

Present: President Stearn; President Pro-Tem Pfeifer; Members: Craig, Domzal, Downey, Munguia and Walsh

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Murphy  
Assistant to the Manager, Pasioka  
Village Attorney, O'Brien  
Director of Public Safety, Woodard

President Stearn called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Pfeifer to approve as submitted the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on Monday, January 7, 2002.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Jim O'Reilly of 31191 Huntley reported on Sunday's sixth annual Winter Family Fun Day held in Beverly Park. The event was a fabulous success with everyone having a lot of fun. O'Reilly personally thanked all of the volunteers who assisted in numerous ways on that day. He acknowledged Ann Woodman, who initiated this event six years ago.

Drew Heuser of 31119 Sleepy Hollow, Scout from Troop 1699, was present working on his Citizenship in the Community merit badge. He is aware that sidewalks have been an issue in the Village for some time. Heuser and his friends would like to ride their bikes to Berkshire School and is hoping that Council will provide sidewalks in the near future.

Stearn informed Heuser that Council recently adopted a Pathways Plan that calls for installing sidewalks on some of the major roads in the Village. A Pathway Advisory Committee has been established to work on implementation of that plan.

Fritz Heuser of 31119 Sleepy Hollow thanked the Village for the use of Beverly Park for the Cub Scout Klondike held this Saturday. It was a district-wide event.

### **PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING 14 MILE ROAD CORRIDOR PLAN**

Stearn introduced Katherine Wyrosdick from Birchler Arroyo, planning consulting firm for the Village of Beverly Hills, to present an overview of the 14 Mile Road Corridor Study.

Wyrosdick stated that a study or plan recommends future land use or improvements for an area. The study area included in this plan is the 14 Mile Road frontage between Southfield and Greenfield Roads. The area is currently master planned for high density single family use. There is also office use in the area and a few commercial uses. The Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA) owns property on which two water towers are located.

The plan does not change the land use or rezone property, but it does provide recommendations on how land use could be changed in the future. If the plan is adopted by Council, the next step would be to develop zoning standards before rezoning could occur.

Wyrosdick discussed why the Village thought this area was in need of study. It became clear during the planning process that the primary focus for this corridor study would be the property east of the water tower site to Greenfield Road. There is evidence that this area is in a state of transition. The homes west of the SOCWA property are larger and better maintained. Many of the homes east of Pierce are smaller and not as well maintained as other homes in the corridor and particularly in the entire Village. Some of the homes have been converted to rental properties. The density in the portion of the corridor east of the water tower is high compared to other areas of the Village. Only five percent of the homes in this area meet the size requirements for the R-2 zoning district.

There is a planned road improvement for 14 Mile Road to add a center left turn lane. The project will include enclosing the ditches and providing curbs and gutters, which will improve the visual quality of the road. The road widening will also improve traffic flow. The middle lane will prevent left turn conflicts of people coming in and out of their driveways and stopping traffic.

The Planning Board held two public discussions during its planning process. One was held early in the process to obtain a sense of what the concerns were for the corridor. Many of the residents attended to talk about the road improvements. It was explained that 14 Mile Road is a county road, and Beverly Hills has no jurisdiction over those road improvements.

One of the issues addressed at the public meetings was the reason why some of the homes in the study area are not well maintained. The size of the lots make it difficult to expand and improve the homes. Property owners are not motivated to upgrade their homes because they cannot recapture the value from those improvements due to frontage on 14 Mile Road.

The Planning Board developed three main goals to be achieved in the study. One of the goals is to create a corridor that is an identifiable entranceway to the Village. Another goal is to strengthen and maintain the residential character of the corridor. The Planning Board is looking at different intensities of residential uses such as attached town homes and higher density residential uses. The third goal is that other development in the corridor should complement residential land uses. The Planning Board looked at the existing office and commercial property and recommends future redevelopment of those areas to give it a more residential character.

The Planning Board looked at the entire corridor with its primary focus on the area east of Pierce. The primary district indicates an area where the Village would like to see redevelopment as soon as the market deems it possible. The use will not change for the office district, but including it in the primary area will ensure that more residential architectural standards will be implemented if the property is redeveloped in the future. The section of the corridor from Southfield Road to Pierce was designated in the study as a secondary area. If redevelopment of the primary area occurs, it would make sense to carry the streetscape and architectural theme throughout the corridor if the secondary area is ever redeveloped in the future.

The final recommendation of the plan is to create a new land use tool that permits higher density residential attached town home style of development. An overlay district could be created to achieve the goals of the plan. An overlay district overlays the existing zoning district. Rezoning will not occur until there is a market for town homes and developers are able to purchase a piece of property that is large enough to redevelop. The property could be rezoned with an overlay district without hindering existing owners from maintaining or improving homes in accordance with the current zoning.

In return for higher density residential development, developers would have to provide site amenities such as small pocket parks, pedestrian benches, lighting fixtures, and quality landscaping in their plans. The community would benefit by a nice looking entranceway and other amenities. Architectural standards would be required for all development to insure that the look envisioned by the study is maintained. If existing office buildings are improved or redeveloped, they will be required to meet architectural standards of a more residential style that would provide a consistent theme along the corridor. It would provide a flexible zoning tool to implement landscape and streetscape standards for the commercial office and utility uses in the corridor without changing the use.

An inventory of existing multiple family dwellings in Beverly Hills shows that the average density of all the multiple family units is 12.5 units per acre, even though the Village's multiple family district only permits 7.5 units per acre. Densities discussed in conjunction with the overlay district were in the range of 10-15 dwelling units per acre.

Wyrosdick stated that the plan recommends that zoning ordinance text be developed that creates enhanced standards for redevelopment in the area to include quality architectural landscape and streetscape amenities. The look of new development should maintain the residential character of the area. Wyrosdick displayed a board with pictures that demonstrate some of the concepts looked at by the Planning Board as far as town home design.

The 14 Mile Road Corridor Plan explains the land use recommendation and provides suggestions on implementation. Wyrosdick emphasized that implementation can be adjusted at the time the Village drafts zoning standards to meet the recommendations of the plan.

Stearn reaffirmed some of the major points of the Corridor Plan. He made reference to the proposed primary and secondary overlay areas on the future land use map. If Council decides to approve the study, it will send the concept back to the Planning Board for development of an overlay district. The Planning Board would make recommendations for Council consideration with respect to density, architectural standards, building height, setbacks, etc.

Stearn stated that the study calls for redevelopment on 14 Mile Road east of Pierce. According to the study, nothing will occur in the area west of Pierce unless there is redevelopment first east of Pierce.

In response to an inquiry from Council, Wyrosdick stated that the Village Council can accept the plan in full or in part. Council can refer the plan back to the Planning Board for modifications.

Domzal thinks that it would be helpful to hear ideas from area residents about what could be done in the overall corridor.

Craig commented that the 14 Mile Road corridor has been identified as an area of concern for a number of years. The area closer to Greenfield is not maintaining the same increase in value as the rest of the Village. Council asked the Planning Board to put this on its agenda for study, and the proposed document represents an alternative way to redevelop this area.

Stearn opened the public hearing on the 14 Mile Road Corridor Study at 8:34 p.m. A show of hands demonstrated that most of the people present were opposed to a redevelopment plan for the area from Southfield to Pierce. A smaller number of people were against a plan for the area from Pierce to Greenfield Roads.

Todd Johannes asked what the term “evident interest” means with regard to the overlay district. Stearn read from the plan, “Secondary areas should be considered within the proposed overlay area only after there is *evident interest* in redevelopment of the primary areas.” He believes that this means that a developer has purchased a number of properties and has plans to redevelop.

Marvin Marsh of 16964 Beechwood, who has lived in Beverly Hills for 50 years, provided a history of the incorporation of the Village of Beverly Hills. He thinks that the strip of land from Greenfield to Pierce on 14 Mile Road is ripe for redevelopment. He has no objections to people building there, but questioned the benefit to the Village of constructing condominiums that would bring a lot more people into the area. He is opposed to the plan.

Marge Mathews of 17458 Kirkshire stated that she is a property owner who has lived through the uneasiness of not knowing whether 14 Mile Road would be widened or not. She would like to stay in the area but is concerned about the proposed plan. The homes between Pierce and Southfield are well maintained. She thinks that an overlay district would be a disservice to the area and to Kirkshire residents and would decrease the value of her home.

Mathews thinks that the owners of the office buildings need to improve their property. She suggested that Council make changes to the water tower area that would allow park usage.

Stearn clarified that the water tower property is owned by the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority.

Mark Melendy of 16905 Kinross expressed the concern that adding more people to the neighborhood will increase traffic around his house. He thinks that the County improvements to 14 Mile Road will enhance the area, and a redevelopment plan should not be implemented until those improvements occur.

A resident from Kirkshire, who wished to remain anonymous, suggested that Council should take the time to thoroughly review this plan for the future while obtaining input from concerned citizens. She questioned the notification procedures of the Planning Board and Council. She maintains that it is critical for planning boards to make sure that all interests are well represented. Many residents did not know that there were two Planning Board public hearings on this issue.

She stated that there have been infrastructure issues and drainage problems on Kirkshire. She believes that growth creates strain on the infrastructure. She is concerned that higher density dwellings will have an adverse impact on the infrastructure. She questioned how the community can support higher density if it does not have the money to support what it has now. She asked that this plan be terminated or shelved until other people have an opportunity for input.

Kathryn Carey of 17194 Kirkshire voiced objections to the plan on the basis that it takes away from the residential flavor of the area and will devalue her home. She is also concerned about the strain on the sewer system. Town home buildings will result in an alley in the backyard of residences on the north side of Kirkshire rendering her backyard unsafe for her children and pets.

Bob Hansen of 17137 Birwood remarked that the residential character of the community is what drew him to Beverly Hills 31 years ago. He thinks it would be a great idea if a developer built single family homes in that area to upgrade that portion of 14 Mile Road.

David Jensen of 31130 Stafford, chairman of the Planning Board, provided background on the development of this plan. He stated that there has been concern about the direction that the 14 Mile Road corridor is taking since he has been on the Planning Board. People are concerned about the road and the existing real estate. It was questioned who lives on these main roads and how do they want to live. The Planning Board worked on a series of concepts and concluded that something needs to be done between Greenfield and the water tower. Council is being asked to consider that area for further study.

Joan Mansueti of 17425 Kirkshire asked a series of questions about the plan that were addressed by Stearn and the planning consultant. She was concerned that the corridor plan does not address specifics of future development. Mansueti questioned how Council can approve the concept of an overlay district without specific information on density, height, and setbacks. Mansueti questioned the value of the multi-family dwellings on the north side of 14 Mile east of Pierce in Birmingham.

Stearn responded that there will be discussion of district standards at the Planning Board level if Council approves this concept plan. Council would direct the Planning Board to come back to them with more detailed recommendations.

Vince Borowski of 31115 W. Chelton, Planning Board member, suggests that the Planning Board and Council thought that this area should be studied because it is not typical of Beverly Hills. Beverly Hills is a community that offers great value, good neighborhoods, and a cohesive community. The area along 14 Mile road is an area with potential problems.

There is concern with the notion of change. Borowski maintains that this area along 14 Mile Road is in danger of changing in the wrong way or being stagnant while the area around it changes. The concept of an overlay zoning district does not force anything on anyone; it provides a potential way to manage change so it will have a positive effect. He supports the study and hopes that the Planning Board will provide further direction to improve the plan.

Tom Larson of 17212 Kirkshire commented that he is proud to be neighbors with the people here tonight. He observed that the members of Council are listening to their concerns. He is concerned about whether the lot size is adequate to build a multiple dwelling that provides adequate setbacks.

Stearn remarked that the City of Birmingham has built multiple family housing across the street on 14 Mile Road, and those lot sizes are smaller than the lots in question.

Ann O'Connell of 17500 Kirkshire stated that her home abuts the houses on 14 Mile Road in the secondary area. She asked Council to reject the plan completely with regard to the neighborhood between Southfield and Pierce. Her neighborhood is not an area in decline or transition. It has been a neighborhood in a constant state of limbo due to 14 Mile Road widening issue. Residents have now learned of this corridor plan and will continue to hesitate as to whether to move or stay and improve their homes.

O'Connell stated that she has attended both Planning Board discussions on the corridor plan and has read the document. The plan provides a vision but no specifics. O'Connell expressed concern that her property would abut garages, dumpsters and/or parking lots. She displayed photographs of condominiums on 14 Mile east of Pierce in Birmingham taken from the backyard of an abutting residence. The photo shows a parking lot and dumpsters. O'Connell stated that her family moved to Beverly Hills because it is a single family community. She urged Council to reject this vision.

Edward Toth of 17500 Kirkshire presented Council at its last meeting with a petition signed by 180 residents in opposition to the corridor plan between Southfield and Pierce. He submitted additional signatures which brings the number of signatures to 216 Beverly Hills residents.

Toth contends that the plan if adopted will dramatically change an entire neighborhood in Beverly Hills. He pointed out what he believes to be shortcomings in the study with respect to inaccuracies in traffic volume counts. Toth maintains that the increased density called for in the plan will increase traffic on 14 Mile Road and increase the cut-through traffic in the area. He questioned the height of future multiple family dwellings. Toth was concerned about preserving the character of the neighborhood and property values. He suggested that Council should adopt plans and policies that encourage people to improve, renovate and expand their homes.

Scott Trudeau of 17040 Dunblaine commented that people in this area are hesitant to add onto their homes or make improvements due to a concern about what is happening on 14 Mile Road. He agrees that something needs to be done in the area from the water tower to Greenfield Road. He suggests that people would improve their homes if their investments were protected.

Stearn read a letter received from Lawrence Needham of 15588 Kirkshire in support of the 14 Mile Road Corridor plan from Greenfield to Madison with restrictions on the density and design of dwellings.

Margaret Panelli of 17549 Kirkshire expressed concern that residents on the south side of Kirkshire were not informed of this study. They are affected by redevelopment in the area and by what area residents choose to do with their property.

A letter from Donna and Jeffery Golden of 17335 Kirkshire was read. They are in opposition to any development that is not single family residential on the 14 Mile Road corridor between Pierce and Southfield Roads.

Robert Smith of 16907 Birwood suggested that a decision on this redevelopment plan be delayed until the 14 Mile road reconstruction is completed with landscaping and drainage. Smith agrees that something needs to be done about the 23 homes between the water tower and Greenfield Road, but the proposed plan is not specific enough. He is concerned about carports, dumpsters, and run-off problems associated with multiple dwellings.

Michael Pamley of 17550 Kirkshire commented that he recently completed a home renovation. He objects to any verbiage in this plan that would allow the development of condominiums, apartments or commercial structures between Southfield and Pierce. Improving the streetscape on 14 Mile Road pushes the problems to the rear. He does not want to look at an alley or parking lot with cars and garbage dumpsters. He moved into the neighborhood because of the village atmosphere. Pamley thinks that the Village should wait and see what improvements occur after the road reconstruction is completed.

In a letter to the Council, Jennifer Hertzler Wink of 17500 Birwood expressed the opinion that the stretch of 14 Mile Road between Southfield and Pierce should not be rezoned to allow the construction of condominiums or apartments. This area should remain single family residential.

Tony Scooros of 16926 Beverly stated that the plan will take what is the most condensed area of Beverly Hills and add more people to it. He is concerned about traffic on Beverly and Pierce Roads. Scooros questioned how long it would take a developer to purchase all the property in the primary area and what incentive would he have to keep that property in good condition until it was accumulated.

Stearn responded that it is not known how long that would take. Beverly Hills has a maintenance ordinance that requires a minimum level of home maintenance.

Katherine Miller of 17141 Dunblaine expressed opposition to the corridor plan. Her basement flooded twice, and the explanation that was given was that there are more people living in the area than the aging infrastructure was designed to accommodate. She asked how Council can contemplate adding a significant number of people into an overloaded system. Miller added that this plan affects the entire Village. She questioned why there is a need for an entryway to Beverly Hills in this area.

Stearn mentioned that the Village is addressing sewer issues. He read a letter from Bill and Lorraine Fairfield of 17976 Kirkshire in opposition to a plan for building apartment or condominium buildings along 14 Mile Road.

Dan Nelson of 32311 Sheridan commented that he has not heard anyone speak this evening who lives on 14 Mile Road.

Alan Safford of 15825 W. 14 Mile Road commented on the condition of some of the small homes in the area and the number of rental homes. He has noticed that none of the homes between the water tower and Greenfield Road have been improved throughout the years, and property values have deteriorated. Safford stated that he has been in limbo for about ten years with respect to improving his property. He remarked that some communities license rental housing and have inspections, although this system is not a solution to poorly maintained homes.

It was noted that a Planning Board study identifies how many non-owner occupied residences there are on 14 Mile Road.

Shelly Sams of 17234 Kirkshire expressed concern about how condominiums on 14 Mile Road would affect residences on the north side of Kirkshire.

No one else wished to be heard at 10:03 p.m.

Munguia does not think anything needs to be done in the neighborhood between Pierce and Southfield. He suggested that it is incumbent on Council to look more closely at the area between Pierce and Greenfield and consider a specific zoning district. He would favor consideration of a redevelopment plan between Pierce and Greenfield after the 14 Mile Road improvements are completed.

Walsh remarked that the only area of concern discussed by Council was the 23 homes east of the water tower. He does not support any changes to the area west of Pierce. He expressed concern with the density proposed in the study. Walsh suggested further study by the Planning Board of the section between the water tower and Greenfield Road. He prefers waiting to see what the corridor looks like when the road improvements are completed before working on an overlay district.

Pfeifer does not think that the area between Pierce and Southfield should be part of this plan. The lots are larger and well maintained. She commented that the Village has attempted to provide information on the study to area residents.

Downey invited residents to become involved with the Village and indicated that applications are available for positions on Village boards and committees.

Downey talked about the benefits of long range planning to a community, and why a plan is needed for the 14 Mile Road corridor. It is an area that has been discussed for at least the five years he has been involved in the Village. If there is redevelopment in this area, the Village wants some control through zoning regulations and design guidelines. Downey thinks that an overlay zoning district should be considered for the area of 14 Mile Road east of Pierce.

Domzal agrees that nothing should be done on 14 Mile Road between Southfield and Pierce. There are real problems in the area between Pierce and Greenfield Roads. Area residents have expressed legitimate concerns. Domzal thinks that the process should continue slowly and thoughtfully in conjunction with the Planning Board and a committee of residents.

Craig clarified that there is no developer waiting in the wings to his knowledge. The Village could adopt an overlay district that receives no market interest. The primary goal of the corridor plan is not tax dollar driven. The tax base will improve if the area improves in value. He maintains that the value of neighboring homes will increase with the type of development envisioned in this plan. The impetus has been to take a defensive posture against further deterioration of the area between Pierce and Greenfield. Craig understands that a developer will not be interested in a high quality project without a density bonus. Craig does not want to see a great increase in density. There will not be a four story building. Redevelopment will have a nominal impact on traffic. Infrastructure is an important issue. Craig would like to see information on the value of the Birmingham condominiums on 14 Mile Road compared to the adjacent houses.

Craig stated that this is a concept plan. There will be a number of opportunities for public hearings if Council moves forward on the plan. This is the beginning of a process that is a long way off from redevelopment. Craig supports the concept plan with the caveat that it be focused at the 23 houses closer to Greenfield. He suggests that Council approve the plan and refer it to the Village Planning Board with conditions.

Stearn commented that he will support a motion to send the plan back to the Planning Board with direction to eliminate the area from Pierce to Southfield and provide specific ideas for the area from Greenfield to Pierce. Stearn declared the public hearing closed at 10:39 p.m.

MOTION by Domzal to refer the 14 Mile Road Corridor Study to the Planning Board for further study with the following four conditions and to ask for a report within 12 months.

1. The plan will only consider the area between Pierce and Greenfield Roads.
2. There will be an effort to create a subcommittee of residents to provide active input into the entire process.
3. The study will take into account the road reconstruction and improvements along 14 Mile Road.
4. Further study will provide specific recommendations regarding:
  - a. Architectural standards
  - b. Density
  - c. Height limitations

Roll Call Vote:

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Downey  | - yes |
| Munguia | - yes |
| Pfeifer | - no  |
| Stearn  | - no  |
| Walsh   | - yes |
| Craig   | - no  |
| Domzal  | - yes |

Motion passed (4 – 3).

A recess was called at 10:45 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:00 p.m.

**REVIEW AND CONSIDER PROPOSAL TO EXTEND RUBBISH CONTRACT**

Domzal recused himself from participation in discussion on this topic due to his involvement as attorney for Waste Management. He left the room.

Walsh stated that the Village has been meeting regularly over the past two months with representatives from Ferndale, Lathrup Village and Oak Park to discuss strategies for the renewal of trash contracts. It was noted that Royal Oak recently accepted a low bid that reflects a 30% increase in its rates and Hazel Park renewed its contract with a 40% rate increase.

Before Council for consideration is an extension of a contract with Great Lakes Waste Services, which expires in June of 2002. Great Lakes has provided a three-year contract extension offer with annual rate increases of 4% the first year and 3% for the next two years. Walsh thinks that proposed contract extension is a reasonable offer. The service with Great Lakes has been satisfactory and has improved substantially since the beginning of the contract.

MOTION by Walsh to resolve to approve a three-year extension to the trash contract with Great Lakes Waste Services in the following amounts:

|         |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|
| 2002-03 | 4% increase to \$330,886 |
| 2003-04 | 3% increase to \$340,812 |
| 2004-05 | 3% increase to \$351,136 |

Council questions on the contract proposal were addressed by Murphy.

Roll Call Vote:

|         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| Munguia | - yes     |
| Pfeifer | - yes     |
| Stearn  | - yes     |
| Walsh   | - yes     |
| Craig   | - yes     |
| Domzal  | - abstain |
| Downey  | - yes     |

Motion passed (6 yes – 0 no – 1 abstention).

Domzal returned to his seat.

**APPROVE BILLS**

MOTION by Pfeifer to approve bills for payment in the following amounts from a period of 1/08/02 through 01/22/02:

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| \$332,772.88 | General Fund               |
| 8,498.07     | Major Road Fund            |
| 3,951.76     | Local Road Fund            |
| 200.00       | Capital Projects Fund      |
| 50,310.11    | Water/Sewer Operation Fund |

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <u>8,991.57</u>     | Trust & Agency Fund |
| <u>\$404,724.39</u> | Total               |

Motion passed unanimously

### LIAISONS COMMENTS

Munguia stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on Monday, January 14.

Pfeifer reported that the Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (BASCC) Board met last week and reported extreme budget problems because of a loss in gifting. The BASCC Board will be raising dues to its members, the first time in eight years. In addition, they will be requesting a ten percent increase in municipal donations. Pfeifer supports this request, which will be considered during Council budget deliberations.

Pfeifer remarked that the number of Beverly Hills residents availing themselves of the Outreach Program has increased by 100%. All Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds allocated to BASCC by Beverly Hills are being well used. **Pfeifer indicated that the CDBG funds have been depleted and BASCC is having to tap other funds in order to cover the shortage.**

The Birmingham Area Cable Board met on January 16 at the Baldwin Public Library and continued to address a large number of subscriber complaints regarding cable television service and Internet connection.

Cable Board members were concerned with the lack of authority by either the federal, state or local government to regulate the Internet. The attorney for the Cable Board will prepare a resolution of the board for consideration at its next meeting that will be sent to our elected officials at the federal and state level requesting clarification of the Internet oversight issue.

The Cable Board will be meeting in the Village municipal building for six months as a trial period. The meetings can be broadcast live from the Beverly Hills Council chambers.

Downey reported that the Planning Board at its last meeting reviewed a site plan for improvements to the McDonald's property on Southfield Road. He outlined the proposed changes. Action on the site plan was tabled to allow the applicant to submit a revised site plan due to inaccuracies in the drawings submitted.

Another agenda item was a report from the subcommittee assessing the current Village Master Plan to determine the extent of the next update in advance of the board's review of the document. The consultant presented an overview of an amendatory act recently passed, the City and Village Open Space Preservation Act, amending the City and Village Zoning Act. It requires that all qualified cities and villages adopt an open space preservation option or standard before December of 2002. Downey reported that the Planning Board is prepared to present its recommendations on Village entryway signs at an upcoming meeting.

Domzal stated that the Parks and Recreation Board will be meeting on Thursday, January 24 to review bids on grant related park improvements. The bid opening will be tomorrow.

### **MANAGER’S REPORT**

Murphy reported that agendas for Village Council meetings will be posted on the Village’s web site. Village staff is developing plans to encourage homeowner associations and other interested parties to access the Council agenda through the website.

The Village’s five-year Capital Improvement Plan will come before Council on February 4. The plan was reviewed by the Finance Committee at its January 8 meeting. The operating budget goes to the Finance Committee in February with possible further review in March. The budget will likely come before the Council on April 1 in keeping with Chapter 8, Section 2 of the Village of Beverly Hills Charter.

At the last Village Council work session, there was discussion regarding developing a community-wide strategic plan. A community-driven strategic plan would provide residents with an opportunity to help develop the Village’s goals and objectives and preferred outcomes, and provide Council with a policy-making tool to further promote the ideas and ideals of the community. Village staff is working on suggestions and recommendations regarding this program and will provide Council with more information as it develops.

Petitions for Village Council election are due to the Village Clerk by Monday, January 28 at 4:00 p.m.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Craig announced that he will not be running for Council in the March election. He has enjoyed six years in Village government, two on the Planning Board and four on Council. He is not running due to demands on his time. Craig plans to remain involved in the community.

Craig talked about his reasons for becoming involved in Village government. He encouraged anyone in the Village who thinks he or she can do a good job or has a desire for change to pull a petition. There are four open seats. Petitions must be submitted to the Village Clerk by Monday at 4:00 p.m.

Domzal thanked the members of the Parks and Recreation Board who were involved in organizing the Winter Family Fun Day in Beverly Park. It was a great day.

Downey commented that Council will miss Craig for the guidance and knowledge he has provided to this body. Downey said that he handed out three applications for Village boards and committees to people who were present in the audience tonight.

Pfeifer thanked all the residents who attended tonight’s meeting. She remarked that Craig’s leaving Council will be a loss to all of us, and she is sorry to see him go.

Stearn thanked Jim O’Reilly for doing a great job of organizing the Winter Family Fun Day. He hopes the event will continue into the future.

Stearn stated that this Council has been listening to the recommendations of the Planning Board and the public and doing the best it can. He mentioned that the reason he voted against the motion to refer the 14 Mile Road Corridor Plan to the Planning Board was because he did not think a committee was necessary.

Stearn asserted that he will miss Craig and will continue to seek him out as a mentor and friend.

MOTION by Craig to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Todd Stearn**  
**Council President**

**Ellen E. Marshall**  
**Village Clerk**

**Susan Bernard**  
**Recording Secretary**