

**VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
February 4, 2014
6:30 PM
AT THE VILLAGE HALL
32325 FRANKLIN ROAD
FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN**

WORKSHOP

Pam Hansen called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Present: Brian Gordon, Pam Hansen, Judy Moenck, Ed Saenz, Mike Seltzer

Absent: Jim Kochensparger (excused), Tom Morrow

Also Present: Eileen Pulker, Clerk; Amy Sullivan, Administrator; John Staran, Village Attorney

Prior to the scheduled discussion Sullivan informed the Council about the process of transitioning to an interim administrator after she has resigned. She noted that she has identified a candidate, David Murphy, former city manager of South Lyons. The Personnel Committee and she will be meeting with him tomorrow, Wed., Feb. 5, 2014 at 3:00 PM to consider him for the position. If, in fact, he is the Committee's choice for the interim position they will make a recommendation to the Council at Monday's Council Meeting. At the last Personnel Committee meeting they reviewed estimates and job proposals for an executive search from two independent contractors and chose Michigan Municipal League, with which the Village has previously worked. This, too, will be an item on Monday's agenda.

There was a discussion about open interviews vs. closed interviews with Staran clarifying the differences.

I. Franklin Community Center (Kreger House) Village Council Advisory Committee

Sullivan gave a brief background of the Kreger House and why it is now before the Council for discussion. She referred to the "bullet point" history she had prepared and other handouts which she gave the Members. The purpose of this discussion is to begin the transition from the Kreger House Team oversight to a complete Village operation of the buildings. Sullivan highlighted several issues relating to the management and maintenance of the property in regards to the dual responsible parties.

Bill Lamott spoke on behalf of the Kreger Team. He provided the Council with handouts, including a Franklin Community Center Income Statement (9/15/2008-1/31/2014), Kreger House uses since May 1, 2013 and its future goals. Each was discussed. He explained that the Kreger Team suggested that it would be the "management" arm of the Center if the Village would contribute by paying the expenses. He stressed that the objective was for a community center where Franklin volunteer groups could meet; revenue was not part of the discussion.

Seltzer inquired as to the state of the “Kreger Team” today. Staran brought to the Council’s attention and cited several examples of successful working relationships between a private non-profit organization and a governmental body (i.e., Friends of the Zoo and Friends of the Library).

Gordon stated that he would recommend that the Village enthusiastically accept responsibility for the Kreger House which it has already obligated to do and move forward. Lamott asked that members of the Council become involved in the effort so that they would understand what is involved in the project.

There was a discussion about the management of the House if, in fact, it becomes an administrative responsibility.

Integrating the Kreger House website with the Village’s was a suggestion.

On behalf of the Village, Hansen stated that she is concerned about Village finances. She stressed the need for a common purpose of the Kreger House campus and suggested that there be a co-visioning session with the Planning Commission with regards to the Master Plan, which is currently being reviewed.

Gordon reminded the Council that the Kreger Team and its volunteers have brought a half million dollar structure to the Village which costs only a few thousand to maintain is a bargain. Seltzer reiterated that the amount is minugia with regards to the Village budget and the value of the asset.

Saenz expressed his opinion that even though the Kreger Team does not see the house generating revenue, it’s still an expense to the Village that could rise in the future. Accountability of taxpayers’ money and the unknown revenue potential of the Kreger House makes Moenck uncomfortable about the situation. She would like to see the entire Village be in partnership with the project, not just the Historical Society Kreger Team and the Village Council.

Mike Heisel, Planning Commission co-chair, expressed his opinion in terms of Village assets and how they contribute to the quality of life in Franklin. Taking ownership of the Kreger buildings is most important.

Hansen suggested that because there are many unresolved issues related to this transition, a Council Team work with the existing Kreger Team to hammer out questions and come back to the Council with recommendations and guidelines for operating the House.

There was a discussion and suggestions made as to what the Council wanted in a resolution which will be on Monday’s Council agenda.

Motion by Gordon, seconded by Moenck to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Submitted,

Gail Beke, Recording Secretary

Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk

Pamela Hansen, President Pro Tem