

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Gonzalez, Vice Chairman Andreano, Alderman Witte, Alderman Crawford, and Alderman Smith. Others: Alderman Dougherty (arrived late); Alderman George; Mayor William Aiello; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Keri Kerper, Community Development Program Coordinator; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Bob Bell, Fire Chief; Jeff Rowley, Police Chief; Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary; Kirk Beaver, Armstrong, and Doug Price, Rotary Club.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Committee Meetings (Tuesday, April 3, 2018)

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2018 meeting was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Rotary Club Presentation – Lincoln Park Projects

Alderman Gonzalez introduced Doug Price, a member of the Rotary Club. Mr. Price stated that in 1979, the Rotary Club built the gazebo in Lincoln Park. They are now willing to assist in upgrading the gazebo. He questioned what ideas the Council had in terms of improvements.

Mayor Aiello responded that he had a previous conversation with a Club member who discussed opening up the steps so that they are not confined to one side. There was also discussion regarding “wings” for the side of the gazebo to open up the stage. Mr. Price stated that the way the gazebo is set up, it does not handle concerts very well.

Mr. Price continued that this is the Club’s baby, and they would like to help as much as possible. They will begin fundraising for the project in May.

Alderman Crawford asked if it is possible to coordinate efforts with the Farmers Market project. The Rotary Club could possibly work with the architect and developer to tie into the same

ambiance that the market will have. Mayor Aiello added that the Club could meet with Mr. Ring and Engineering to discuss this further.

Mr. Price explained that the Club would really like to jump in and help out. Alderman Gonzalez stated that the timing couldn't be any more perfect, with the proposed Farmers Market Project.

Mr. Price stated that they will meet with Mr. Ring to try to get a forward spin on this. HE would like to see how far the Club can come financially when the fundraising begins, and then get together with the City to make this work.

Alderman Crawford asked about the recent Silent Policeman Project, and Mr. Price responded that it is not exactly what they had in mind, but it is what it is. They will sit back and wait to see what happens with the weather, and how the stone holds up. He asked if there is anything the Club needs to do to make the statue the City's property. Alderman Gonzalez replied that the Council will refer the issue to the City Attorney.

b. Presentation – New NY Broadband Program

Alderman Gonzalez introduced Kirk Beaver from Armstrong. Mr. Beaver stated that he is here tonight to promote awareness of the program. There was not the census block in the City of Olean for the City to qualify for the new broadband, but there will be transport through the City which he would like the Council to be aware of. There is a potential that Armstrong could feed into the City, but it is not a part of Governor Cuomo's program.

Mr. Beaver explained the process of bringing broadband to rural areas, which will involve 3,500 miles of fiber being installed through the area which they serve.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if this is competition for Spectrum, and Mr. Beaver replied that no television service is offered with this.

Alderman Andreano questioned if there will be new poles installed in the City along Route 417. Mr. Beaver replied that there will not be. Existing poles will be used, or the line will be buried.

Mr. Beaver explained that he wants the Department of Public Works to be aware that the people who will be out doing the work are hired contractors, and not employees, If there are any safety issues whatsoever, he asks that the City contact Armstrong to let them know. He further explained that there are currently about 200 people working on the project who will need places to stay and food to eat, so the local economy should be stimulated while the project is underway.

Alderman Andreano asked why this will not be provided in the City. Mr. Beaver replied that it is based on the census block. It is being provided for rural areas with slow or no internet.

c. Discussion – Kaboom for the Play Everywhere Challenge Grant Application

Ms. Kerper stated that this is a grant application to Kaboom for the Play Everywhere Challenge, supported by the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation. The proposed park would be located on underutilized City owned vacant land along Whitney Avenue. She is proposing an outdoor regulation ping pong table, LED glow swings, a train station playground, a decorative rock climbing wall, and oversized musical instruments. There would also be a privacy fence to separate the park from the railroad tracks.

Ms. Kerper explained that the ideas for the park came from urban park settings. The application is requesting the maximum amount of \$80,000, and there is no local match required.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if Whitney Avenue would become a pedestrian walkway, and Ms. Kerper replied that it would. Alderman Dougherty asked if this land is currently considered a park, and Mr. DiCerbo replied that it is not.

Alderman Witte stated that this is a skinny piece of land with a lot of traffic. She questions putting a fence on just one side. Mr. Ring replied that the initial idea is to have parking on one side, with only one access to parking. There would be a trailhead, and the park would be set back a bit.

Alderman Smith asked the age of kids that this park is oriented towards, and Ms. Kerper replied that it is recommended for ages 2 to 15 or 16. It could be used for adults as well. She spoke with Mr. Shewairy, and once a year the City holds an indoor ping pong tournament. This could be moved outside.

Mayor Aiello stated that he feels that this will flow nicely with the new Walkable Olean. He feels that this is a good use for this underutilized property. An opportunity for a grant like this does not come along very often.

Ms. Kerper stated that this is being called the “Trailhead Parklet”. It connects the River Trail to the Safe Route to School. It really comes down to the environment and putting it all together.

Alderman Andreano asked if the City would be installing the equipment, and Mr. Ring responded that we would. The grant is for equipment only. Alderman Andreano stated that at Eastview, if the school had installed the playground equipment, the warranty would be voided and there could be liability issues. Mr. DiCerbo stated that it is a good point, but either way, the City would get sued.

Alderman Dougherty asked what sort of maintenance would be required for the equipment. Alderman Gonzalez stated that he feels that it is not something we need to consider. We need

to look at whether or not we want this in the City. He feels that Mr. Ring is capable of any required maintenance.

Mr. Ring stated that idea, initially, is to close down Whitney Avenue. It is really not a necessary street.

Alderman Andreano asked what the cost would be to install the equipment, and Ms. Kerper stated that the City would install the equipment. The City currently does maintain the property by mowing and maintaining the roadway.

Mr. Ring stated that he likes that this park would finish connections from the trail to the school.

Alderman Andreano asked what would be the floor underneath the park, and Mr. Ring responded that it would be some sort of fall protection. It is something to think about. Alderman Crawford asked about the power for the park and LED swings, and Ms. Kerper replied that they are solar powered.

Mr. Kerper explained that it is her understanding that there has been some talk about the King Street Park. She has looked into other programs offered for park grants, and there are two different options that require local matches. The programs require community support and volunteers would be needed for assembly. She provided a handout to the committee with different options offered.

Alderman Witte mentioned that she has spoken with the Auditor's office, and money is still available that was previously donated for poles for park signs.

5. Approval of Committee Reports

None

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.