

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, STRATEGIC PLANNING
AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022
7:00PM**

An Economic Development, Strategic Planning and Technology Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at Livonia City Hall in the City Council Chambers on the 2nd floor.

Committee Members Present: Rob Gjonaj Donovic, Chair
Laura Toy, Vice Chair
Scott Bahr, Member

Committee Members Absent: None

Council Members Present: Kathleen McIntyre, Councilmember
Scott Morgan, Councilmember

City Officials and Others Present: Lynda Scheel, City Treasurer
Leo Neville, Assistant City Attorney
Mark Taormina, Planning and Economic Dev. Director
Ted Davis, Superintendent Parks and Rec
Michelle Koppin, Assist. Superintendent Parks and Rec
Jacob Uhazie, Planning Department

Emily Tchorz-Fielder, Greenmead
Elizabeth Calhoun, Chair, Historic Preservation Commission
Dupuis, Vice Chair, Historical Commission
Paul Condon, Parks and Recreation Commission
Kevin Summers, Parks and Recreation Commission
Omar Farris, Chair, PRDA
Brandon Kritzman, Historic Preservation Commission
Richard Strzalkowski, Community Gardens
Kathy Gibson
Jill Goryea
Mary Goryea
Kathy Bilger
Brenda Musinski
Diane Policelli
Rita Adams
Richard Adams
Devon Eidson
Tom Eidson
Sue Bunton
Jill Paulat
Dan Paulat
Jim McConnell
Karen Sangregorio
Kevin Shonce
Jan Shonce
William R. Allen
Carol McKinley
Paula Gearin

1. **CR 312-19** The subject matter of exploring what economic tools are available and strategic moves that might be made to kickstart and spur redevelopment of Plymouth Road, between Inkster and Middlebelt Roads, as identified in the Master Plan as one of three focus zones.

The meeting convened at 7:03PM

A discussion was led by Mark Taormina, Planning and Economic Director, noting that Livonia Vision 21 Master Plan addresses the need to rebuild the Plymouth Road corridor. Various strategies are out there to help build up the area and to work with local developers. Parcels available for development have been identified, the first being the Alfred Noble Library. This location has been discussed with Council and will be addressed by the end of this year or early next year for the best use to integrate into Sheldon Park. PRDA is looking at several initiatives to be brought forward next month to establish more landscaping and maintain the irrigation system.

Omar Ferris, Chair of PRDA, stated their focus has been on curb appeal in that area, including the removal of trash receptacles, removing rusted equipment like benches and iron rod decretive fencing.

Committee Vice Chair Laura Toy offered to keep the item in Committee for further discussion.

Note: This item will remain in Committee

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of November 2, 2022**

2. **CR 249-20** The subject matter of a Master Plan for Greenmead Historical Park.

A discussion was led by Ted Davis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, noting this has taken two years to get to this point. The last Master Plan was when the property was purchased in 1976. There has been feedback from various groups, offering ideas for the property.

Arthur Mullen, Wade Trim, went through the details of what they are proposing for the property, noting their efforts for public engagement and high number of responses from the public of ideas of what they want to see done.

Representatives of Wade Trim presented their proposed ideas for the area. They are focused on bringing the public to the park yet retaining the historical value of the property.

Some of the ideas proposed were:

- Adding a large parking area
- Adding a large playground
- Replacing the driving areas with accessible walkways to each structure
- Picnic areas
- Bike and walking trails through the woods, and paths connecting victor parkway to Newburgh
- Adding historic park entry signs among directional signs
- A seasonal pavilion in the center of the park, containing an interpretive center

A building Assessment, went over the facility plan, explaining the rating system for the twenty buildings evaluated.

They have established five phases:

- Phase 1, develop the central plaza along with the North and South barns and staffing issues
- Phase 2, Village improvements; road construction/paved surface, Farmhand's house, adding restrooms and pavilions
- Phase 3, site improvements, landscaping, overflow parking lot issues, adding an orchard with geo tile, creating partnership opportunities with Schoolcraft College
- Phase 4, Greenmead Farm Complex, enhanced event space, improvements in the Simmons/Hill House, additional improvements are suggested, if funding is available
- Phase 5, event load and staffing

The Capital Improvement Plan was addressed, noting the cost would be over \$17million.

A discussion of the signs took place, noting the importance of what is stated on each sign. Focus groups pointed out the question of how to tell a unified, yet separate story for each area of the property.

Representatives of Wade Trim presented the collections portion and shared her findings:

- 1,200 linear feet of shelving materials were found and needs to be updated to tell the appropriate story for the city.
- Storage is in every building in the park and the items have not been properly preserved.
- The print shop building is suggested to be expanded to house collection items, utilizing compact shelving.
- A plan will be put in place to properly remove the items that no longer need to remain at the facility.

Parking was addressed and proposed to be larger than it is now, due to the possibility of adding future events.

Partnerships were noted to be possibilities for funding on various portions of this project.

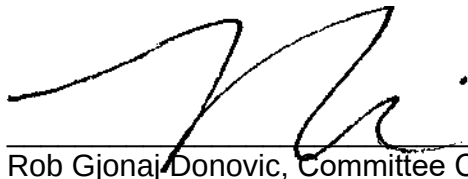
Concerns were addressed regarding the current versus proposed size of the gardens as well as preserving the history of the property.

The Committee Recommends:

Note: This item will remain in Committee

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of November 2, 2022**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Gjonaj-Donovic', written over a horizontal line.

Rob Gjonaj-Donovic, Committee Chair