

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE PARK
STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK SESSION

JANUARY 30, 2014

Dr. Discipio convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Roll call: Trustees Mesick, Rocco, Kucera, Lautner, Fotino and Sheehan were all present. Also attending were Chief McCollum, Chief Maggos, Finance Director Garesché, Public Works Director McLaughlin, Village Manager Cedillo and Assistant Village Manager Rodman.

There was no Public Comment.

Dr. Discipio welcomed the trustees and complimented them on working well together as a Board.

Ms. Cedillo then provided a history of Village Board Strategic planning efforts over the past several years, and pointed out that many ideas gleaned from these sessions (e.g., economic development, revenue study, road prioritization, capital projects prioritization and flood mitigation) had produced concrete results benefitting the Village.

Ms. Rodman reviewed the written materials which were sent to the Board in preparation for this meeting.

Ms. Cedillo then led brainstorming activities, in which the Board identified:

Accomplishments

- Heatherdale Subdivision
- Sustainability Plan
- Public Works Garage renovation
- Overall Communication among Staff, Board, businesses and residents (E-Briefs, safety bulletins and Rose Clippings)
- New Zoning Code
- Restructuring of fees
- Drug take-back program
- Use of interest
- Commercial Revitalization Plan
- Updated website
- Local Revenue Study
- Grants
- Sticking with "pay as you go" strategy
- Board leadership
- Strategic Planning
- Improved staff leadership

Priorities

- Streets
- Economic Development
- Budget
- Reach out to Businesses

- Residential Safety
- Community communication
- Update RMS system
- Generator replacement
- Finance Director hire
- Elevator replacement
- Downspout disconnect program
- Emerald Ash Borer control and reforestation
- Courage to make right decisions
- Growth in community interest and involving
- National Night Out
- Keeping up with grant opportunities
- Maintain relationships with state officials and local governmental groups
- New resident reachout/Welcome Packet
- Fire truck replacement
- Shared services (dispatch)/CAD
- GAP analysis
- Replacement of Hot Box (Asphalt machine)
- Replacement of Radar
- Replacement of Boiler
- Sewers and Water main repairs
- Maintain energetic engagement of staff to meet priorities
- Building Code rewrite
- Maintain appropriate staffing levels in all departments
- FOP Labor Contract expires 4/30/14
- Highlight accomplishments of residents doing good things
- Incorporate Trustees' input in State of the Village address
- Get reporters to attend meetings

The Board then analyzed Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats:

Strengths

- Strong and experienced administration
- Good communication
- Delivery of Services
- Financial clarity
- Great location
- Strong Board
- Residents
- Stable village
- Good access to roads and transportation
- Ability to work with other governmental agencies (state, county, federal)
- Partnerships with neighboring communities
- Lobbyist
- Demographics
- Focus on environmental sustainability
- Youth Commission
- Strong department heads, village attorney and engineer
- Community pride
- Jewel and Ace
- Maintenance of Village
- Library
- Nice homes

- Diversity of housing, residents' ages, and occupations
- Humble community
- Low crime
- Park District

Weaknesses

- Roads
- Infrastructure, keeping up with capital needs
- Fear of change
- Budgetary constraints
- Fragmented representation on state and federal levels
- No downtown or central town center
- Lack of control over Village Market and 31st Street commercial areas
- Freight train (IHB) bisecting village
- Lack of resident participation (fear, unwillingness)
- Large senior community (3 health facilities)
- Hidden Jewel ó lack of signage
- Lack of freestanding pharmacy
- Limited retail growth
- No replacement for pancake house
- Industrial area underdeveloped.
- 6 different school districts (2 Jr. community college, 2 grammar school, 2 high school districts)

Opportunities

- Village Market / Pancake House Space
- Passion of stakeholders
- Barnsdale Industrial corridor
- 31st and LaGrange Road BP redevelopment
- Shared Services with LaGrange and Western Springs
- Grant Opportunities (e.g., Brainard funding)
- Budget
- Website
- 31st Street (7-11) strip mall
- YMCA
- New residents
- Continued improvements / additions to homes
- Teardowns
- Identity ó Re-branding of Village

Threats

- State, county and federal government's demands and curtailment of resources
- Landlords
- Losing Jewel
- Pension funding
- Lack of control over private property owners
- Pending retirement of village employees
- Raising taxes
- IHB train tracks
- Liability because of poor street condition
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Salt shortage / extreme weather
- Coyotes and rodents
- Flooding
- Economy downturn
- Aging capital equipment
- Crime
- RMS ó outdated system
- Poor condition of Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning System in Village Hall
- Unhappy residents because of street conditions
- Brainard ó community discord
- Status Quo

The Board members then spent 10 minutes privately listing the 5 most important priorities. Ms. Cedillo, Ms. Rodman and the Board then correlated and grouped each member's priorities into a master list, and the Board created the summary headings listed below for each of the resulting 5 priorities:

- Improve and maintain infrastructure and roads
- Attract, retain and expand business
- Maintain and communicate good government practices and services
- Maintain fiscal responsibility with sound budget practices
- Maintain public services through safe practices and proper equipment

Each Board member then attached a priority level sticker to each of the 5 priorities. Ms. Cedillo promised to analyze the results and advise the Board of the final prioritization was.

A discussion ensued regarding open items from the Local Revenue Study. The Board directed staff to continue to push for the annual civic contribution if the electrical aggregation contract is renewed. The Board advised staff that it was not in favor of an increased sales tax or electrical tax but asked for more information regarding use taxes.

Dr. Discipio provided closing comments. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.