

Present: Council President Downey; President Pro-Tem Woodrow; Members: Domzal, McCleary, Mooney, Pfeifer, Schmitt

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Murphy

President Downey called the Council study session to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. 13 Mile Road.

The proposed study session agenda is as follows:

- Policy Agenda
- Future Planning
- Southfield Road Corridor Study
- Library Services
- Discussion

Policy Agenda

Downey compiled and distributed an inventory of Council projects divided into current activities, items that Council has agreed to undertake, and non-prioritized items of interest. It will take Council working together to move a topic forward. Each policy goal should have a work plan that outlines the information needed to make a decision, what is required from the Council or the public, and an identified funding source.

Future Planning

Council discussed future planning in terms of initiating a program to develop a community-wide strategic plan for Beverly Hills that will determine the preferred interests and direction of the community. Money was allocated for a community wide strategic plan in the 2003/04 budget.

A majority of Council members are interested in seeking input from residents to affirm that their objectives reflect the needs of the community before undertaking specific projects. The Village Manager requested direction from Council on how to proceed with this activity. He was asked to provide Council with an outline describing the process involved in conducting a community-wide strategic plan so that Council will have a clear understanding of the program.

Southfield Road Corridor Study

Murphy reviewed that a proposal was received from Seth Hirshorn to act as a facilitator to assist with the development of a Southfield Road Corridor Study work program with the goal of building consensus between the Planning Board, Council and the community on visions and ideas for the business district. Hirshorn is a professor at the University of Michigan who does strategic planning work. The first step is to conduct interviews with the Council and Planning Board.

Murphy informed Council that it has been suggested by Hirshorn that there would be value in forming a small test group to make sure what is being discussed between the Council, Planning

Board, and some of the key stake holders translates to a larger population within the community. This would involve surveying other board and committee members, homeowner association presidents, and business owners along Southfield Road and elsewhere to determine if they respond favorably to the direction being proposed for the business district. There is an additional \$520 charge for conducting a test group, which would bring the total fee to \$2,600 plus expenses. There is \$3,900 in Community Development Block Grant funds available for this service.

Motion by Mooney, seconded by Pfeifer.

Resolved to authorize an additional expenditure not to exceed \$600 for a preliminary survey to be conducted by Seth Hirshorn in connection with the Southfield Road Corridor Study.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7 – 0).

Questions from Norman Rubin of 31020 Rivers Edge regarding this undertaking were addressed by Murphy.

Review Library Services

Council suggested that a fiduciary review of the Village's contract with Baldwin Public Library for library service is warranted. There was discussion as to whether the community is receiving adequate value for services rendered. Beverly Hills is under contract to pay the Baldwin Library 1.077 mils annually or approximately \$450,000 for library service. It was suggested that Village residents may not know how much of their tax dollar is going to the library.

Murphy recommended that debate on this topic could be part of the strategic planning process in order to determine its relative worth against other services and needs of the community. If the issue of library service is not raised, it will come down to an economic question that Council can pose to residents at some point. Domzal offered to be the discussion leader for this topic.

Norman Rubin commented in support of the services provided to Village residents through the contract with Baldwin Library.

Discussion

Schmitt proposed that Council establish a committee to study whether the Village should become a city. He thinks that the Village should undertake an investigation of this topic as part of its fiduciary reviews.

Domzal questioned the status of the Charter update and whether Council is in the position to start the process of formulating ballot proposals for the next election.

Council members submitted a list of Charter issues they felt were important to administration last year. Murphy related that many of the modifications suggested have been amended by state statute. Updating the Charter is a matter of including a reference point in the document indicating that the specific section has been superceded by state law. This type of charter amendment does

not require a vote of the people. Ryan has been working on these amendments with the Village Clerk.

It was questioned whether the Charter updates should wait until after the future planning exercise in order to propose amendments that are germane to how residents would like the government to operate.

Council directed the Village Manager to prepare a report for the second meeting in July on the status of Charter revisions with respect to the annotations relative to changes in state statute as well as priority issues identified by Council that will require ballot language. Administration was asked to recommend how to proceed with the Charter update.

Council has reviewed a proposed landlord-tenant ordinance. At the last study session there was discussion regarding what Council wants to achieve with the ordinance. There were members who preferred moving forward with the ordinance and those who opted to proceed with increased code enforcement efforts and take a “wait and see” approach on a rental inspection ordinance. A consensus was not reached to move forward on the ordinance at that time.

McCleary asked administration for a list of homestead and non-homestead properties in the Village.

Council directed Murphy to bring the issue of rental property inspection before Council at the first meeting in September.

Motion by Domzal, seconded by Mooney, to recess the meeting at 7:17 p.m. before reconvening at 7:30 p.m.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

Doyle Downey
Council President

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary