

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Meeting Date:1/18/24

Time:6

In Attendance:Mayor Schroeder, Mr Warner, Ms Susor, Mr Babcock, Ms Klockowski, The Courtneys

Committee Summary

Please provide a summary of the meeting.

- The Committee discussed what parameters should be considered for regulation regarding trees in general, with emphasis on boulevard trees. Situations such as distance from intersections, or maintenance of damaged or intrusive plants were noted. The Committee is also going to look into programs or mechanisms to plant more trees in the Village.
- There was further discussion concerning a Community Building and adding or upgrading community facilities. The ideas of things such as a storm shelter or cooling center were raised. It was agreed that we need to be much more aggressive seeking direct loans or grants to fund these types of initiatives.
- Moving forward with the Natural Prairie at Alumni Park, we recognized the need to clearly explain the goals and stages of the project to the residents. A physical delineation of the area(s), as well as metal signage were deemed appropriate.
- Ms Klockowski brought up the Safe Streets Initiative for future discussion.
- The Committee was joined by the Courtneys late in the meeting to ask us questions about the Village in general, the Downtown, businesses, and commercial properties.

Actionable Items

Please provide a list of actionable items for the council agenda.

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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Meeting Date: 2/15/2024

Time: 5:00

CD&PA

In Attendance: Mayor Schroeder, Ken Taylor, Craig Warner, Jessica Susor, Dean Babcock, Howard Lashuay, Rob Myerholtz, Shelley Myerholtz, Ron Dallas, Erica Rupp, Britteny Klockowski

Due to referencing the Mayor's Vacant Property Program Proposal, the group had a lengthy discussion about derelict properties within the Village. The conditions and legal processes of finding solutions for problem properties, including lack of compliance with ordinances, such as trash, vehicles, health violations and uninhabitable structures, were clarified for the attendees. Mr Myerholtz brought up concerns about deteriorating conditions in parts of Lawndale Mobile Plaza, fearing that it would eventually need to be addressed by the Village.

He also mentioned the drop in population of the Village which shifted the discourse to the downtown business district. The lack of accessible space for commercial purposes was noted. Mr Dallas expressed the need for making the downtown in particular, and the Village in general, a "destination", and felt that an influx of businesses would be vital to that end. Several of the attendees felt that there was a lack of support for existing businesses, including the Farmer's Market, both by local consumers as well as local government. Mrs. Myerholtz felt that the Village charging local establishments for listings in the Newsletter and on the Rt 235 sign was "a slap in the face" and should be remedied.

Another possible avenue of expansion brought up, was the desire to see an industrial park created on the land adjacent to Dollar General. It was suggested that the Village attain a first right of refusal for the property and aggressively promote its commercial use. It was universally agreed that a more vigorous pursuit of grant money needs to take place. The extreme difficulty in finding grant writers was noted. Mrs Myerholtz mentioned that the Mayor of Van Buren has allegedly been successful in acquiring grants for his village and it was agreed that it would be wise to reach out for advice.

Citing a successful situation in his New York hometown, Mr Dallas is of the belief that town sports is the most unifying force in a small village, contributing to the "destination" theme. He noted in that instance, the ball program, on becoming a non-profit, was awarded the ubiquitous \$1 lease and that all mowing, maintenance, and desired facility development became the responsibility of the ball program. Down the road, this would free up money and labor for the town maintenance department. It was also expressed by a few, that the area encompassing parks and some features within are outsized for this community and it was their belief that they are underutilized and have minimal impact as well.

Lastly, when asked, the main request of the attendees was simply for more support.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Actionable Items

Please provide a list of actionable items for the council agenda.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: 3/20/2024

Time: 5 PM

In Attendance: Jeremy Schroeder, Jessica Susor, Craig Warner, Dean Babcock

Had a short discussion about finalizing the “Weed Control” ordinance.

The Committee decided to refocus efforts to work on subdivision codification.

The idea was put forth to consider ways to develop platted but unconstructed streets for actual community expansion.

Actionable Items

Please provide a list of actionable items for the council agenda.

- Present ‘Maintaining Weeds, Grass, Trees, Brush and Shrubs’ for first reading.
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: 4/16/2024

Time:6:00

In Attendance: Jeremy Schroedor, Jessica Susor, Craig Warner, Brittney Klockowski, Dean Babcock

- Discussed merits of a possible ordinance to require downtown building owners to maintain storefronts to appear as commercially ready as opposed to looking like a storage facility.
- The need of a kiosk/or similar signage promoting local businesses at Rt235 and Oak St was generally agreed upon.
- Enhanced and refined the language of the Natural Managed Landscapes Ordinance.
- Talked about the proposed July 4th private party fireworks as to viability, possible waivers, the collection of donations and to the extent of Village participation, if any required.
- The Committee talked about Downtown beautification, i.e. murals. As well as building inspections for the Post Office and Town Hall to assess conditions and maintenance needs going forward.
- The idea of ADA access to the reservoir has been brought up to at least two Council members and merits further study.

Actionable Items

Please provide a list of actionable items for the council agenda.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: 6/18/2024

Time: 6:00

In Attendance: Jeremy Schroeder, Jessica Susor, Dean Babcock, Brittney Klockowski

- The Committee decided to pass on the proposed Subdivision Codes to Council for approval.
- It was determined that vehicle restrictions on the walking path would preclude gasoline powered vehicles of any kind, and golf carts regardless of power source.
- There were safety concerns raised about the new prairie plots. First, there was discussion because the current maze/labyrinth layout only provides one point of access and egress, and it was felt that enabling pass through should be the case. Secondly, we wanted to ensure that plant height in the prairies would not impair visibility from both inside and outside the plots. This will be addressed by not using any tall, dominating grasses in the areas, and utilizing short to medium height wildflowers and grasses for the bulk of the mix.
- The Committee was asked by Mr Taylor to address/form regulations on both solar panels and tarp sheds. We talked about such things as setbacks and permits, ect, but felt we needed more input from Ken on his concerns before we proceeded.
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Actionable Items

Please provide a list of actionable items for the council agenda.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: 7/16/2024

Time: 6:00

In Attendance: Jessica Susor, Harold Boggs, Jeremy Schroeder, Craig Warner

- Prairie—1 oval'ish area. Will take 2 to 3 years to fully develop.
 - Prairie: 1. Killing the grass in the fall. Starting last week of August and finishing by the middle of October.
 - 2. Jan/Feb hand sowing of seeds. Native plants, not grasses, will have some wild flower mixes. These will come back every year and will not need to be replanted. Dean Babcock is collaborating with _____ on best practices.
 - 3. Circular (labyrinth) path, 3-6 feet, w/ in the prairie (dirt or mulch). Continuous trail w/ one way in and one way out.
 - Wildlife prevention: This will be addressed by not using any tall, dominating grasses in the areas, and utilizing short to medium height wildflowers and grasses for the bulk of the mix. Also including paths in the prairie are will deter wildlife.
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- Harold presented that Life Flight does have an area to land with the volleyball net in its current place. Will also consider purchasing a windsock for the area.
 - Discussed the Nature Works grant which now has a due date of 8/15.
 - Discussed future planting of trees and possibility Tree City Designation.
 - Next Meeting: August 15, 2024 at 6pm so that Ken Taylor would be able to attend.
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Actionable Items

Please provide a list of actionable items for the council agenda.

- Proposing/Presenting a plan for the prairies at Alumni Park with included shapes and timeline
- Recommendation from Council to move subdivision code to the Planning Commission

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: 8/15/2024

Time: 6:00PM

In Attendance: [Jeremy Schroeder](#), Dean Babcock, Craig Warner, Ken Taylor

Citizens and Visitors: Rob Myerholtz, Craig Blair, Alaire Blair, Josh Tschappat, Jigar Patel

- There was an initial discussion regarding the priority of needs for the Village, and a request for more detailed proposals generated by Council/Committee activity. Mr. Tschappat also expressed concern for the divisive environment surrounding social media exchanges in the Village.
- The Keeler Prairie Project Proposal was discussed at length, particularly aspects of possible or hoped for benefits to the Village in general. Ms. Blair expressed concern about the need for and use of herbicide and was assured that the area would be cordoned off and have appropriate signage when applications took place. The Blair's indicated that they were present to express general support for the prairie. The Mayor informed the group that a consortium of organizations and businesses had pledged both financial and material support possibly in excess of estimated costs. The proposal appeared to be generally acceptable to those present. Due to citizen requests, a proposal to purchase benches along the path was also put forward.
- Mr. Taylor gave his opinion on not including solar panel regulation in our zoning ordinances. Mr. Myerholtz proposed the idea of adding Accessory Dwelling Unit and "tiny house" options for village residents in the proposed Subdivision Code. An informative and lengthy discussion ensued, covering current county/township regulations of structure size, lot configurations and benefits to creating more affordable rooftops in the Village. It was decided to move ahead in Committee, as it could put the Village in the forefront in the county for accepting this type of housing.

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Actionable Items

Please provide a list of actionable items for the council agenda.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: 9/10/2024

Time: 6:00PM

In Attendance: Jessica Susor, Craig Warner, [Jeremy Schroeder](#), Dean Babcock, [Brittney Klockowski](#), Rob Myerholtz

- Final discussion and review of Keeler's Prairie Project Proposal. Ms Klockowski presented correspondence from the Restoration Specialist for Wood County Parks, as well as the Monitoring and Research Director for Toledo Metroparks, (and a corresponding PowerPoint) pertaining to pocket prairies in general and specifically to the virtual non-effect of the proposed site pertaining to the long established coyote presence in and around the Village.
- Reviewed the Village Donation Policy as it pertains to the project.
- Discussed community feedback and the apparently overwhelming support shown for the project on the P&R Facebook Poll.
- The Committee reviewed the Vehicles on Park Land draft.
- Also had a short discussion on the Zoning Code pertaining to Accessory Dwelling Units and the inclusion of "Tiny Homes" in the Code. The Committee desires more clarification and recommendation from our Code Enforcement Officer.
- A proposal to have a Volunteer Appreciation Event was roundly accepted and will be pursued.

Actionable Items

Please provide a list of actionable items for the council agenda.

- Bring Prairie Project Proposal to a vote.
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: 10/15/2024

Time: 6:00PM

In Attendance: Craig Warner, [Jessica Susor](#), Dean Babcock, [Jeremy Schroeder](#), Brittney Klockowski

- The entire meeting was basically devoted to brainstorming possible projects utilizing the Non Match Grants from the list that would be under the purview of the Community Development Committee.
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Actionable Items

Please provide a list of actionable items for the council agenda.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Rural Business Development Grants in Ohio

Infrastructure projects that improve business district - Main St Revitalization

Community Development & Public Works

Small \$ grant - Downtown Parklets with planters & benches.

Medium \$\$ grant - Upgrade public parking area behind Library.

Large \$\$\$ grant - Upgrade Main Street, possible median established downtown.

Spark Grant

Civic Engagement, Neighborhood Watch, Volunteer Efforts, Workshops, Public Art Projects

Community Development

Downtown mural on an appropriate wall.

Art walk between buildings.

Community Service Grant

Neighborhood Revitalization, Public Gathering Places, Bike/Pedestrian Pathway Improvement

Community Development

CSX - 1 -5 K Benches and planters.

CDBG (2026?)

Road or Sidewalk Improvements, Stormwater, Facade Improvements, Housing Rehab (for homeowners), Public Restrooms in Parks, Park Upgrades

Community Development

Money to be awarded directly to residents for housing rehabilitation.

Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program

Demolition of Vacant Properties, Residential Properties

Community Development

Vacant housing demolition. Question of ownership of property..

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: 12/17/2024

Time: 6:00PM

In Attendance: Craig Warner, Brittney Klockowski, Jessica Susor, Jeremy Schroeder

- Discussed the possibility of leaving the lights on the poles year round. Will ask Fiscal Officer to do a price analysis on what the added expense is.

Fiscal Officer Response: Once the next Toledo Edison bill comes out I should be able to calculate the cost.

- Discussed the subdivision zoning code and the possibility of adding “tiny homes” to the current document. In addition to add “tiny homes” to Weston village code and the best practices to move forward w/ this.

Fiscal Officer Response: Any updates to Zoning have to go to the Planning Commission.

- Grants: T-Mobile Grant - Will continue to discuss. Humanities Spark Grant:

- Ohio Department of Development - Building Demolition & Site: We have a list of abandoned properties and nuisance properties.

- Otsego Serve Day; proposal collaborative mural, old use the Humanities Spark Grant to pay for paint and supplies. Will continue to discuss ideas.

Fiscal Officer Response: The Spark Grant does not support murals; see email forwarded from Kristi December 11th.

- Otsego Serve Day: Continue to discuss possible ideas for this event in May.

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Actionable Items

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- Reviewed Ordinance regarding vehicles in parks. First reading of ordinance.
- Move to Admin Process to discuss USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program with Grantwriter for a possible new village hall.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: 5/21/2024

Time:6:00

In Attendance: Jeremy Schroeder, Jessica Susor, Craig Warner, Dean Babcock, Brittney Klockowski

- Finalized discussion concerning Maintenance of Right-of-Ways and voted to remove from agenda.
- Committee tacitly approved the Subdivision Regulations document compiled and edited by the Zoning Inspector to be shared with the Planning Commission.
- Had further discussion on the Thrive Vacant Property Program Proposal. Revisited suggestions from resident Penny Taylor concerning downtown beautification, including but not limited to, incentivising building use, staging of storefront windows, regulations involving downstairs apartments and subsequent tenant parking regulations. It was suggested to explore the idea of and possibly draft regulations for Commercial Building Owner Maintenance Requirements. As an offshoot to that, to also consider similar Landlord Property Maintenance Requirements.
- The committee would like the V.A. to arrange for building inspections of the Town Hall and the Post Office to help assess problems with the structures and give us a base with which to evaluate future necessary actions.
- Committee Chair will consult with Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves professionals to formulate a detailed plan and timeline for the proper implementation of the prairie areas in Alumni Park.
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Actionable Items

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Meeting Date: 11/19/2024

Time: 6:00PM

In Attendance: Craig Warner, Jessica Susor, Dave Clark & Ken Naggs (Grand Rapids Legion), Brittney Klockowski

- Members of the Grand Rapids Legion were in attendance to discuss a Memorial Day ceremony. Looking into doing this Memorial Day afternoon around 3pm. They will also meet with the cemetery board to discuss other details.

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Actionable Items

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- .USDA Rural Business Development Grant: 1. Redo village parking lot behind the library for public parking. Sound barrier near tracks, natural divider between semi parking and downtown parking. 2. 2 parklet, in front of Horns & Halos and Porkys. Redo planters and downtown beautification.
- T-Mobile Hometown Grant: 1. Basketball/Pickleball courts (if Nature Works grant is not awarded). 2. Restrooms/bus garage upgrade
- Ohio Department of Development—Bldg demolition & site revitalization program. Will put together list of vacant properties. Can this be opened to the public? Do we need to own the property.
- Ohio Humanities - Spark Grant: Art murals
- ODNR - Step Outside Grant: Volunteer appreciation. Community cleanup.

Rural Business Development Grants in Ohio

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CDBG (2026?)

*Road or Sidewalk Improvements, Stormwater, Facade Improvements, **Housing Rehab (for homeowners)**, Public Restrooms in Parks, Park Upgrades*

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Vacant housing demolition. Question of ownership of property..