

Conservation Committee Minutes

February 3, 2022

7:00 P.M. Via Teleconference

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members present: Joshua Liberatore, Chuck Hagner, Maggie Pipek, Caroline Kuebler, Linda Frank, Erin Povak, Elisabeth Witt, Donna Pollock, Natalia Stein, Henry Tomasiewicz, and Bella Peaslee. Others present: Village Manager Rebecca Ewald.

Not present: Matt McGovern, Meenal Atre, and Trustee Wesley Warren.

2. Consider Approval of January 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Tomasiewicz moved to approve the September 2, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pollock. Vote 9-0 to approve the minutes. (Ms. Frank abstained.)

3. Discuss Citizen Concerns

None offered.

4. Staff Liaison Updates

A round of introductions began the meeting in order to welcome our newest member Natalia Stein. Also, it was reported by Chair Liberatore that the Village Board approved a proclamation celebrating World Migratory Bird Day in January and the annual Bird City application submitted on January 31. Manager Ewald invited all to attend the Public Works Standing Committee Monday evening at 6:45 p.m. on February 7 before the full board meeting at which the Lake Drive reconstruction project will be discussed and plans revealed for possible green infrastructure improvements. Manager Ewald also reminded the committee that the Facilities Condition Assessment report will be coming out soon.

5. Consider approval of funds to cover Bird City application fee

Ms. Frank moved to approve the \$175 application fee, with Ms. Pollock seconding. The motion carried 9-0, with one abstention from Mr. Hagner.

6. Discuss update on zoning improvements and opportunities for liaising with working group

Mr. Hagner gave an overview of the form-based zoning kickoff meeting, which he and Ms. Pipek both attended. The move to form-based standards introduces more nuance into the building code and accounts for a wider variety of uses: residential, commercial, and recreational. Form-based zoning helps to anticipate some of the use variations that normally arise after development. Ms. Pipek added comments about some of the procedural discussion about task force/committee formation and makeup. She also reviewed some of the changes that form-based zoning would mean for Village development projects. It is the view of committee liaisons that form-based zoning allows for more flexibility of actual use as opposed to just static building types in isolation and also a continuity of use that recognizes the surrounding context. Ms. Frank asked for clarification of how form-based zoning would affect the “existing” maps of zoned areas in the Village. Ms. Pollock voiced the hope that form-based zoning would help the Design Review Board and Plan Commission make informed decisions based on community input.

7. Discuss local infrastructure opportunities and green energy projects with Federal funding

Ms. Kuebler shared a short slide presentation she prepared to help illustrate competitive funding opportunities available to local governments for green energy and other clean infrastructure projects. Examples included a “safe streets” grant through the Department of Transportation; EV-charging station and energy-efficiency grants from the Department of Energy; as well as some grant programs that target clean energy deployment in schools. The lead-pipe service line replacement program might have particular interest in Shorewood, particularly as Shorewood still relies on voluntary lead service line replacement by residents. The possibility of an EV charging station at the library could be revisited, as it was proposed 4-5 years ago as part of the Shorewood Foundation “shark tank” project bidding. Manager Ewald reviewed the current infrastructure upgrades planned for sewer laterals. Ms. Frank explained how EV charging works and how a public charging unit might be used in realistic scenarios. Ms. Stein offered the suggestion of retractable parade barricades as a possible pedestrian/bike safety improvement. Ms. Pollock asked about a possible requirement for charging stations in the context of new development projects. Ms. Frank reviewed some of the projects that the City of Milwaukee is considering in the categories targeted by the infrastructure law funding described above, with an emphasis on concurrent lead abatement and energy efficiency improvement. Another proposal suggests mandatory energy benchmarking for commercial buildings.

8. Discuss update on planning process for spring film screening and pollinator-theme event

Ms. Kuebler listed the dates she's considering for possible film screenings for "Symphony of the Soil": April 8, April 22, April 29, May 16, and May 13. Ms. Povak spoke up for April 22 due to the overlap with Earth Day. Mr. Liberatore and Ms. Pipek spoke up for the April dates to spread out from our May event and take advantage of the confluence with Earth Day. Mr. Tomasiewicz then reported out on the tentative plan for a pollinator-themed event at Estabrook Park picnic area #6 across from the service yard, currently planned for May 21 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., with setup starting at 9 a.m. Mr. Hagner asked about access to the parking lot if the parkway is closed for the Active Streets program. He reviewed the Conservation Committee booths/activities planned for the event, as well as listed some of the partner organizations and other groups that will be invited to the event. It was proposed that groups might be given a 10-15 minute slot of dedicated time as a way of promoting interest in the organizations. Mr. Tomasiewicz suggested naming the event "4Bees" in honor of bees, butterflies, bats, and birds. Mr. Frank suggested that the beer garden might be attractive for participants around the lunch hour. Ms. Witt and Ms. Kuebler suggested the idea of "Wild Wings". Mr. Hagner will be offering guided bird walks as part of the event, starting at 7, 8, and 9 a.m.

9. Subcommittee Reports

None offered.

10. Upcoming Events, Member Topics & Suggestions

None offered.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Tomasiewicz moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Pollock. Vote 10-0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rebecca Ewald
Village Manager