

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
JOINT MEETING OF
PLANNING COMMISSION AND VILLAGE COUNCIL
MARCH 12, 2018

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Joint Meeting of the Planning Commission and the Village Council held at 442 N. Grand Street was called to order by Chairperson Pfof at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairperson Pfof, Gunnett, Schmitt, Rozeboom, Doorn (6:20), Bergland (6:30 p.m.), Stodola, Barnes, Spears (6:55 p.m.), Mastenbrook, Rochholz.

Absent: Hendriksma.

Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Village Clerk Theresa O'Leary, Jordan Parker, Ben Baker, and Linda Lane.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Gunnett, seconded by Rozeboom, to approve the agenda as presented. All aye.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Schmitt, seconded by Gunnett, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 8, 2018, as submitted. All aye.

Motion by Gunnett, seconded by Rozeboom, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2018, as submitted. All aye.

Motion by Rozeboom, seconded by Gunnett, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 22, 2018, with a typographical change. All aye.

4. **UPDATE ON VILLAGE ACTIVITIES:**

None.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a) Mr. Ben Baker of Wightman & Associates appeared before the Planning Commission to present the Draft Copy of the Park and Recreation Plan.

REVIEW & COMMENTS:

Mr. Ben Baker reviewed the Park & Recreation Plan and made the following comments:

- He stated that there are several grant opportunities for Park & Recreation.
- He stated there are several recreational facilities in close proximity to the Village.
- He states the Park & Recreation Plan needs to be approved by the Village Council and will go out for a 30 day public review upon Council approval.

He discussed Goals & Objectives as follows:

- Develop accessible trail.
- Partner with school to acquire property for parks & trails.
- Assess current amenities at Burch Park & identify improvements to the Park.

He discussed development of an Action Plan.

- Develop Burch Park including pavilion, public restroom, sidewalks, and ADA accessibility.
- Develop walking trails.
- Develop trailhead park.

PLANNING COMMISSION & COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Trustee Stodola had the following comments:

- He stated that at some point we could connect trails with Portage, Vicksburg, and Three Rivers.
- He stated that he is concerned about future maintenance of trails, who would do it, and how much it would cost.

Trustee Mastenbrook had the following comments:

- She asked if grant funding is available for trails.
- She inquired about an Ellison Trail Trust Fund.

Planning Commissioner Wes Schmitt had the following comments:

- He stated he is in favor of beginning projects that are easily obtainable, and funded.
- He stated he would like to see a restroom at Burch Park.

President Gunnett requested a list of funding sources, how much the Village would be required to match, and dates that applications must be turned in for Grant Funding requests.

Mr. Ben Baker had the following closing comment:

- He stated that the three Action Plan items could involve at least a period of three years in order to plan for the project, secure funding for the project, and implement the project.

Motion by Rozeboom, seconded by Gunnett, to present the Park and Recreation Plan to the Village Council for their approval to release the plan to the public for a 30 day review period. All aye.

- b) Mr. Jordan Parker appeared before the Joint Committee to discuss the Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Mr. Jordan Parker had the following comments:

- He discussed plans for traffic calming on US 131.
- He provided a conceptual drawing for improved crosswalks on Grand & Eliza Streets.
- He discussed placement of a median and plantings on Grand Street which will slow traffic.
- He stated that the plan can easily be modified depending on cost, MDOT approval, and grant funding.
- He stated that that a crosswalk is in the plan for Clay Street, and encouraged the Village to consider some type of Gateway announcing they are in the Village of Schoolcraft.
- He discussed business opportunities on East Cass Street, and how that could be developed in the upcoming years.
- He discussed improvements to Hayward and Robinson Streets to allow for additional parking opportunities, business and residential growth.
- He stated the Master Plan should project over 20 years.

PLANNING COMMISSION & COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Commissioner Doorn suggested having a School Zone sign on Grand Street to alert traffic to slow down at the proposed crossing on Clay Street.

Trustee Rochholz suggested that the goals be re-prioritized to allow the Village to implement some changes immediately, and acknowledging other goals will take a much longer period to achieve.

Trustee Mastenbrook questioned if it is worthwhile to have a Master Plan without sanitary sewer, and that sanitary sewer is the Village's #1 priority. She stated that the majority of goals hinge on having sanitary sewer.

Trustee Stodola stated he is concerned about snow removal if the Village created additional parking areas.

Commissioner Schmitt stated that the Village needs a regional approach to obtaining funding for sanitary sewer. He stated that the businesses were aware there was no sanitary sewer any the time they purchased their businesses. Schmitt urged local leaders to contact local, state and federal officials to obtain funding.

Commission Pfof stated that the Village needs to have sanitary sewer for both business and residential development. She stated that people do not have the funds to pay for it, so there must be a funding mechanism in place in order to get them.

By general consensus, the Committee's agreed that the goals should be re-organized in terms of ease, cost, and grant funding opportunities, and further broken down into categories as follows: Traffic, Business, Housing and Recreation.

- c) Discussion took place regarding the Draft PUD Addendum for Clark Logic. Manager Lutz explained that Attorney Soltis had drafted the addendum that was being presented.

Motion by Schmitt, seconded by Bergland, to recommend approval of the Draft Addendum as written to the Village Council. All aye.

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
JOINT MEETING
PLANNING COMMISSION & VILLAGE COUNCIL
PAGE 5--

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Mae Pfost, Planning Commission Chairperson

Keith F. Gunnett, Village President

Theresa O'Leary, Village Clerk

PROPOSED