

**Council of the Village of Yellow Springs
Retreat Minutes**

Antioch Midwest Room B105

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Brian Housh called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

ROLL CALL

Present were President Housh, Vice President Marianne MacQueen and Council members Kevin Stokes, Lisa Kreeger and Laura Curliss. Also present were Village Manager Josue Salmeron; Public Works Director Johnnie Burns, Planning and Zoning Administrator Denise Swinger and Police Chief Carlson.

Topics were addressed as follows. No decisions were made, and no votes were taken.

Village Team Update and Pending Projects. Salmeron presented a report out from his team regarding where the Village stands on key issues such as storm water mitigation; broadband; housing; residential solar; comprehensive land use plan; parking; YSPD recommendations; wastewater processing issues with regard to system limitations.

Salmeron made note of projects undertaken which were not on his goals list at the time he began as Village Manager, noting the Vernay remediation; development of the Railroad Street lot; and economic development project involving the Railroad Street lot; the Temporary Transportation Traffic Initiative, and beautification efforts for the Bryan Center.

Salmeron reported in some detail on improvements in customer service and outreach in the Finance department.

Chief Carlson updated Council regarding current projects and professional development. Carlson made note of the fact that 100% of the Village's officers are now CIT trained. He made note of the department doubling their level of community engagement between 2018 and 2019.

Carlson made his case for the possibility of hiring a media specialist to assist with website management.

Housh requested a "more robust" quarterly report from the PD. He also recommended more scenario-based training: quarterly if possible. He also asked for CIT training opportunities for Village employees and Council.

Denise Swinger presented information regarding Planning and Zoning. She also noted her activities in her role as Economic Sustainability Coordinator.

Johnnie Burns reported on Public Works projects and challenges. He noted the need for Council support for legislation requiring stricter control of grease emission from area restaurants, as this is causing significant backup issues in some areas of town. Backflow prevention is another area in which Burns asked for Council support in the form of legislation.

Burns noted that he would like to start a pilot program in which the PW department inspects sump pumps for residents who volunteer, and then either pays for or cost-shares the cost to remove these from the sanitary sewer system.

Council Goals Discussion. MacQueen reviewed her goals, specific to Environmental Commission and the Housing Advisory Board. She laid out goals for both for 2020.

Stokes noted his goals with regard to "fiber to the home", promoting housing as an overall need, not necessarily specific to affordable housing.

Kreeger noted her goals with regard to her particular interests, such as the Finance Advisory group, which she suggested could expand to be more influential.

Kreeger commented on the finance aspect of affordability as an area in which she is interested.

Kreeger stated that she would like to play a role in the infrastructure support/rehabilitation process and with smart planning.

Kreeger noted the idea of having an Economic Development professional either through the YSDC or the Village.

Kreeger asked for more information regarding paid parking, stating that she has not seen a business case for this proposal.

Kreeger noted the need to “tune up the purpose” for the Justice Commission in order to move the commission forward.

Council and staff engaged in a general discussion related to the Justice System Commission and whether this Commission is needed at this time.

Curliss commented that she is interested in restructuring the work of Council, and in completing basic tasks first. She commented that until infrastructure is improved, and storm water breaches are addressed she cannot contemplate approval of any housing projects.

Regarding planning, Curliss commented that the rewrite of the zoning code was not done with any regard to infrastructure. She commented on the expense of green field development and the need to avoid this, speaking strongly against development of the Glass Farm.

Curliss commented that her view of affordability looks more to utilities than to housing.

Curliss commented against paid parking, speaking in favor of being welcoming, as well as the cost of implementation.

Housh cautioned that there have as yet been no proposals for paid parking as this is still in an incipient stage, and asked that minds be kept open to the possibilities.

Housh noted the improvements made in information available from staff to Council.

Housh commented that Council has committed to the comprehensive plan process with regard to future action at the Glass Farm.

Housh opined that support of Antioch College will reside in intelligent choices around economic development.

Housh commented that he would like to explore taxation in more depth.

Council Time Management.

- Agenda-setting

Council members discussed where and how commission information should be brought to Council.

Housh brought up the suggestion of attempting two-hour meetings, and this was discussed with an eye to how to reduce meeting length.

Council/VM roles. Communication and how to manage expectations was discussed.

Board and Commission Effectiveness Discussion: Review Existing Boards and Commissions re: Alignment with Goals. Curliss presented her proposal for a committee structure rather than a board and commission model. She opined that this model would give committee members a greater sense of enfranchisement and add efficiency.

MacQueen suggested creation of a committee to review the proposal, given its extensive nature.

The idea was discussed among Council and the Village Manager, with a consensus among Council members that the idea should go to a committee for fleshing out.

Council Roles/Management Team Roles re: Boards and Commissions.

Which B&Cs Should be Retained/Which Merged or Eliminated: Council Liaisons. Kreeger spoke to the issue of commission effectiveness and some of the challenges to efficacy.

Kreeger commented that in her view, the YSDC fulfills the mission of the ESC, and that the ESC could go on hiatus at this point.

Kreeger proposed that the ACC continue. She stated that she is still unsure of the need for the Justice System Commission.

Housh summarized, noting a proposal to put ESC on hiatus. HRC will be revisited. The JSC will be revisited. Active Transportation Enhancement Committee, Housh commented, should be looked at again with an eye to making this a committee.

Council members stated their interests in various commissions and Housh noted these for discussion on the 21st.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:55 pm Curliss MOVED and Stokes SECONDED a MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION for the Purpose of the Discussion of the Potential Sale of Real Estate. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

At 3:30pm Kreeger MOVED and MacQueen SECONDED a MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:30 pm, Kreeger MOVED and Stokes SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Please note: These notes are not verbatim. A DVD copy of the meeting is available for viewing in the Clerk of Council’s office between 9am and 3pm Monday through Friday or upon request from Channel 5.

Brian Housh, Council President

Attest: Judy Kintner, Council Clerk