



City of Westfield

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Community Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2019 – 6:30 pm, Room 201, Westfield Municipal Building

Members attending:
Members absent:

Staff attending:

Cheryl Crowe
John Bowen (Alt)
Cynthia Gaylord
Daniel Kelly
Joe Muto
Vincent Olinski (Alt)
William Porter
Michael Tirrell
Thomas Sharp

Jay Vinskey
Christine Fedora

Member Muto called the meeting to order at 6:30 and members of the Committee introduced themselves.

1. Public Participation

Member Muto asked for any public comment. None presented.

2. Review and Approval of 4-11-19 Minutes.

Member Gaylord motioned, seconded by Member Crowe to approve meeting minutes as drafted. All in Favor.

3. Review of Budget/Funds

Planner Vinskey had the current year budgeting written on the whiteboard. He noted the unspent/balance funds would not be available until November. Historic: \$50,000. Open Space: \$50,000. Housing: \$50,000. Undesignated/Rec: \$320,000

4. Review of New/Pending Applications

- Abner Gibbs School Playground (recreation) - \$10,000

School Principal Stacy Burgess presented the request. The school has 220 students and a modest dated play area. They are looking to add some new equipment and have raised matching funds, including from the PTO and penny wars. The importance of play as part of education was also noted.

Member Muto expressed his support, particularly as there are matching funds. And it would be used by the neighborhood as well. Member Gaylord, a teacher, also expressed support.

The question as to the timeline for planned closure of the school was raised. Principal Burgess stated that at least 5 years, which is enough time for a generation of students to go through the school, and the playground could still be used by the neighborhood. Planner Vinskey noted that possibly the equipment could be moved and used elsewhere. Principal Burgess stated they were looking for items that could more easily be moved.

Member Tirrell asked out a restriction or public access requirement. Planner Vinskey responded that as a public/city (vs. private) project, these agreements are not necessary.

Members Crowe, noting her work with the Hampton Ponds Playground, asked if the existing equipment would be removed. Principal Burgess replied no, it is still there and still safe to use. Members Crowe offered to donate time/volunteers to assist if needed.

Member Gaylord motioned, seconded by Member Crowe to approve the \$10,000 funding. All in Favor. Planner Vinskey noted that it has to come from the Undesignated account.

Member Porter stated that City Council also needs to approve. Planner Vinskey noted that this would be submitted to City Council for their August meeting, but they probably would not vote on it until September 5 at the earliest. Principal Burgess stated they hoped for summer work, but would accommodate whatever timeline was necessary. City Councilor Matt Emmershay stated that he may try to arrange for quicker Council action.

5. Status of Recommended/Funded Projects

Planner Vinskey noted that he had no updates; has not heard any more on the outstanding historic deed restrictions (Athenaeum, Stowe House, YMCA).

Work and the CPA banner on the Bismarck Hotel was noted.

Member Porter asked about the Wyben Schoolhouse. Member Gaylord stated that with prevailing wages and need for restrooms/septic, the project may cost \$500,000 to fully complete. She discussed the idea of possibly moving the structure to an area near the whip factory.

6. Discussion of potential projects. None.

7. Other Business/Future Agenda Items. None

It was noted that the next regular meeting date would be October 10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14.

Submitted by:
Jay Vinskey, CPA Administrator