

VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Meeting Minutes
Algonquin Village Hall Board Room
April 8, 2008

AGENDA ITEM 1: Roll Call to Establish a Quorum

Present: Chairperson – Trustee Glogowski; Trustees Dianis, Sosine, Spella and Steigert; and President Schmitt

Absent: Trustee Smith

Staff Members Present: William Ganek, Village Manager; Jeff Mihelich, Assistant Village Manager; Bob Mitchard, Director of Public Works; Ryan Farrell, Village Attorney

AGENDA ITEM 2: Community Development

A. Presentation of the Old Town District Streetscape Master Plan

Mr. Mihelich provided a brief overview of the plan, highlighting the various proposed projects.

Mr. Darrell Garrison of Planning Resources provided a more detailed overview of the plan. The Gateway Monument proposal, located on the sloped corner of Center Street, La Fox River Drive and South Main Street, introduces a new monument sign that welcomes motorists and pedestrians to the Village.

Mr. Steigert asked if the existing utility poles would be relocated underground. Mr. Mihelich said that they would most likely remain above ground due to the high cost associated with relocation.

Mr. Garrison continued with the Huntington Drive Plaza proposal, located at Legion Drive and Huntington Drive. This proposal includes a stream, rain garden, plaza and walking path.

Mr. Steigert inquired about the creek. Mr. Mihelich stated that the creek will be diverted to meander through the open space area before terminating at the plaza.

Mr. Garrison then presented the Trailhead proposal which includes a monument sign, landscape berm and additional plantings. The Primary Commercial Streetscape proposal along Main Street includes herringbone brick pavers on the sidewalks, new bicycle racks, new newspaper stands and “bump outs” for benches and landscaping.

Mr. Steigert asked if the existing overhead lights would be removed, to which Mr. Mihelich stated that new lighting may be installed.

Mr. Garrison continued with the Alleyway proposal which includes permeable pavers, landscaping, benches and public art and paintings on building walls. The Secondary Commercial Streetscape proposal includes brick pavers on sidewalks, ornamental lighting fixtures, segmental walls and planters. The South Harrison Street Parking Area proposal includes landscape berms to conceal the parking area and the creation of barriers to prevent vehicles from overhanging onto the public sidewalk.

Mr. Garrison then presented the Crystal Creek Riverwalk proposal which connects Cornish Park and Towne Park. There will be plantings along the river bank. The Centennial Plaza proposal includes a large fountain in the middle of a square, with brick pavers, lush plantings and public art. The Port Edward Parking Area proposal includes plantings along the public sidewalk and an ornamental fence. Finally, the South River Road Trail proposal includes ornamental lighting, a walkway, plantings and an ornamental fence along the riverbank.

Mr. Mihelich noted that if the Committee, and ultimately the Village Board, endorsed the Master Plan, staff would incorporate phases of the plan into the 5-Year Capital Improvements Program. He also requested that the Committee direct staff to start pursuing grant opportunities such as the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant for streetscape improvements to Main Street.

Mr. Dianis asked if any of the plans include a variation that would not reduce parking spaces. Mr. Mihelich said that only a handful of parking spaces would be lost and that the Village's ideal plan would be to combine the parking areas to create one large lot. Mr. Dianis also wondered if the sidewalks will be handicapped accessible, to which Mr. Mihelich stated that the matter will be investigated further. Mr. Dianis asked about the ITEP grant and which elements of the plan would be eligible for funding. Mr. Ganek noted that only those elements along Main Street would be eligible for ITEP funding because it is a State highway.

Mr. Steigert felt that the alleyway proposal was lacking something architecturally. He suggested adding trellises or archways to building rooftops. The Committee concurred with his recommendation.

Mrs. Sosine inquired further about the grants. Mr. Mihelich stated a grant is comprised of an 80% contribution from the State and a 20% contribution from the Village.

President Schmitt stressed that this master plan will occur in segments, not all at once; therefore, the plan proposals will be revisited frequently in the future.

Chairperson Glogowski asked if the public art in the Centennial Plaza proposal would coincide with the historic nature of the Old Town District. Mr. Mihelich explained that the statues will be historic-looking bronzed pieces. Chairperson Glogowski also wondered where the Shooting Star would be relocated, to which Mr. Mihelich said it would be moved to the second floor of the Historic Village Hall.

The Committee of the Whole recommended unanimously that the Old Town District Streetscape Master Plan be forwarded to the Village Board for consideration.

AGENDA ITEM 3: General Administration

A. Consideration of an Ordinance for the Annual Adjustment to the Merit Compensation Plan

Mr. Ganek presented a brief overview of the job grades adjustment increase of 3.5% on average. He noted that individual employee raises are based on performance.

Mrs. Sosine asked if this increase is consistent with the newly adopted annual budget, to which Mr. Ganek said that it was.

The Committee of the Whole recommended unanimously that the Ordinance for the Annual Adjustment to the Merit Compensation Plan be forwarded to the Village Board for consideration.

B. Consideration of a Renewal of a Lease Agreement with Dundee Township Park District for the Programming and Maintenance of Algonquin Lakes Park

Mr. Ganek gave a brief overview of the benefits of the lease agreement with the Dundee Township Park District, pointing out that this agreement saves the Village expenditures for maintenance.

Mr. Dianis thinks that this agreement is a great partnership. He asked for clarification on the watering procedure for the fields, to which Mr. Mitchard said that all water at this site is metered. Mr. Dianis suggested that the wording in the agreement be slightly altered, to which Mr. Ganek agreed to have the wording changed.

Mr. Steigert asked who grooms the baseball fields. Mr. Mitchard explained that the Dundee Township Park District does the necessary dirt turn-over biannually and the various users are responsible for detailing work prior to use. Mr. Steigert also asked about snow removal for this area. Mr. Ganek said the Village will clear snow from the sidewalks since there is no winter programming held by the Park District in winter months.

Chairperson Glogowski asked why there is a limit for equipment failure costs, to which Mr. Ganek said that there is a limit for minor work to be performed by the Park District and major repairs would be done by the Village.

The Committee of the Whole recommended unanimously that the Renewal of a Lease Agreement with Dundee Township Park District for the Programming and Maintenance of Algonquin Lakes Park be forwarded to the Village Board for consideration.

C. Consideration of an Agreement with Kane County for Animal Control Services

Mr. Ganek presented a brief overview of the agreement; he feels it is acceptable as it is similar to the Village's agreement with McHenry County.

Chairperson Glogowski asked if the fees would increase by 25% without approval of the Board. Mr. Ganek said that the 2007 fees will remain in place through 2009, but after 2009 the fees are eligible for a 25% increase.

Mr. Steigert asked to change the language of the agreement so the Village may opt out of it if the rate increase is too large in later years.

The Committee of the Whole recommended unanimously that the Agreement with Kane County for Animal Control Services be forwarded to the Village Board for consideration, with the condition that the Village may choose not to renew the agreement if the fee increases become unreasonable in later years.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Public Works & Safety

There were no items for discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Executive Session

None necessary.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Other Business

Mr. Spella asked if a traffic study could be conducted for the portion of Algonquin east of the Fox River, particularly along roads leading to Sandbloom Road such as Ridge and Webster. Mr. Ganek stated that the Algonquin Police Department is currently conducting some analysis in the area and will implement some speed reduction measures such as additional patrols.

President Schmitt pointed out that recent traffic studies on Bunker Hill Drive indicate that vehicle speeds and traffic volumes have decreased by a 25% and vehicles speeds have decreased by 20%.

Chairperson Glogowski enjoyed the recent public art show that was conducted by Village staff and the Algonquin Public Arts Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairperson Glogowski adjourned the meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly Nix". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Kimberly Nix, Recording Secretary