

Present: Council President Domzal; President Pro-Tem Woodrow; Members: Downey, Koss, McCleary, Pfeifer and Taylor

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Spallasso
Assistant to the Manager, Pasieka
Village Clerk, Marshall
Building Official, Byrwa
Director of Public Safety, Woodard
Village Attorney, Ryan

President Domzal called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Woodrow, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Taylor, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Review and consider minutes of a regular Council meeting held on January 4, 2005.
- b. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, January 10, 2005.

Motion passed (7 - 0).

BUSINESS AGENDA

PRESENTATION BY GENE JACOBY OF THE VILLAGE OF BEVERLY HILLS STRATEGIC PLAN

Council member Koss introduced Gene Jacoby of Detroit Executive Service Corps (DESC) who served as facilitator for the Strategic Planning Development Committee (SPDC) along with Suzanne Dibble and Mike Howard. Jacoby will present the findings and status of the Strategic Plan for the Village.

Jacoby stated that three members of the DESC have been working with the Village's Strategic Planning Development Committee for about 13 months. The group has reached a point where it is logical to submit the plan to the Village Council. The Committee has accomplished the identification of key strategic issues for the Village and has outlined major ways to address those issues. Action plans have been generated to accomplish strategic objectives. It is now appropriate to break into smaller groups who will work with the Council and staff to finalize the definition and the priorities of the strategic plan and to begin implementation.

Jacoby recognized the individuals who made up the core committee as well as the ad hoc committee members and Village staff who participated in this process. He presented an overview of the planning process.

The strategic planning process began with identifying stakeholders followed by conducting focus group meetings and interviews to single out the main issues and concerns of residents, business members, school personnel, and service providers of the Village. Surveys were developed by the group and were mailed to every household in the Village. Forty-five percent of the surveys were returned, and the raw data was reviewed by the SPDC. The group drafted a vision and mission statement for Beverly Hills. The committee went through an exercise in which it identified the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to the Village. Key strategic issues of the Village were formulated from this analysis. The committee went further to develop strategic objectives and action plans.

Jacoby presented the six Key Strategic Issues identified by the strategic planning committee. There were one or more strategic objectives for each key strategic issue.

- Maintain the current level of services
- Improve/Update infrastructure
- Establish a long-term financial plan
- Develop an ecologically sound environmental plan
- Increase public awareness/participation and interest in Beverly Hills issues
- Maintain and increase value of property

The committee has completed the strategic planning process through the formation of action plans for the key strategic issues of the Village. The remaining items are important in that they establish when each action plan will be addressed, who will be responsible for making progress on that action item, how it will be measured, and what resources are required. These are key issues in terms of setting priorities.

Jacoby offered ideas on how to implement the strategic plan. He suggested forming teams with an individual, possibly a Council member assigned to be a leader of each team to carry out a particular key strategic issue. Jacoby thought that members of ad hoc committees established by the SPDC could be engaged to be a part of these teams. Jacoby emphasized that this process has involved citizens of the Village, and Council has an opportunity to take advantage of that.

Ideas for coordinating the implementation process and reporting progress were outlined in Jacoby's presentation. It was suggested that Council review a portion of the plan once a month. It would be helpful to review and evaluate the plan about once a year to update it with new priorities established for the next year.

Jacoby commended Village residents and staff for their effort and cooperation during this process.

Motion by Koss, second by Downey, that the Village of Beverly Hills Council accept and review for implementation the Village of Beverly Hills Strategic Plan.

Council thanked everyone who has been involved in this strategic planning process. Members were impressed with the plan and think it offers an excellent guide to what is important in the Village. There was interest expressed in beginning work on prioritization and implementation of the plan. Council appreciated the recommendations on how to take the strategic plan to the next level and will be giving serious thought to the implementation process.

Nanci Freedman of 32460 Evergreen, Planning Board member, commended the members involved with preparation of the strategic plan. She understood that the mandate of the strategic planning committee was to develop a strategic plan for the Village without being involved in its implementation. Freedman was concerned with interfacing the strategic plan and its implementation with the activities of the Village Planning Board. Beverly Hills has a mandate to update its Master Plan every five years. The Planning Board is in the process of preparing a work program for updating the Master Plan. Freedman questioned whether there will be redundancy between the Planning Board and Council's implementation process.

Bunker Kelly of 21526 Corsaut complimented the work that the people on the strategic planning committee have done. He thought that it is important to not let this fall by the wayside. With regard to a concern expressed about coordination with the Planning Board, Kelly commented that planning is an all encompassing term and the Planning Board is not charged with doing all encompassing planning for the Village. He stated that the Planning Board focuses on building and development within the community.

Norm Downey of 23042 Nottingham Drive stated that he thinks the strategic plan represents excellent work on the part of everyone involved. There is one item that can be implemented immediately, which is to create a finance committee of citizens to meet as needed.

Greg Burry of 32742 Pierce commented that he has been a core member of the Strategic Planning Committee, which was the first opportunity he has had to work on community issues. He thanked the facilitators for their hard work and the Village staff for being involved. Burry emphasized that the results from the strategic planning survey represent the voice of the people. One of the major priorities of the survey was balancing the budget and financial planning. He asked Council to consider the implementation of a finance committee as soon as possible.

Vote on Motion:
Motion passed (7 – 0).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER PURCHASE OF LASER SPEED DEVICE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Koss commented that there has been concern expressed by residents about the speed of traffic on the thoroughfares in the Village. Before Council for consideration is a request from the Public Safety Department to purchase a laser speed device.

Director of Public Safety Woodard outlined the general operation of radar enforcement of speed limits. He explained that a laser speed measuring device improves radar speed detection for the reason that it can be used to isolate the specific violator even if the vehicle is traveling at the

front of a larger group of vehicles. Laser technology uses a straight line beam as opposed to the “field” approach of conventional radar. The device requires specific training for those officers assigned to its use.

Kustom Signals, Inc. of Kansas holds the State of Michigan purchasing contract for this laser speed device. Staff has found this vendor to be responsible through prior contacts and purchases. The Kustom Signals ProLaser III is offered under the State of Michigan purchasing contract at the price of \$2,588. Funds are available in the Law Enforcement Drug Forfeiture Fund to cover the costs of this purchase.

Motion by Koss, second by Taylor, that the Village of Beverly Hills Council authorize the purchase of one ProLaser III speed measuring device from Kustom Signals, Inc. of Kansas in the amount of \$2,588.

Domzal stated that he would be interested in a report on the results after this laser device has been in service for about six months. Woodard responded that he will prepare a report on the number of stops and enforcement actions as well as an indication of the speeds on Southfield Road.

Questions from Council and residents on the device were addressed by Woodard. In response to an inquiry from Sharon Tischler of 21415 Virmar Court, Woodard stated that there may be training costs involved in the use of this equipment. Training programs may be offered by state police.

Nanci Freedman of 32460 Evergreen questioned whether this laser device is a necessary purchase considering the Village’s tight budget. Woodard commented that the money for this expenditure is coming from Drug Forfeiture Funds.

Bunker Kelly of 21526 Corsaut commented that high visibility in the area of law enforcement will deter people from criminal activity. He hopes that the Village will make it known that it is using a laser speed measuring device.

Village Attorney Ryan stated that this laser speed device is absolutely essential equipment for a modern metropolitan police department. Beverly Hills needs to have its officers use the best facilities and best equipment available. He has seen a laser speed detector operate for other communities. It is a precise and a tremendous tool for our officers, and Ryan urges Council to approve this purchase. He noted that the equipment has to be properly functioning and maintained and the operator has to be trained in order to be admissible in court.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (7 – 0).

REFER LOT SPLIT REQUEST FOR 32380 MAYFAIR FROM THE CHRISTIES TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR REVIEW, RECOMMENDATION AND PUBLIC HEARING

Woodrow reported that on Monday, December 13, 2004 the Village Zoning Board of Appeals voted 6-2 to approve, with conditions, a variance request for a 79.5 foot lot and a square footage variance for the Christie's property. A public hearing by the Planning Board and Council is required by ordinance to complete the record and officially approve the lot split. In keeping with the State of Michigan's 45 day maximum time limit for lot splits, it is recommended that Council set its public hearing for February 15, 2005.

Motion by Woodrow, second by McCleary, to recommend the lot split request for 32380 Mayfair to the Planning Board for a public hearing and to set a Council public hearing date for February 15, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

In response to a question from Council, Ryan clarified that the Village Zoning Board of Appeals has granted a variance to allow this lot to be a legal non-conforming lot. Therefore, Council can take the appropriate action on the request for lot split.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Walsh of 20655 Smallwood Court had questions on the Beverly Park pavilion renovation project relative to the scope and budget for the project, bidding procedures, and lack of involvement by Village administration. He thinks that there should be a Council agenda item to discuss the pavilion project.

In response to a comment from Walsh, Spallasso stated that the architect who prepared the plans and handled the bidding process is conducting an assessment of the three lowest bidders and evaluating their capabilities in order to prepare a recommendation to Council for awarding a contract to the lowest and most qualified bidder.

Jim Merritt of 32800 Lasher Road commented that, as a Village resident of five years and having worked in Beverly Hills for six years, he has had contact with various employees and associates of the Village office. Merritt has served on the strategic planning committee as well as the Master Plan study committee in 1999. His concern as a business person and a taxpayer of the Village is that the citizens do not lose an opportunity to have Renzo Spallasso appointed as manager, which would provide the Village with the opportunity to train his replacement as Public Services Director. This would be an economic opportunity and an example of good business management.

In response to a comment from Sharon Tischler of 21415 Virmar Court, Director Woodard indicated that the Taser weapons and equipment have not been received by the Department. Tischler noted that the manufacturer has been served with three lawsuits in the last two weeks.

Frank Worrell of 32123 Bellvine Trail referred to the Council meeting minutes of September 21, 2004 in which Council member Pfeifer commented that the Village Finance Director had given her a figure of \$5,469 for the amount spent on the 14 Mile Road corridor study for a period of three fiscal years. Worrell stated that he came forward at that meeting and said that he made a desk audit of the 14 Mile Road corridor study expenses and came up with a cost of \$28,000+ as

of July 5, 2002. Worrell thinks that the total cost of the study with 2003 and 2004 costs could bring the total project cost to about \$50,000. He has a copy of his research that he would be willing to share with Council or administration.

Domzal asked Worrell to provide a copy of his work sheets to the Village Manager. Worrell stated that he received his information from the Village Clerk under the Freedom of Information Act.

Pamela Rijnovean of 32420 Evergreen questioned why the Village has not pursued obtaining information from Baldwin Library on how many Beverly Hills residents use the library. This is basic information needed to analyze library financing.

Koss responded that Beverly Hills representatives had a meeting recently with Baldwin Library officials. The Library will give the Village circulation numbers, but they cannot provide household information. Council has been given documentation on a law that does not allow libraries to supply municipalities with names and addresses of people who use the library. The only way the Village can get a sense of how many residents use the library is by asking the question on the survey.

Rijnovean asked why the Library cannot tell the Village whether the user is a Beverly Hills resident without providing names or addresses. This should be public information.

Bunker Kelly remarked that the Village has tried to obtain the number of households that have library cards from Baldwin Public Library. The Library has refused to provide that information and offers the Village circulation figures. He questioned whether computer use counts as a circulation number.

As spokesman for the Beverly Hills Citizens Forum Committee, Kelly remarked that one of the issues in the strategic plan refers to better communication in the Village. He maintains that an example of the need for better communication was last Thursday's Council session that was not broadcast on cable television. Kelly outlined the subjects discussed at that study session. He thinks that Council needs to do a better job of broadcasting and sharing its sessions if it wants to have a community that is on board.

Frank Worrell of 32123 Bellvine Trail stated that the Michigan Municipal League has said that there is nothing in the library law that would prevent Baldwin Public Library from providing Beverly Hills with figures on the number of people that use the library.

Kim Holland of 31905 Crossbow Ct. representing Crossbow Research stated that all of the library surveys have been received and were sent to the data entry company to be keypunched. That process will be completed next week. Tabulations will then be run, and a report will be ready for Council review the first week in February. The survey asks each household if they have a Baldwin library card and how often they use it. We should be able to extrapolate from the survey how many households in the Village have at least one card.

REPORTS – MANAGER

Spallasso reported that on Friday, January 14, Dorothy Pfeifer, Dan McCleary and he met with Tom Markus and two Birmingham City Commissioners to initiate a dialog on the topic of consolidation of services. He will inform Council when there is something to report.

The traffic signal at Dunblaine and Southfield Roads will be finalized on Friday, January 21, 2005.

Spallasso reported that there was a house fire in the Village last Sunday, January 16 on Kennoway. Director Woodard provided Council with some of the specifics of the incident.

COUNCIL

Pfeifer asked Kim Holland how many library surveys were returned and processed. Holland responded that there were approximately 1,017 surveys returned by residents, about 25 percent of the population.

Pfeifer reported that the Birmingham Area Cable Board will meet tomorrow morning, January 19, at 7:45 a.m. in the Council chamber.

Pfeifer related that the meeting with Tom Markus and two Birmingham Commissioners was productive. The parties are in the process of identifying and exploring shared services. Given the financial problems that all municipalities are experiencing, there is a realization that there may be future benefit to combining some of our services.

Pfeifer attended the Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (BASCC) Board meeting today. BASCC has prepared a report on its strategic planning process and has begun work on implementing that plan. One of the biggest problems that BASCC is experiencing is acquiring funding.

Woodrow referred to a 2004 status report to Council from Village Code Enforcement Officer Dan Gosselin. It was noted that 348 notices were sent to residents informing them of violations of various Village codes. Approximately one-third of those notices were initiated by citizen complaints and two-thirds generated during road patrol. In only 17 of the cases were tickets issued for noncompliance.

Taylor stated that there are tough decisions coming up in terms of finances and spending Village money. He appreciates everyone who comes to the lectern to speak at Council meetings as well as those who email him, the work of administration, and the efforts of all Council members.

McCleary stated that the Parks and Recreation Board will meet on Thursday, January 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the municipal building. The pavilion renovation will be an agenda item. McCleary reported that the Winter Family Fun Day on Sunday, January 16 went well.

Downey referred to an update memo from Stan Pasioka on the activities of the Rouge Green Corridor project partners. Downey thanked Pasioka for his involvement in this organization.

Downey commented that an ancillary benefit of the strategic planning process is that it has increased the participation of residents in Village activities. He thanks those involved in this process for their volunteerism and looks forward to seeing more of them.

Downey announced that the Lions Club is sponsoring a Blue Grass Concert on Friday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Groves High School Little Auditorium. The cost is \$10.

Domzal commented that he was interested in the status report from the Village's Code Enforcement Officer. He asked to see more detail in future reports in terms of the type of violations by category, disposition, and voluntary compliance.

Domzal referred to the Council study session held last Thursday on January 13. Council will be following up on a number of the items discussed including review of a personnel issue with regard to the interim Village Manager status. Terms of office will be a topic of discussion in March in preparation for the September election.

Discussion of the Detroit Water and Sewer Department has been in the news recently. Communities in Oakland and other counties have commissioned studies to investigate alternative water and sewer systems. The DWSD has scheduled a meeting for its wholesale customers. Topics of discussion will include improved communications between DWSD and its wholesale customers, identify key issues between DWSD and its customers, analyze issues and develop recommended actions, and develop and implement a survey instrument to measure customer satisfaction.

Domzal acknowledged the presentation of the strategic plan and the library survey results as assignments that Council will be undertaking. He hopes that, with the cooperation, work and partnership of Village citizens, Council will do good things in 2005.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Taylor, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.
Motion passed (7 – 0).

Dave Domzal
Council President

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary