

Present: Vice-Chairperson Belaustegui; Members: Bliven, Domzal, Fox, Jensen and Tillman

Absent: Borowski, Robiner and Smith

Also Present: Building official, Byrwa  
Council liaison, Walsh  
Planning consultant, Wyrosdick

Vice-Chairperson Belaustegui called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as published.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE PUBLISHED AGENDA**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **APPROVE MINUTES OF A JOINT COUNCIL AND PLANNING BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2000**

MOTION by Bliven, supported by Domzal, that the minutes of a Joint Council and Planning Board meeting held on Thursday, June 1, 2000 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

#### **APPROVE MINUTES OF A REGULAR PLANNING BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2000**

MOTION by Bliven, supported by Jensen, that the minutes of a Regular Planning Board meeting held on Wednesday, June 14, 2000 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

#### **REVIEW PATHWAY/SIDEWALK STUDY, FOCUS AREAS 3 AND 4**

Belaustegui reviewed that the Planning Board has identified four focus areas and is in the process of studying those sections of the Village in order to develop alternative solutions for providing pedestrian safety and a connected pathway system. Tonight the Planning Board will review Focus Areas 3 and 4. The board will then discuss how to prioritize the recommendations and give the planning consultant guidance on preparation of a plan.

Fox referred to the board's review of Focus Area 2 at the last meeting. She suggested an addition to that discussion, which is to provide traffic calming methods on some of the longer roads such as Eastlady and Bellvine Trail to reduce speeding. Tillman added Vernon, Woodhaven and Stellamar to that list of streets. Wyrosdick commented that those streets are appropriate places for further study and implementation of traffic calming techniques.

Wyrosdick stated that Focus Area 3 is the southwest quadrant of the Village of Beverly Hills. It encompasses everything south of 13 Mile Road and west of Evergreen Road. An initial recommendation is to provide people living off of Lahser Road with an east-west connection to 13 Mile Road and everything east in the Village. A pedestrian easement that connects Meadow Lane to Orcutt Court and Normandale to Virmar Court would provide an east-west pedestrian route for residential developments off of Lahser Road east to Groves High School and the existing sidewalks along 13 Mile Road. Residential support is necessary for these types of easements.

Another recommendation is to extend the sidewalk along the south side of 13 Mile Road from west of Wendbrook Road to Evergreen Road. The problem with extending the sidewalk farther west than Wendbrook relates to the existing topography and right-of-way problems.

There are two recommendations for pedestrian crossings. A pedestrian crossing off of Embassy would provide a connection for children from the eastern portion of the focus area north to Groves

High School and connect with the sidewalk on GHS property. A mid-block island is suggested as a traffic calming technique where Stellamar comes out onto 13 Mile Road.

Pedestrian crossings should be visible. An appropriate design will be discussed at the next level in conjunction with guidelines permitted by the Road Commission for Oakland County. A crossing that is striped and visible will let travelers know that this is where pedestrians will be crossing. It should be apparent to pedestrians that this is the safest place to cross.

There was discussion on the recommendations in Focus Area 3 for connecting sidewalks. Board members suggested extension of the sidewalk along 13 Mile Road from Wendbrook to Lahser to provide connectivity. It was also suggested to provide a walkway on Lahser from 13 Mile Road to Riverview.

Wyrosdick stated that the area along Lahser and 13 Mile Road is one of the more challenging areas. There are severe rights-of-way and topography issues. At the Planning Board's direction, the planners will include this as a recommendation and identify it as a challenging area where alternative pathway systems need to be explored.

Belaustegui clarified that there are three proposals for connecting sidewalks: 1) add sidewalk on the east side of Lahser north of 13 Mile Road; 2) extend sidewalk on 13 Mile Road from Lahser to Kennoway or Groves High School on the south side of the road with a safe crossing; 3) extend sidewalk on the east side of Lahser from Riverview to 13 Mile Road.

Focus Area 4 encompasses the eastern quadrant of the Village. It is the older area of the Village where there is a substantial amount of sidewalks on both sides of the road. However, there are some obvious gaps that would justify connecting sidewalks.

A recommendation for this area is to provide unique and identifiable crosswalk on Beverly Road near Beverly Park and at the entrance of Beverly School.

It was noted that the gap in the sidewalk from Beverly Park to Beverly School will be completed when the Beverly School renovations are completed. There is a need to extend the sidewalk at the west side of Southfield Road at Dunblaine Road to provide complete pedestrian crossing at the traffic light.

Wyrosdick stated that an extension of the sidewalk was discussed from the Huntley Square Subdivision to the Southfield Road business district for an internal connection for the residents with the commercial area.

Tillman remarked that a connection to the business district is a good concept, but it should be open and not heavily wooded so as not to create a safety concern. A suggestion was made to obtain an easement through Gould Court. Wyrosdick commented that this connection could be pursued as part of the Southfield Road corridor study.

It is recommended to provide a crossing at the Saxon Drive and Southfield Road intersection. There was discussion of how to slow traffic in this area and provide an identifier for the Village. The Planning Board agreed that there should be some conversation with the people who have jurisdiction over the engineering of the 14 Mile and Southfield Road intersection, particularly with respect to the northwest corner.

Focus Area 4B extends from 13 to 14 Mile Road just west of Beverly Park to Greenfield Road. Wyrosdick stated that the recommendations for this area include filling in the gaps between what is already an extensive pathway system and enhancing the Greenfield Road corridor. Part of creating pedestrian walkable communities is to make it an attractive system. Landscaping and lighting are items that should be considered.

It is recommended to extend the sidewalk on 13 Mile Road where it ends at Pierce to the intersection of Greenfield and 13 Mile Road. Wyrosdick commented that it makes sense to provide that connection to the commercial areas at the intersection of 13 Mile and Greenfield Roads.

Belaustegui agreed that the area is in need of some beautification. It was the sense of the board that the need to fill in the gaps in this area should be determined by the people who live there. It was noted that there are active homeowner associations in that part of the Village. The interest of the area residents will be determined at the next public discussion on the pathway plan.

Sue Plummer of 21300 13 Mile Road asked if there has been discussion on the light at Fairfax and 13 Mile Road. It is a dangerous intersection for children walking to Greenfield School. Belaustegui stated that the Planning Board will make a note of this crossing for review with other traffic safety issues.

Domzal commented that he spoke with the Bloomfield Township Supervisor about the municipality's aggressive sidewalk program. The voters passed a millage to finance sidewalks at a cost of about \$50-\$60 a year per household for a five year period. The plan was sold to the residents on the basis of safety.

Fox questioned how Bloomfield Township handles the issue of sidewalk maintenance in the winter. Sue Plummer informed the board that the policy of Bloomfield Township is not to clear the walks in the winter. Belaustegui thinks that it makes sense not to clear the walkways in the winter when the use is low with the exception of school crossings.

Belaustegui stated that the Planning Board should provide guidance to Birchler Arroyo with respect to priorities.

Domzal expressed the view that safer crossings, particularly at major intersections, should be a top priority. He suggested that the Planning Board talk to representatives of the Road Commission for Oakland County about the parameters for crosswalks. Safe crossings and sidewalks in proximity to schools and at major intersections are the two highest priorities, in his opinion.

It was the sense of the board that the first goal is to promote safety followed by a connected and attractive pathway system.

Belaustegui suggested preparing a plan with three categories of recommendations. There are those things that the Planning Board feels the Village should budget for and accomplish. There is another area of "nice to have" improvements that do not meet the same criteria as those items that need doing because there is a problem. Sidewalk connections and internal connections will be placed before the neighborhoods for consideration of whether area residents want to pay for them. Given the infrastructure issues that the Village is facing over the next several years, most of the money for sidewalk connections will have to come from the communities that benefit. People will need to know an approximate cost to determine their interest.

A third category of recommendations are improvements that could receive future consideration. They are items that do not have a lot of support in the community right now. These projects will be part of the plan but not a priority item. Belaustegui proposes organizing the recommendations in this way to give Council a sense of things that should be done and items that should come before the neighborhoods for consideration.

Bliven questioned the procedure for the next public discussion on the sidewalk plan. Belaustegui proposed that the Planning Board go into the public meeting with a plan that establishes priorities.

Jensen thinks that the Planning Board should present three plans to the public: 1) what the Village needs to do; 2) what the community should do; and 3) what the Village wishes it could do if there were no obstacles.

It was suggested that large maps and drawings be prepared for use at the public discussion. Cost estimates would be helpful. The Road Commission should be contacted for its input relative to the proposed crosswalks and traffic calming measures.

Bliven suggested that the Planning Board refer the traffic safety measures to the Village's Traffic Committee for review. Part of its function is to look at traffic problems and intersection safety in the

Village. A member of the Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County serves on that committee.

Wyrosdick will come back at the next meeting with a proposal prioritizing the pathway recommendations based on projects that must be done, should be done, and projects we wish to have done. Birchler Arroyo will have some conversation with the County Road Commission for initial feedback on its requirements and their view of the recommendations set forth in the discussion of the pathway plan.

Belaustegui suggested that, once a draft plan is in place, it could be sent to the Traffic Committee for review. The Planning Board will consider any recommendations from that body before presenting a plan to the public for discussion.

A recess was called at 9:00. The meeting reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

### **DISCUSSION OF WORK PLAN FOR VILLAGE SIGNS**

At its June 19, 2000 meeting, Council approved spending \$3,200 for the rehabilitation of the marquee sign in front of Village hall and \$1,750 for the installation of a new sign identifying the public safety building. Council was in agreement that the Planning Board should review and recommend a design for both signs.

In a memo dated June 21, 2000 to the Planning Board, Village Manager Hanlin requests that the board or a subcommittee address the design of the signs at its earliest convenience. Hanlin indicated that Council also approved funding for landscaping around the municipal building sign and the painting of the building. Those projects will proceed immediately. A decision must be made on whether the "Village of Beverly Hills" lettering should remain on the front of the building in the event that the new sign incorporates the name and address of the building. Hanlin is investigating an inexpensive temporary sign so that the letters and address can be removed from the building facade.

Belaustegui suggests forming a subcommittee of the Planning Board to arrive at recommendations for a design theme to bring to the board as a whole. The subcommittee will consist of Robiner and Jensen, who have been working on a proposal to update Village entryway signs. They will prepare a recommendation for consideration by the board at the next meeting or the meeting after that.

### **PLANNING BOARD COMMENTS**

There was discussion at the last Planning Board meeting about the Council liaison positions to Village boards and committees. Fox commented on procedural concerns relative to the Council liaison to the Planning Board. She thinks that there is a need for clear guidelines for Council members on what the liaison position should accomplish.

There was discussion on how to improve the flow of communication between the Planning Board and Council. There was agreement that it is the Planning Board's responsibility to provide a thorough and clear recommendation to Council.

Bliven expressed the opinion that the Council should vote on the exact recommendation forwarded to them from the Planning Board. Belaustegui related that the Michigan Municipal League recommends that a committee's proposal be voted on first by the governing body before it considers another course of action.

Bliven commented that he thinks it is appropriate to have a note at the end of the minutes indicating that the meeting minutes are not official and have not been approved by the Planning Board.

### **PLANNING CONSULTANT S COMMENTS**

Wyrosdick stated that Birchler Arroyo has mini-training sessions available that are geared towards planning commissions or planning boards. The topics range from the requirements of a PUD to the site plan review process and to conservation of natural features. She proposes initiating a training series on planning related issues that would take five or ten minutes at the end of each meeting or once a month.

Wyrosdick also brought up the possibility of Birchler Arroyo conducting a training workshop for new members of the Planning Board. The training series and new member workshop would be provided at no additional cost to the Village. Belaustegui suggested discussing these training sessions as part of the Planning Board priorities.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council liaison Walsh stated that the approved funding for the pathway study and the “big foot” study will not be lost on the basis of those projects not being completed in the current fiscal year. Council approved the studies and allocated money for their completion. The money allocated for these projects that was not spent in the current fiscal year will be transferred to the fund balance. The budget amendments in June of 2001 will transfer money from the fund balance that is spent in 2000/01 on those projects.

Walsh reminded the board about the Fireworks Display at Lincoln Hills Golf Course on Monday night, July 3, at 10:00 p.m. The Council meets on that evening at 7:45 p.m.

MOTION by Fox, supported by Bliven, to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 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 - Public hearing on the site plan for an addition to Kensington Academy on July 12, 2000.
- 4 - Committee of Robiner and Jensen appointed to review design for Village municipal sign and public safety building sign. (6-28-00)

**Robert Belaustegui, Vice-Chairperson  
Planning Board**

**Ellen E. Marshall  
Village Clerk**