understands the recommendations from the commissioners on Village improvements which Council should take into consideration as they prepare the FY2017-2018 Budget and a possible informal agreement on which recommendations Council would like to include in the budgeting process and are there any

which it can't deal with, for whatever reason. Gallasch, a member of the Finance Committee, noted that Council should take into consideration a three (3) year plan, not just one. Hansen stressed that this was to be a discussion meeting, not a budget meeting and encouraged dialogues and questions.

A. Discussion: Identify and Prioritize Short and Long Term Community Goals and Objectives, related to the following:

• **Planning Commission**

Connie Ettinger, Chairman of the Planning Commission (PC) and David Goldberg, member of the Planning Commission were present. Ettinger explained that the documents the Council received in her two (2) memos, both dated April 2, 2017, "Supporting documentation from Planning Commission to Council to assist in the 2017-18 budgeting process" and "Draft implementation strategy for implementation of the 2015 Master Plan" which had been prepared by Sarah Traxler, Planning Commission consultant with McKenna Associates. In addition to its yearly \$15,000 general operating budget, PC is requesting an additional \$16,000 to fund three (3) projects which would begin steps towards the implementation of the objectives of the 2015 Master Plan.

Within Ettinger's first memo she referred to Traxler's letter dated March 27, 2017 "Annual Planning Program for 2017-2018" and further prioritized the Commissioners' projects: Village Center sign uniformity, Non-residential parking improvements, and Revitalization of the Village Center through development of a lighting plan. Wireless Reception had been set aside. She mentioned the meeting held with Deanna Yow, Main Street Franklin (MSF) Executive Director, and Gary Roberts, Chairman of Historic District Commission (HDC), which concentrated on signage and made some progress. Ettinger explained the process PC went through to arrive at its top priorities.

Gallasch opined that he would like to see more resident input in the implementation versus paying a consultant. He gave an example which dealt with the parking issue and suggested that a committee of residents, the Council, or the Planning Commission set up a meeting or meetings with the merchants and explain what the Council, Planning Commission, and Main Street are doing and what they would like to do. He wondered if Village residents could take on some of the tasks instead of spending the money on consultants.

Goldberg further broke down each task with regards to the rationalizing of funds for each project, stressing that Traxler's presence and expertise was necessary, as is Hubbell, Roth and Clark. He also discussed how the each project depended on the outcomes of the others.

Moenck inquired about PC's 1st and 2nd "12-month visions". Ettinger and Goldberg commented and discussed their projections for each project, emphasizing that the inter-dependent components of each project would be paramount.

Gordon summarized the obstacles that Planning would be facing for each priority to come to fruition. Gordon continued noting that cooperation among the stakeholders is most important, along with design, budget, and potential timeframe, all being important. Lighting and

pathways are important to him and he would like to concentrate on them by allocating funds towards those goals. Stakhiv supported Gordon on the importance of lighting.

Gallasch thought it to be advantageous to combine lighting and pathways as the improvements could be done simultaneously. Gallasch was willing to allocate some funds to this, even if the dollar amounts were merely estimates. He asked that PC provide those figures at the next budget meeting.

Hansen encouraged the Planning Commission to meet with Creech about the funding figures and to meet with other constituents and garner their support of these possible plans. Moving forward was the important issue. Gordon expressed his hope that the Commission would provide a more global view of what the Village Center would look like which would require more planning and more meetings. Gordon added that signage for him could be a collaborative venture with MSF without any budgetary impact as it involves finishing the draft of the sign ordinance.

Stakhiv was curious why PC omitted “wireless reception” from its priority list as she thought it was an important issue. But she cautioned that it need not be discussed endlessly and that a knowledgeable person or a specialist consultant would be needed to address the pertinent issues. Goldberg explained that the PC did not want to take the initiative to spend funds on the subject; however, if Council had a plan then Planning would pursue it. Stakhiv expressed her wish that Planning should work on it. Hansen stated that the subject of what might be necessary for cell coverage would be on the April 17, 2017 Council meeting agenda. It was agreed that if Council wanted PC to pursue this matter more money would need to be allocated to the Planning Commission.

Creech mentioned the limitations in Chapter 14 of the Charter regarding lighting which requires the subject be brought before the villagers for a vote. This and the sidewalks issue could be put on the 2018 ballot. Staran provided several funding options which would culminate with the November 2018 election. Creech mentioned that he had had previous experience with funding a lighting project and related the end result of such.

- **Historic District Commission**

Gary Roberts, Chairman of HDC, was unable to attend however, Hansen summarized his written letter (dated April 6, 2017), highlighting HDC’s primary initiatives: contracting the services of Amanda Davis and requesting \$700 (\$100 per HDC Commissioner) for training as per prior fiscal years; studying the current boundary of the Historic District; continuing the collaboration with PC, MSF, and McKenna on signage; reporting on the significance of the Burger Barn on Telegraph Road; and endorsing the proposed initiative to improve the Pedestrian circulation in and around the Kreger Community Center property.

Creech explained the process that needed to be followed for the designation of the Burger Barn. Gallasch, who is the Council Liaison with HDC, provided more information about the landscaping, including the possible pathways around the Kreger House and possible crosswalk across Franklin Road. Gordon raised the question of whether or not the Kreger House was in the Historic District to which Gallasch replied in the negative but stated that

HDC plans to address that point. Gordon questioned if the Historical Society was the appropriate entity to be doing the improvement of the road and pedestrian circulation for a Village owned property or should it be the Village. Gallasch noted that the Historical Society represents the Villagers and would need Village approval before it proceeded with a project.

Council members had questions concerning the landscaping around the Kreger House. Gallasch will meet with Roberts for further budgetary details for FY2017-2018 and FY2018-2019 requests. Creech stated that lighting and pathways (sidewalks) would need voter approval.

- **Main Street Franklin**

Barry Silverstein, Chairman, Main Street Franklin, referred to the packet which MSF had prepared and distributed to all the Council members. The main focus was that the community (stakeholders- residents and merchants) need to work together as partners to achieve the 3-4 designated goals. Included in the packet were subjects: Downtown Visioning, Health and Wellness, a list of Beneficiaries of a revitalized downtown and Main Street support, a 2017 Work Plan, Main Street Franklin Budget 2017, and 2017 Budget Detail.

Gordon opined that the Villagers should be the 1st Beneficiaries of the downtown improvements instead of the other way around, which was how he interpreted the document. Silverstein stated that the Villagers have a duty to support the downtown and listed the values and relevancies adding that without support, the downtown dies.

Hansen acknowledged the inclusion of MSF's budget, including the same amount of financial support as this year. She further inquired what MSF's main areas of focus for 2017-18 would be. Deanna Yow, Executive Director of MSF, addressed the co-operative efforts MSF, PC, and HDC had made already and would continue to make with such items as the sign issue at no cost and in a shorter time frame. She listed some partnering efforts with other community entities which happened in the past and are on-going. She stressed that the current MSF board wants to move forward and improve the community for everyone in the Village.

Moenck asked what would be different between the FY2016-17 funding and FY2017-18 funding. Silverstein highlighted the Franklins Frenzy, the art, the signage, some beautification, and especially a workshop on preservation training/education for the community and merchants. With that in mind, Gallasch mentioned the deterioration of some of the buildings downtown and the need for physical improvements.

Hansen stated that she is satisfied with MSF's budget and the concise list of descriptive activities for this year. The level of cooperation among FCA, HDC, and PC already taking place was on the right track. Moenck advised that MSF have a concise list of priorities. The importance of volunteer help was emphasized in accomplishing these goals.

B. Consider Information in Relation to 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget and/or Future Budgets.

Hansen requested that Council Members express their priorities and which items they would like Council to consider as it goes through the Budget Workshop, the Public Hearing, and the approval process of the FY2017-2018 Budget.

Based on what he had heard from PC, MSF, and HDC, Gallasch had the impression that the first fiscal year would concentrate on the planning of the different projects and the second year those projects would actually commence. Moenck added that there were other funds that needed to be addressed and taken into consideration as a whole.

Hansen noted that cell reception would be on next Council meeting's agenda.

Stakhiv agreed with Gallasch that the Village Center visibly needed major improvements. Discussion ensued as to how to accomplish this task.

Moenck mentioned the next MSF Merchant Mixer was scheduled for next Thursday and encouraged Council members to attend. This would be an opportunity to get to know the merchants and to explain the process and advantages of working with the Village.

Gordon echoed Moenck's concerns that there were more issues the Council should be considering other than those brought up at this meeting.

Hansen noted that Gallasch and Stakhiv would be writing a report on the road project meetings which would be included in the Council packet and Council could discuss it at its next meeting. She stated that Creech would also be bringing additional budget issues to the next Council meeting.

Gallasch complimented MSF for taking the initiative to contact new homeowners with information about the Village Center. He also asked that Creech provide information concerning Farmington Hills' desire to connect with Franklin's pressure sewer system, for a few homes at Inkster and Thirteen Mile Roads, which had been approved previously.

VI. CONSIDER SCHEDULING SPECIAL VILLAGE COUNCIL, BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017 AT 5:30 PM.

Motion by Gordon, seconded by Stakhiv to schedule a Special Village Council, Budget Workshop Meeting, for Monday, April 17, 2017 at 5:30 PM.

Ayes: Gallasch, Gordon, Hansen, Moenck, Stakhiv

Absent: Morrow, Seltzer

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Creech stated that the Finance Committee would meet, do a review, make recommendations for changes, and bring them to the next meeting. A draft Budget will be available to the public on May 1, 2017, the Budget Public Hearing would be on May 8, 2017 and a final Budget vote would be at the June 12, 2017 Village Council meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Gordon, seconded by Moenck to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Gallasch, Gordon, Hansen, Moenck, Stakhiv

Absent: Morrow, Seltzer

Nays: None

Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Beke, Recording Secretary

Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk

Pamela Hansen, President