

Present: Chairperson Borowski; Vice-Chairperson Belaustegui; Members: Bliven, Fox, Jensen, Robiner and Smith

Absent: Domzal and Tillman

Also Present: Building official, Byrwa
Council Liaison, Kennedy
Council member, Walsh
Planning Consultants, Birchler and Wyrosdick

Chairperson Borowski called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION by Bliven, supported by Robiner, that the minutes of a regular Planning Board meeting held on Wednesday, November 10, 1999 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

REVIEW WORK PROGRAM FOR BIKEWAYS, WALKWAYS AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY STUDY

Planning consultant Wyrosdick outlined the work program for the bikeways, walkways and pedestrian safety study. The proposed schedule begins with tonight's meeting and concludes with a projected completion date of April 26.

The first task of the projected work program is identification of focus areas and analysis of existing conditions. Formulation of goals and objectives is the next step which includes a public hearing early in the process. Development of alternative solutions will be followed by selection of preferred alternatives and actions. The final steps include generating design standards and implementation strategies and recommendations.

Wyrosdick commented on the introductory text distributed to the board. The introduction and existing conditions analysis document states the reasoning for the plan and describes the history of sidewalk and bikeway studies for Beverly Hills. It provides a brief analysis of what exists currently today and suggests focus areas.

Borowski proposed that this draft document be revised and distributed to homeowner association presidents and other members of the community prior to the public forums. It could be used as a vehicle to generate comment and direction.

The board discussed the work schedule, particularly the point at which a meeting should be held to seek public discussion. It was noted that one of the Planning Board's earlier goals was to solicit public comment early in the process. The thinking was to hold a public hearing after material is prepared and distributed for the purpose of organizing public comments. Wyrosdick stated that the planners were thinking of bringing in the public for discussion at the point of developing goals and objectives, which would help guide the rest of the study.

There were members of the board who suggested deferring public discussion until March in order to provide more information to the public at the hearing. The board can outline the alternatives that are being examined as ways to address deficiencies that have been identified. The public will be presented with what the Planning Board feels are the goals and objectives, and citizen input will be sought at that time. Information will be provided to homeowner association presidents in advance so that they can receive feedback from their members.

It was the sense of board members that the objective is to examine existing conditions and determine what should be done to provide Beverly Hills with a walkable presence. The board's goal is to offer a recommendation that is in the best interest of this community. It is the job of the Planning Board to

arrive at good planning objectives whether or not Council and administration choose to proceed with the project.

It was noted that there are solutions to the pedestrian safety issues other than sidewalk construction. Those strategies should be discussed by the board and presented to the public by the consultants before goals and objectives are established.

The board agreed to hold more than one public forum with the first public discussion scheduled for February 9. The importance of narrowing the focus of the discussion was emphasized. A public discussion early in the process is intended to hear public concerns about existing conditions in order to assist the planning consultants' understanding of where there are difficulties and where there is satisfaction. This will help the board form the goals and objectives of this study.

The February 9 meeting will be a forum for public comments on where there are safety concerns or problems walking from one place to another. The board may hear comments that raise questions as to whether it is an appropriate goal to have sidewalks on all major roads. This meeting will be publicized in the Eccentric newspaper. Notices will be sent to neighborhood homeowner associations, public service organizations, schools, and all Beverly Hills board and committee members. The meeting will be posted on the marquee sign in front of the municipal building.

Pamela Dayinian of 31070 Rivers Edge Court asked if the Planning Board will present information on locations for proposed sidewalks at the February 9 meeting.

Birchler stated that the purpose of the study is to formulate a walkway plan. The Planning Board is soliciting the public's help in identifying the important considerations of this plan.

Fox added that the Planning Board is not making any decisions or recommendations at this point. It is seeking public comments on where residents perceive that there are pedestrian safety problems or concerns with getting from one place to another in the Village.

Gladys Walsh of 20555 Smallwood Court remarked that the consultant has indicated that a sidewalk plan has not been identified, yet the next agenda item is a review of the first draft of existing analysis for the bikeway, walkways and pedestrian safety study. A map entitled, "Pedestrian Pathways Focus Areas" has been prepared.

Birchler clarified that the illustration Walsh refers to depicts existing sidewalks and major community facilities such as parks, schools, and churches. The planning consultants have added their suggestion for three focus areas that might constitute the more major elements of a pathways study. There are three areas where connections between the existing sidewalk facilities and significant public facilities do not exist. Birchler Arroyo suggests that those might be areas that the Planning Board may want to study in the course of this project. Birchler gave his copy of the map to the audience.

Kennedy suggested that the color-coded map be displayed when there is a public discussion of walkways with the focus areas clearly designated as talking points. She noted that SEMCOG identified safety concerns during the walkable communities survey conducted in the Village in September. These should be outlined at the public forum and citizen input requested.

The Planning Board reviewed the Existing Conditions Analysis prepared by Birchler Arroyo including an introduction, existing conditions, historic overview, master plan recommendations, community facilities and pathway focus areas. Board members suggested changes to the document which will be incorporated into a revised draft for review at the next meeting. The map will be modified to incorporate specific community facilities, schools, and sidewalk in municipalities immediately outside of the Village's jurisdiction. Greenfield Road will be added to the possible focus areas.

REVIEW DEFINITION OF FAMILY

An updated definition of family is the only outstanding Zoning Ordinance text amendment to be completed by the Planning Board before a group of text amendments are forwarded to Council for adoption. Board member Smith had volunteered to work with the planning consultant on preparing a definition of family for the Board's consideration.

Smith recommends sending the completed Zoning Ordinance text amendments to Council for adoption. He suggests that reworking the definition of family be deferred until the U.S. Supreme Court decides a court case regarding the issue of visitation rights to a child, which may involve the definition of a family. A final decision should be rendered by the Supreme Court in about four or five months. Smith thinks that there will be some dictum from the court at this time on what constitutes family.

There was disagreement among board members on whether the Supreme Court case cited by Smith involving visitation rights of grandparents will provide guidance on the definition of family.

The consensus at prior board meetings was that the Village's current ordinance definition of family is outdated. The Planning Board does not think that delaying this ordinance amendment for several months will pose a problem.

MOTION by Bliven, supported by Smith, to remove the definition of family from the miscellaneous Zoning Ordinance text amendments to be forwarded to Council.

Roll Call Vote:

Belaustegui	- yes
Bliven	- yes
Borowski	- no
Fox	- yes
Jensen	- yes
Robiner	- no
Smith	- yes

Motion passes (5 - 2).

DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING YEAR=S PRIORITIES

Borowski initiated a preliminary discussion of priority projects for the next fiscal year to be submitted to the Council at the end of February.

The bikeways, walkways and pedestrian safety study is underway. Robiner indicated that he is prepared to meet with the planning consultants on the entrance sign project, which he has been working on with Jensen.

Planning Board priorities that were previously identified but have not received funding from Council are residential site design and redevelopment standards, Southfield Road redevelopment plan, and implementation of the site development handbook into the Zoning Ordinance. Wyrosdick commented that Birchler Arroyo will prepare a cost estimate for all projects included on the Planning Board's updated priority list.

A preliminary work program and estimated budget has been provided for residential site design and redevelopment standards. Wyrosdick stated that further discussion is required on the project scope for implementation of the site development handbook into the Zoning Ordinance and for the Southfield Road corridor study.

Board members suggested that "big foot" development as it applies to residential site design and redevelopment standards should be considered as a work project for next year.

It was questioned whether the board should become involved in planning for the transition from above ground utilities to under ground utilities. Telephone and cable lines are going to change again in the next few years, and the Village has an aging above ground infrastructure. Now may be the time to think about what Beverly Hills wants from its update when the time comes.

Priorities for the Planning Board's upcoming work program will be identified at the next meeting.

PLANNING BOARD COMMENTS

Each board member received a computer printout of an aerial photograph of their house and property from Bob Bliven. He used information from Oakland County's GIS (graphic information system) program. The County has provided the Village with the software and data for its computers.

Birchler stated that aerial maps with new digital photography will be available from the County in the spring of this year. Robiner suggested that the existing aerial map on the wall of the council chamber be updated with a higher resolution map of the Village when it becomes available.

Smith stated that demolition debris on Detroit Country Day School property has not been removed. He questioned Village requirements for removal of demolition material. Byrwa will contact the headmaster on this subject.

BUILDING OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS

Byrwa announced that demolition began today on the burned out portion of the Southfield Road building that is being remodeled as a Bed Bath & Beyond store.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Walsh of 20555 Smallwood asked how many building permits have been issued for the Chawney development east of Lahser Road. Byrwa believes that there have been three or four building permits issued.

Kennedy mentioned that Robert Donohue, principal planner for Oakland County, will be making a presentation at the next Planning Board meeting on a downtown commercial redevelopment program.

MOTION by Bliven, supported by Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m.
Motion passes unanimously.

Carry over items:

- 1- Entranceway signs (10-27-99)
- 2 - Bikeways, walkways and pedestrian safety study (11-11-99).
- 3 - Discuss Planning Board priorities.

**Vincent Borowski, Chairperson
Planning Board**

**Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk**