

City of Huntington Woods
Long Range Budget & Planning Committee
Monday, March 18, 2019
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. at the Library.

Present: Kim Bateman, Shelley Gach-Droz, Lisa Momblanco, Chuck Batcheller, Fred Fechheimer, Joseph Falik, Nick Gruber, John Nantais, Joel Kellman, Tony Lehmann, Susan Klein, Amit Bhagwan, Tim Rowland.

Absent: Jeff Samoray, Sharon Abramsky, Frank Mioni, Molly Trip, Seth Kritzman, Melanie Wiegand, Zac Andreoni, Kris Vigliotti, Mike Egnotovitch, John Nantais, Adam Kaplan.

Public: David Sloan

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of agenda: Moved by S. Gach-Droz and seconded by T. Lehmann to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.
3. Approval of February 11, 2019 minutes: Moved by T. Lehmann and seconded A. Bhagwan to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.
4. Update from subcommittees:
 - a. Recreation and Library: L. Momblanco said the subcommittee met multiple times in the past month and has come up with a memo of recommendations:
 - The subcommittee found that latchkey rates are below those charged by Royal Oak and Berkley. It is recommended to add a \$10 per child per month charge this year and then implement the Berkley rate schedule for the 2020-21 school year. It is also recommended that snow day and vacation day rates match Berkley immediately because there is a significant difference in those rates. Rates would then be monitored annually by the Recreation Board to determine if increases are needed to cover inflation or other cost increases.
 - The subcommittee recommends Aquatic Club rates increase yearly with inflation and third-party cost increases. It is recommended to open memberships to families in the Berkley

School District perhaps through a lottery system. If the City is not willing to open to outside members, rates should be increased by 20%. The Pool Café should consider hiring a outside vendor to increase revenue. It is also recommended to regulate private swim lessons at the pool and collect user fees from coaches or families.

- The subcommittee also recommends using outside vendors for senior trips, reducing full time staff, reviewing job descriptions, and developing a conservancy to raise funds for parks.

S.Gach-Droz explained that at this time the committee does not recommend going forward with a library millage. It is recommended to further study the idea of a district library first which would allow us to garner more funding.

F. Fechheimer asked if we should put a limit on the amount the General Fund would send to the Recreation Fund. Without a limit there is no incentive to cut costs.

T. Lehmann asked the subcommittee to look further into collaboration opportunities with Berkley.

N. Gruber asked what needs to be moved forward immediately. L. Momblanco explained it is too late to increase pool fees for this year, but latchkey should be moved forward.

- b. Roads and Sewers: J. Falik said the subcommittee said the subcommittee had narrowed the options for road improvements to one with a \$5.25 million voter-approved bond for the first 3-years of repairs and then spending \$400,000 annually on repairs and maintenance for years 4 through 20.

S. Klein asked about timing of a bond proposal and how much the roads would deteriorate during that time. It was explained that a bond proposal would most likely not occur until 2020.

- c. Revenue sources: K. Bateman said the subcommittee has investigated an Act 345 millage for public safety pensions and a library millage. He met with the Recreation and Library Subcommittee to see what their thoughts were on the library millage. He explained that the library millage will be sent to the full committee for their consideration and the district library idea needs to be further investigated. The subcommittee received information on what a millage would be for

Act 345. It would be about 2.6 mills to cover the required contributions. He proposed that the committee could recommend 5.0 mills for 25 years to give the City flexibility.

- d. City Hall, Public Safety & DPW: C. Batcheller said the subcommittee is working with Public Safety Director Pazuchowski on possible long-term cost saving opportunities. They are interested in bringing the City of Berkley into the discussion as well. The subcommittee still needs to review the services and costs for the DPW department. T. Lehmann said the committee is looking into Berkley acting as the first responder for the City, which could potentially allow for two fewer employees
5. Discussion on Community Presentation: N. Gruber requested that each subcommittee bring draft recommendations to the next meeting. He said there is not a need for a community survey at this point. He requested each committee come up with a community bulletin for the next meeting to educate the residents on the issues. K. Bateman said we need to get in front of the commission and inform them of the issues. The commission needs to start getting the message to the community that the committee is studying these issues. S. Gach-Droz suggested that N. Gruber go to the next Commission Meeting and update the Commission on our progress.

Motion by F. Fechheimer Seconded by S. Gach Droz to endorse the recommendation of the Road & Sewer Subcommittee to fund road improvements with a \$5.25 million voter-approved bond for the first 3-years of repairs and then spending \$400,000 annually on repairs and maintenance for years 4 through 20. . Approved unanimously

The Committee discussed if the latchkey recommendations need to go to the Recreation Board or directly to the Commission. N. Gruber will confirm with A. Sullivan how to proceed.

6. Public Participation: None
7. Other Committee member business: None
8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. and the next meeting is Monday, April 15, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.