

CITY OF DARIEN
GOAL SETTING SESSION MINUTES
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
October 30, 2017, 6:30pm,
Police Training Room

Present: Mayor Kathleen Weaver, Treasurer Michael Coren, Alderpersons Ted Schauer, Tina Beilke, Joe Kenny, Tom Chlystek, Joe Marchese, Tom Belczak, Sylvia McIvor, City Administrator Bryon Vana, Director of Municipal Services Dan Gombac

Discussion with the Chamber of Commerce regarding their future direction

Chamber Board Chairwoman Gail Sablick attended the Goal Setting meeting to discuss the future direction of the Chamber. Gail introduced April Padalik who will serve as the Chamber's administrative personnel.

City's focus on sustainability and the environment

Alderswoman McIvor presented information regarding the Greenest Region Compact 2 (GRC2). The GRC2 Framework is the companion document that provides suggested objectives, strategies and tools to help communities achieve consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact 2 which includes: climate, economic development, energy, land, leadership, mobility, municipal operations, sustainable communities, waste & recycling, *and* water. The goal of the program is to align environmental issues, resources, and actions at the local, regional and national levels to guide municipalities to achieve greater environmental sustainability. The consensus of the Council was to send this information to the Environmental Committee for review and recommendations.

I55 and Cass Corridor Improvements

Staff presented a memorandum from Burke Eng, providing a concept plan for the gateway elements at Cass Avenue and I55 interchange. Due to the cost estimates of the project, the consensus of the Council was to not pursue the project any further. The Council directed staff to research costs for a Darien identification sign that could be part of the Cass Avenue bridge that crosses over I55.

Public Works Facility Expansion

Staff advised that the Municipal Services Committee requested that this topic be discussed at the Goal Setting meeting. This has been discussed previously at budget and goal setting sessions but no funds have been allocated for a building expansion. Dan has requested approximately \$20,000 in the budget over the last several years for design work related to a building expansion and that request was not included in the draft budget. Dan provided an overview of his justification for a building expansion for an estimated cost of \$250,000 to \$300,000. The consensus was to support including funds for design work in the FYE 2019 budget.

Economic Incentive Request

Dan Gombac advised he has met with the owner (Jemco) of the vacant parcel (former gas station) at the NW corner of Cass Avenue and Plainfield Road and Capri Restaurant regarding the potential development of a restaurant on that property. The development is contingent upon an economic incentive from the City. The consensus of the Council was to have staff continue to work with Gemco and Capri. Additionally, the Council supported the concept of an economic incentive, but at a reduced amount from the requests. The reduced amounts include no building upgrades and providing incentives over a period of time.

Rear Yard Drainage Policy Review

The Council requested a review of the rear yard drainage program. No changes to the policy were recommended and the Council wanted to increase public information on participating in the program.

Recreational Vehicle Parking Ordinance

Alderman Kenny requested the Council discuss the ordinance regarding parking of recreational vehicles on residential property such as modifying the ordinance to allow boats and recreational vehicles to be stored on a property from April 1 to October 30. The consensus of the Council was to make no changes to the ordinance. Administrator Vana mentioned that when the Council approved the ordinance they asked staff to enforce this ordinance on a complaint basis. Vana stated that residents now have had years to become aware of this ordinance and that staff will be enforcing this ordinance proactively, without the necessity of a complaint.

Crosswalk Requests

Alderwoman Beilke requested this be discussed as she has had 2 requests for crosswalks in her ward. Staff noted the City does not have an inventory of potential crosswalk projects throughout the City. The consensus of the Council was to not pursue future crosswalk projects or engineering studies relating to crosswalk projects.

Banner Policy

Staff advised that this year’s budget included \$25,000 for the purchase of new banners/brackets to be displayed on selected street lights. In reviewing this issue, Dan contacted local organizations asking if they have interest in displaying banners on the City’s lights. Some have done this previously. Included in the packet is the City’s banner Policy approved in 1999. The primary problem is the policy allows certain non-government not-for-profits to display banners while the policy restricts others. Since the policy was approved many years ago there have been changes to what law calls a “public forum”. The policy cannot pick and choose who is permitted to display banners based on the content of the banners. The policy should be amended to allow only the City and other government agencies to place banners on City property. The consensus of the Council was to update the City’s policy on banner display to limit displays of government organizations only. Additionally, Mayor Weaver asked if the Council was interested in purchasing wreaths for the City’s themed light poles. The consensus of the Council was to purchase wreaths and place the formal purchase approval on the agenda at the next Council meeting. In addition to the wreaths the Council recommended purchasing 4 to 5 outdoor holiday trees to place around the clock tower and ask the local schools if they would be interested in decorating the trees.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.


KATHLEEN MOESLE WEAVER, MAYOR

Attest:


JOANNE E. RAGONA, CITY CLERK