



23925 Woodward Avenue
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069

Pleasant Ridge City Commission Meeting
Tuesday, March 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, Assistant City Manager Pietrzak.
Absent: None.

Amend the March 2013 City Commission Agenda
13-2950

Motion by Commissioner Rubino, second by Commissioner Bushey that the March 12, 2013 City Commission Meeting agenda be amended by the removal of item #15.

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

Minutes

13-2951

Motion by Commissioner Bushey, second by Commissioner Rubino, that the Public Hearing and Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting held Tuesday, February 12, 2013, and the Regular City Commission Meeting held Tuesday, February 12, 2013, be approved, as recommended.

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

February 2013 Disbursement Report

13-2952

Motion by Commissioner Bushey, second by Commissioner Perry, that the February Disbursement Report be approved, as listed.

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

City Commission Liaison Reports

Commissioner Bushey, gave an update regarding the Planning Commission/DDA. Discussion held regarding medians/Oakland Park/Sylvan intersection, alleys and lighting. Master Plan subcommittee was formed. Parking Committee subcommittee was formed.

Commissioner Krzysiak, gave an update regarding the Recreation Commission. Commented about the Daddy/Daughter Dance, was a good time. Discussion regarding the Gainsboro Park subcommittee, formation of the Recreation Master Plan subcommittee and Master Plan subcommittee. Upcoming events, Pancake Brunch/Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 23, 2013, Spring session youth soccer starting soon, 50+ club Bingo Night will be held April 3, 2013, Antique Appraisal Fair, April 6, 2013 and the Community Garden will be opening May 4, 2013. Inside/Out DIA program coming soon.

Commissioner Perry gave an update regarding the Ferndale School District and events related to the district. Ferndale Education Foundation dinner to be held Friday, March 15, 2013. Discussed Regional Transportation and the Complete Streets subcommittee of the WA3. Meeting regarding Mass Transit will be held at the Berkley Community Center, April 25, 2013.

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. Thanked Historical Commissioner Brad Bannon for his service. Mr. Bannon needed to resign due to personal commitments.

Public Discussion

Mr. Ted Zachary, 68 Devonshire, gave an update regarding SOCRRA and recycling efforts in the City of Pleasant Ridge.

Consent Agenda

13-2953

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

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

Removal item from table – Human Rights Ordinance

13-2954

Motion by Commissioner Rubino, second by Commissioner Bushey, that the City Commission removed the proposed Human Rights Ordinance from the table.

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

Schedule Public Hearing – April 9, 2013 – Human Rights Ordinance

13-2955

Motion by Commissioner Bushey, second by Commissioner Rubino, that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at 7:30 p.m., to solicit public comments on a proposed amendment to the Pleasant Ridge City Code, by the creation of a new chapter, Chapter 43, Human Rights.

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

Resolution – Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan

13-2956

Motion by Commissioner Rubino, second by Commissioner Bushey, that the resolution regarding the City of Pleasant Ridge Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan, be approved, as recommended.

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

Certification of Delinquent Utility Bills

13-2957

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Bushey, that the properties on the City with unpaid water and sewer charges for a period of at least two quarters, as certified by the City's Water Department, be placed on the 2013 Summer tax roll as a special assessment.

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

Improvements to Gainsboro Park Update

Manager Ball gave a brief update regarding potential improvements to Gainsboro Park. Mr. Iacoangeli, the City's Planning Consultant has been invited to tonight's meeting to address this project.

Mr. Iacoangeli summarized the status of the Gainsboro Park project and the Recreation Master Plan. He commented on the surveys which have been done in conjunction with the Recreation Master Plan in the past and used these surveys as input regarding recreation need. A new Recreation Master Plan survey is being formed and should be distributed in the spring. A field and park inventory will also be performed. The Recreation Master Plan is a process; and will include an open house. Once this input and information is tabulated, the plan will be formulated and presented for approval.

Commissioner Perry commented that a survey or a design charrett may be a good idea, so residents can be involved in the early stages. Concerns with losing green spaces and having residents involved from the onset.

Mr. Iacoangeli commented that a design charrett can be a time consuming and costly process. A survey is the same process, just less time consuming. The Recreation Master Plan will include other areas aside from Gainsboro Park.

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. The Gainsboro Park project will be a phased in project. All improvements to any park in the City will meet the needs of all residents in the community. There are no plans to re-purpose Gainsboro Park.

Mr. Kurt Metzger, 28 Sylvan, commented about the survey and how can plans for Gainsboro be in place without resident input. Where does the picnic pavilion fit if the survey has not been distributed.

Commissioner Bushey commented the City will undertake the survey and the results of the survey and subcommittees will determine what the residents needs are. The results of the survey and any plan will be presented to the community.

Manager Ball commented there is a subcommittee developing a conceptual plan for improvements to Gainsboro Park. Does the City Commission wish to halt plans for improvements until a later date or work through the process of creating a plan and conducting survey.

Commissioner Rubino commented that a plan was presented that was taken out of context. There will be a survey done and then a conceptual design for Gainsboro. He stated he needs to know what residents needs are prior to any improvement. We are in the concept stage

Ms. Cathy Koch, 83 Wellesley, commented that she uses the park and has used the park when her child was younger. She has concerns about plan that was presented/distributed and the taking of greenspace in the park. There are noise and lighting concerns at that park if events are held. There are lights that shine into her house from the park. Structures are problems, they are hangouts for kids, need more places to kids to play.

Mr. James Breuckman, 138 Maplefield, commented on the process for public input. A charrette may be overkill. Surveys are good on a higher/broad level. People need to be able to visualize, which sometimes cannot be done on a survey. Need to have a process for people to see what the tradeoffs are. Possibly a 4 hour design workshop at the park, City needs to use the right tools to make this work and a quick process. Clear the plans and start over fresh.

Mr. Frank Stutcher, 85 Amherst, does not want to pick on what is going there or what isn't going there, understands Mr. Iacoangeli's comments. A survey of the whole City may not be necessary. He commented he has concerns about how much public involvement there will be. People on Maplefield may not use the park, but they will complete and have a say in the survey. The people who use the park need to have input on what is going to go there. Having a meeting in the park will get the people who are really going to use the park there. He had his son take pictures of Gainsboro Park, and there are maintenance issues at the park. Why can't these issues be addressed and corrected. He had complaints about City employees.

Manager Ball commented that she felt that all residents should have input in the improvement process, not just east side residents. She will address any performance issues with the employees, that is the City Manager's responsibility.

Mr. Stutcher commented that it is common sense to survey and get input from residents who will use the park and not the whole community. He feels that the people who are closer to the park will use it more.

Ms. Rosemary Spatafora, 51 Amherst, questioned if the survey would be online only. Would like to have paper copies so there can be as much input as possible.

Mr. James Hanks, 22 Ridge Road, commented that he handles online surveys, and would like the City to be mindful that the City includes everyone in each household.

Mr. Iacoangeli commented that he understands online surveys, and understands issues with IP address. His concern is that households will over survey, not under survey.

Commissioner Perry commented she would like paper copies available as well, since many residents do not have access to an online survey.

Commissioner Krzysiak commented that during the survey process, community usage of the park will emerge. Potential and preferred usage will be shown during the survey process. If the community feels empowered, there will be a greater buy-in for any future plan. Likes the open house/workshop type event to determine preferences. Feels that any interested party should be able to be on a committee regarding the Gainsboro project, not just assigned members. Feels that the City Manager has pushed this project forward, which is her role as City Manager.

Manager Ball commented that she is not pushing any project. The Foundation requested larger projects for funding. Committees are drawn from junior commissions, because they represent difference aspects of the City, since they are all residents, appointed by the City Commission. She asked Commissioner Krzysiak if he has any concerns about the members on the committee.

Commissioner Krzysiak commented he has no objection to the members of the committee. His concern is that some of the ideas that come out of the committee may not be appealing to the general public (mentioned Sean O'Brien's taste). He feels the larger community should feel empowered. If the subcommittee is acting independently, he has concerns about that.

Manager Ball commented that the members of the subcommittees are not acting independently, they are meeting at the subcommittee level and taking that information back to their respective commissions and groups for feedback and further discussion. This is the purpose of a subcommittee and why the process has always been successful.

Commissioner Perry commented that spending some time and money up front to get ideas and needs from the community is a great idea and worth the time and effort. There is still time to hold design workshops and break ground by summer.

Mayor Castelli commented that breaking ground this summer is unrealistic with all these workshops and other meetings going on before a plan is approved.

Manager Ball commented that anyone who desires any information regarding any project, they should feel free to contact her.

Commissioner Bushey commented that subcommittees and junior commissions are a great process. Supports community involvement.

Manager Ball questioned if the subcommittee meetings should move forward while the survey is being done.

Mr. Iaconageli commented that the survey should be done. A design workshop can be done at the same time. An open house structure can be done in the evenings and needs to be managed. Need to have a conceptual process. This is not just a Gainsboro Park project process, but a five-year plan for all the park and recreation areas in the City.

Commissioner Krzysiak questioned if the Gainsboro Park project workshop can be held separately from the rest of the park meetings.

Mr. Iacoangeli commented that when his landscape architects are walking through the park to formulate a plan, residents can provide input while they are in the field. These residents can provide input for the plan.

Commissioner Bushey questioned if the survey process can be skewed.

Mr. Iacoangeli commented that the comments from the walk through are taken and presented to the City for its use. The City will follow the five year MDNR certification plan. Step one, coordination of plan-he will handle, step two community description-he will handle, step three; administrative structure-will be handled by himself and the City Administration, step four; inventory of recreation facilities, which can include community input during a walk through, step five; description of planning and public input-what type of input process, formal City Commission public hearing, and finally the Community Action plan. This is his recommended procedure.

13-2958

Motion by Commissioner Bushey, second by Commissioner Rubino, that the City undertake and follow the five year MDNR certification plan for Recreation Master Plan, as recommended by the City Administration.

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

West Nile Fund Reimbursement

13-2959

Motion by Commissioner Rubino, second by Commissioner Bushey, that the City Manager be authorized to request reimbursement of authorized expenses from the Oakland County West Nile Virus Fund, as recommended.

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

City Manager's Report

Applications are available for the Board of Review at City Hall.

Board of Review Meetings will be held at the Community Center on March 15, 18 and 19, 2013.

Applications are available for the Historical Commission at City Hall.

Compost collection begins April 1st.

Request by a resident from Oakland Park for a stop sign to be installed at the corner of Oakland Park and Ridge Road – will research after July 1st.

Other Business

Commissioner Perry commented on the Oakland Park/Sylvan/Woodward intersection and that walking that intersection is hard. Vehicles do not always yield to walkers in that intersection. Understands the Planning Commission is looking at that intersection.

Commissioner Bushey commented about the detail in the recent Ferndale Fire reports and that the Ferndale Fire Chief has not been attending the City Commission Meetings.

Manager Ball commented that she contacted the Fire Chief and the report will be changed.

With no further business, Mayor Castelli adjourned the meeting at 10.13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph A. Castelli, Jr., Mayor

Amy M. Allison, City Clerk