



23925 Woodward Avenue
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069

Pleasant Ridge City Commission Meeting
Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Having been duly publicized, Mayor Castelli called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Castelli, Commissioners Bushey, Krzysiak, Perry, Rubino.
Also Present: City Manager Ball, City Attorney John Cooper, City Clerk Allison.
Absent: None.

Minutes

13-2942

Motion by Commissioner Bushey, second by Commissioner Rubino, that the Regular City Commissioner Meeting held Tuesday, January 8, 2013, and the Public Hearing and Special City Commission Meeting held Thursday, January 10, 2013, be approved, as recommended.

Adopted: Yeas: Commissioners Bushey, Rubino, Krzysiak, Perry, Mayor Castelli.
Nays: None.

January 2013 Disbursement Report

13-2943

Motion by Commissioner Bushey, second by Commissioner Rubino, that the January Disbursement Report be approved, as listed.

Adopted: Yeas: Commissioners Bushey, Rubino, Krzysiak, Perry, Mayor Castelli.
Nays: None.

Amend February 2013 Agenda

The agenda was amended to include item #4c, regarding a presentation by Ms. Heather Carmona, Executive Director, Woodward Avenue Action Association (WA3).

Ms. Carmona presented Commissioner Ann Perry with the "Comeback Kid Award" for participating on behalf of the City of Pleasant Ridge

Consent Agenda

13-2944

Motion by Commissioner Rubino, second by Commissioner Bushey, that the Consent Agenda be approved, as recommended.

Adopted: Yeas: Commissioners Rubino, Bushey, Krzysiak, Perry, Mayor Castelli.
 Nays: None.

City Commission Liaison Reports

Commissioner Perry gave an update regarding the Ferndale School District and events related to the district. FPS Board addressing current budget year shortfalls. Discussed Regional Transportation. SEMCOG purpose and needs analysis in progress.

Commissioner Rubino, gave an update regarding the Historical Commission. Plans in the works for the 2013 Home and Garden Tour. Commission is looking for homes to be on the tour. Antique Sale in to be held tentatively in September.

Commissioner Bushey, gave an update regarding the Planning Commission/DDA. Election of officers. DDA Concert in the Park dates, July 31, and September 19. Discussion held regarding medians/Oakland Park/Sylvan intersection, alleys and lighting. Joint workshop between the DDA and City Commission to be held February 21st.

Commissioner Krzysiak, gave an update regarding the Recreation Commission. Commented regarding the passing of Nina Miller. Diana Perino and her family welcomed a new baby. Election of officers. Recognized the outgoing Chairman John Pryzbyla. Appraisal Fair scheduled for April 6th, looking for a name for this event. Health and Wellness Fair was well attended, \$600 was raised for Playmakers. Playmakers are selling "I love PR" window clings. Pleasant Ridge eblast is now live. The eblast will be a monthly newsletter, in addition to the quarterly Ridger. Sign up at the City's website.

Governmental Reports

Mr. Gary McGillvery, Oakland County Commissioner, gave an update on events related to the Oakland County Commission. Free Radon test kits available from the Oakland County Health Department. New program, low interest loan, for delinquent property taxes, contact the Oakland County Treasurers office.

Ordinance 402 – Chapter 42 - Fireworks

Manager Ball commented on the proposed Ordinance amendment and gave a brief history regarding the ordinance.

Mayor Castelli opened the public hearing at 8:18 p.m.

With no further comments or discussion, Mayor Castelli closed the public hearing at 8:19 p.m.

13-2945

Motion by Commissioner Rubino, second by Commissioner Bushey, that Ordinance #402 regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 42, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article IV, Offenses Against Public Peace, Sections 42-84 through 42-86, Fireworks, be approved, with the proposed amendment to remove “2012” from the short title, as recommended.

Adopted: Yeas: Commissioners Rubino, Bushey, Krzysiak, Perry, Mayor Castelli.
 Nays: None.

WA3 Alternate Appointment – F. Rubino

13-2946

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Bushey, that the appointment of Commissioner Frank Rubino, as the City’s alternate representative to the Board of Directors of the Woodward Avenue Action Association (WA3), be approved as recommended.

Adopted: Yeas: Commissioners Perry, Bushey, Krzysiak, Rubino, Mayor Castelli.
 Nays: None.

WA3 Committee Appointment – M. Decoster

13-2947

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Rubino, that the appointment of Mr. Michael Decoster, as the City’s representative to the Woodward Avenue Action Association (WA3) Complete Street Committee and the Alternative Analysis Committee, be approved as recommended.

Adopted: Yeas: Commissioners Perry, Rubino, Bushey, Krzysiak, Mayor Castelli.
 Nays: None.

Improvements to Gainsboro Park Update

Manager Ball gave a brief update regarding potential improvements to Gainsboro Park. The Pleasant Ridge Foundation is interested in funding a larger project such as Gainsboro Park. Many years ago, a conceptual plan was created for improvements. Foundation is interested in committing funds over several years to renovate Gainsboro Park. The Playmakers made a presentation to the Foundation for a donation to the smaller project, however, the Foundation was not interested in supporting the smaller project, but they would support a larger project – which could also include the project the Playmakers were asking for. Special thanks to Ms. Amanda Wahl for her work towards this project. A subcommittee has been formed to discuss the needs for improvements. Currently, the subcommittee is looking at a pavilion and improved restroom facilities in a specific area – a \$500,000 improvement to the park, which is keeping with the conceptual plan, but would be scaled back from the original plan. The subcommittee is in the early discussion phase and funding would need to be discussed.

Mayor Castelli commented about past projects the Foundation has funded.

Commissioner Perry commented she is excited the City is looking at Gainsboro Park. She commented Gainsboro Park is the City's largest play park. Feels she may have not communicated the needs and desires of residents she has spoken with. She commented about the older conceptual plan. She has concerns about construction of a pavilion in a large area of the park that would not be used year round. According to the plan, a quarter of the area would be used as a parking lot – which currently has play equipment. The 2006 Recreation Master Plan laid out a program to maintain, repair and develop Gainsboro, which includes a walking path. It appears that nothing has been done to implement the 2006 Master Plan. Feels that current needs should be assessed by performing a survey. There are needs that can be addressed immediately, such as bathrooms and removal of old grills. The conceptual plan shows little play areas, takes out mature trees and a very popular swing set. Are there other parks that Gainsboro is being modeled after?

Manager Ball commented that the City will be undertaking a Master Plan update for the both the Recreation Master Plan and the City's Master Plan. She commented that the conceptual plan was just an idea, much of the area is green space and many of the features in the plan have been eliminated. The older conceptual plan is not accurate at this time. The renovation plan is in a needs assessment phase currently.

Commissioner Perry commented that the survey did not identify specific improvements at Gainsboro, there was a question regarding a picnic pavilion, but not specifically the large pavilion detailed in the conceptual plan.

Manager Ball commented the vision is the pavilion could be used as a picnic area. The decision on what to ultimately construct will be based on available funding and need.

Commissioner Rubino commented he felt that the discussion tonight may be premature. Before a project may begin, the funding must be secured. The funding needs to be in place before any improvements can be made to the park.

Commissioner Perry explained that she felt that the residents should have some input regarding what they want. Before any funding is committed to the project, a survey of the residents has to be done. There are no other play parks in the City.

Manager Ball commented that the conceptual plan should not be referred to in this discussion.

Commissioner Perry commented that the conceptual plan has been posted. She has been getting feedback from residents who are concerned. This plan has been posted at the Community Center.

Assistant City Manager Pietrzak commented that the plan has been posted at the Community Center to show where the proposed Playmakers play structure would be placed, since the conceptual plan outlined the entire park.

Commissioner Krzysiak commented the Playmakers group is an effort to acknowledge that funding is tight, and what can be done on a modest scale to improve the parks. The Playmakers group project was why the plan was posted. The larger project was not in the scope of the Playmakers. The plan was submitted to the Recreation Commission by Mr. Pietrzak and Mr. Iacoangeli. The amphitheater idea has just taken off in the past few weeks. He is excited about a larger project, but is cautious. He agrees that funding must be secured and a survey should be done.

Manager Ball commented that the goal of the Playmakers is to raise funds for the smaller project. She met with the Playmakers committee, however, one component was a donation from the Foundation. She was asked for a report at tonight's meeting, however, she has little to report regarding the improvements since the project is at an early phase.

Mayor Castelli commented that the Foundation is willing to commit funds and the Master Plan and the Recreation Master Plan will be done. The input from those updates will be available before any funds are spent.

Commissioner Perry commented that discussions with the Foundation should occur after the survey is done and after the residents needs have been assessed.

Manager Ball commented that the only thing that has been done is just a conversation with the Foundation to earmark the funds over several years.

Commissioner Perry commented that she feels whatever is determined by the survey is what should be funded. She feels that Gainsboro is the most utilized park in the City. Her concern is she has heard the Gainsboro Park improvement is a go. Other commissioners commented that this was not discussed at the City Commission level, where the funding would be approved.

Commissioner Bushey questioned if the Playmakers idea was part of the Recreation Master Plan.

Manager Ball commented that the Playmakers plan was not part of the Recreation Master Plan.

Mr. Jay Foreman, 79 Maplefield, Recreation Commissioner, commented this project was presented at the last Recreation Commission Meeting. This included a pavilion amphitheater. That was stated it would be a Foundation project. The Recreation Commission was told this project could be completed this season. There was no discussion regarding any surveys.

Manager Ball commented the conceptual plan is not what is being discussed during the subcommittee meetings. There has been discussion about a picnic pavilion in Gainsboro. The conceptual plan does not represent what may be constructed. The Recreation Director/Assistant City Manager shared an update with the Recreation Commission regarding the project.

Commissioner Bushey commented that there seems to be a lot of misinformation. He commented that he knows that there will be a survey done and the Recreation Commission Master Plan must be completed.

Assistant City Manager Pietrzak commented that the update at the Recreation Commission focused on the Playmakers project and the Foundations' interest in a larger project. The conceptual plan is a large project from several years ago, and is outdated. There was discussion that any final decision would be done by the City Commission.

Commissioner Bushey commented that there is a project looking for funding, the Playmakers Plan, which is not in the Master Plan or approved by the City Commission, how could this go that far.

Assistant City Manager Pietrzak commented that the Playmakers put together a conceptual plan to try and get interest in funding. The Playmakers would have to ask the City Commission for funding as well. He felt all the Recreation Commissioners were in favor of improvements to Gainsboro Park.

Commissioner Rubino commented that he agreed that a survey would need to be done and then a determination could be made regarding improvements.

Commissioner Krzysiak commented that the Foundation is a wonderful organization. He does not want his cautiousness to be taken as anything against the Foundation. Working with Scott on the Playmakers project has been rewarding, he has helped to formulate that and has provided leadership. Goal is to improve Gainsboro Park.

Commissioner Perry offered the following motion : That the City Commission allocate funding for up to the amount of \$10,000.00, for the preparation of an updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan, that complies with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources guidelines for the Department of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway plans. The public input process shall include a public survey, mailed or online, and collaboration sessions to gain public/community input and to build consensus towards a shared vision for the future development of the City's parks and recreation facilities.

Mayor Castelli deemed that motion as inappropriate since it allocates funding. It would be appropriate to request that this item be included on the next City Commission agenda.

Commissioner Bushey commented he would like Mr. Iacoangeli to attend to discuss the plan.

Commissioner Perry withdrew her motion.

City Manager's Report

Daddy/Daughter Dance to be held Friday, February 15, 2013.

Assessment Notices have been mailed out to homeowners. The City realized an overall net increase of 6%.

Pleasant Ridge Foundation has requested a Liquor License for May 17 and May 18, 2013.

50+ Club Dinner will be held Thursday, March 7, 2013.

Sergeant Bunting has retired. His last day was February 10, 2013.

Planning underway for a Books and Roses event on April 21, 2012.

Other Business

Commissioner Krzysiak commented that he feels that the City should adopt a Human Rights Ordinance. There was discussion regarding this ordinance at the February City Commission Meeting. He would like to initiate conversation.

13-2948

Motion by Commissioner Krzysiak, second by Commissioner Perry, that the City Commission instruct the City Attorney to investigate what legal protections against discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations currently exist for city residents at the local, county, state and federal level and to present his findings to the community at the next City Commission Meeting to be held on March 12, 2013, at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Castelli deemed this motion as inappropriate since it allocated funds for the City Attorney's time. It would be more appropriate for the City Manager to contact the City of Royal Oak and obtain a copy of their Ordinance to define what the City of Pleasant Ridge's ordinance should include. There are definitions and categories that he would like to review.

Commissioner Krzysiak commented that he feels that this motion is appropriate. He brought up this ordinance at the last City Commission Meeting.

Mayor Castelli commented that Commissioner Krzysiak contact the City Manager to have this item placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Krzysiak commented that a motion was made during other business to gather information regarding the City's water rates. He was able to find information regarding other community's ordinances online. He would like the Attorney to go through and gather this information. He feels that the duties of the City Attorney would include gathering this information.

Mayor Castelli commented that instructing the City Attorney to gather information is not appropriate since there will be a cost involved. He further commented that when this item was discussed last month, he stated he would like to see the final ordinance adopted by Royal Oak before the City took steps to create its own ordinance.

Commissioner Krzysiak commented that he feels this is an appropriate use of the City Attorneys time. He commented about protections at the State level and that communities should look at other protections.

Mayor Castelli questioned the City Attorney regarding the appropriateness of Commissioner Krzysiaks' motion.

City Attorney Cooper commented the proposed motion is inappropriate.

No vote was taken on Commissioner Krzysiaks' motion #13-2948, as it was deemed inappropriate.

13-2949

Motion by Commissioner Rubino, second by Commissioner Bushey, that discussion regarding a proposed City of Pleasant Ridge Human Rights Ordinance be tabled.

Adopted: Yeas: Commissioners Rubino, Bushey, Krzysiak, Mayor Castelli.

Nays: Commissioners Krzysiak, Perry.

With no further business, Mayor Castelli adjourned the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph A. Castelli, Jr., Mayor

Amy M. Allison, City Clerk