

**VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
VILLAGE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019, 6:00 PM
FRANKLIN VILLAGE HALL – BROUGHTON HOUSE
32325 FRANKLIN ROAD, FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN 48025**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President, Pam Hansen, 6:01 P.M. at the Franklin Village Hall, Franklin, Michigan.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Fred Gallasch, Brian Gordon, Pam Hansen, Bill Lamott, Ed Saenz, Mike Seltzer, Mira Stakhiv

Absent: None

Also Present: Jim Creech, Village Administrator
Eileen Pulker, Village Clerk
Jeff Huhta, Nowak & Fraus Engineers
Tad Krear, Land Design Studio

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Seltzer, seconded by Saenz to approve the agenda, as presented.

Ayes: Gallasch, Gordon, Hansen, Lamott, Saenz, Seltzer, Stakhiv

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS

No comments were made at this time.

V. DISCUSS FRANKLIN ROAD STREETScape PLAN.

Jeff Huhta, Managing Partner, Nowak & Fraus Engineers, introduced himself, the purpose of this meeting, and the general direction of the project. He provided each Council member with the minutes of the Project Kick-Off Meeting, November 4, 2019 and an Agenda for tonight's meeting "Project Design Review Meeting No: 1" with "Goals of the Design Review Meeting" and "Discussion Points" and included a Project Schedule with "Work Activity" and "Completion" dates.

Huhta elaborated on the process he wanted to take in order to accomplish this project. The Design Review Committee, which would meet four (4) times (12/2/19, 12/16/19, 1/6/2020 and 1/21/2020) tackling specific issues and different options at each meeting. Tonight's meeting would concentrate on walkways and curbs. After the four (4) meetings, it was hoped that the firm would have enough information available to begin work on physically putting a plan together with a cost estimate and be able to come back to the entire Village Council for approval to move forward. He emphasized that the Design Review Committee would not be making a decision on the Council's behalf but rather would guide the design team to get through some of the issues and

develop a concept plan to be brought to the Council at a January, 2020 meeting. Members of the Council were welcome to come to any and all of the Design Review Committee meetings.

Hansen led a discussion of who should or would be the participants on the Design Review Committee. It was determined that the Council members would be on the committee and meetings would be “open”, therefore, meeting dates and times would be posted at least 18 hours before the meeting. Attendance of four (4) Council members would be needed to establish a quorum.

Answering Seltzer’s inquiry about if attendance of committee meetings could be by way of a phone, Hansen referred to Staran’s explanation that members could be present by phone, as long as it was not a “voting” meeting. However, in order to make a quorum, connection through “face time” could not be included in the count. Huhta stressed the importance that any and all stakeholders, including merchants, should be informed and included in these meetings. Both he and Hansen stated that a mailing list would be very beneficial. Lamott confirmed the dates for the next scheduled two (2) public meetings, December 16, 2019, and January 6, 2020 both at 6:00 PM.

Huhta provided an overview of what had been discussed at the Project Kick Off Meeting, November 4, 2019: the Framework Plan of the project, including the coordination with HRC. A Topographic Survey was given to Creech and the Geotechnical investigation was ongoing. A Lighting Design Consultant would be needed for the project. Gallasch confirmed that Council would be considering several lighting firms. An Irrigation Consultant should also be involved in the project and the subject of irrigation would be discussed at the next meeting. Huhta had had several meetings with Land Design Studio to coordinate efforts for the project. He confirmed the future meeting dates and stated that on January 21, 2020, he would come before the entire Village Council for a presentation of the preliminary concept plan and preliminary cost estimate. After the January 21, 2020 meeting he strongly suggested a Public Hearing. Council concurred. The hope was for bidding on this project to be in March. Responding to Gallasch, Huhta answered that the bidding would not be piecemeal but rather for a general contractor.

There was a discussion about sidewalk placement between Scenic and 13 Mile Road. Huhta provided slides of both sides of the road, highlighting the different challenges and variables, such as, driveways, trees, existing vegetation, and ravines. He included his cost estimates for a pathway on the east side of the road and for a pathway on the west side of the road. From Huhta’s calculations he found a 10% dollar difference between the two (2); the east side being more expensive. Council had numerous questions, including concerns about the corner of 13 Mile Road and Franklin Road. Tonight he was hoping for a consensus of the Council of which side it preferred so he could concentrate his efforts.

Creech informed Council that Oakland County had plans to repave 13 Mile Road in the next year or two (2). Hansen noted that the timeframe and cost of the pathway might be affected by the County’s repaving schedule of 13 Mile Road. She further stated that her decision would be contingent upon the 13 Mile Road repaving. There was an informal poll vote: East side or West side.

Hansen suggested that each member voice his/her opinion and then called the question.

Motion by Saenz, seconded by Stakhiv to approve further exploring the placement of a pathway (sidewalk) on the east side of Franklin Road from 13 Mile Road to Scenic.

Ayes: Gordon, Hansen, Lamott, Saenz, Seltzer, Stakhiv
Nays: Gallasch
Absent: None
Motion carried.

(7:55 PM Saenz left.)

Huhta introduced the subject of sidewalk widths and explained ramifications of the different sizes. Discussion ensued. The discussion about “Curbs/no-curbs” was incorporated into the conversation, taking into consideration the material used, the design and shape of a curb, softer edges, and the location of a curb. Safety, drainage, and maintenance issues were considered.

Motion by Gordon, seconded by Seltzer to explore the design element of some sort of curbing/no curb, 36 inch to four (4) feet wide pathways, and report back to the Council.

Hansen requested Huhta return with some cost information and a design which he might like the Village to consider. Gordon added that he would like to see the possible locations of the curbs.

Huhta suggested that a study be conducted to visualize the layout with the widths and other important elements.

Stakhiv made a suggestion that a narrow pathway be considered in front of the four (4) houses on the west side of Franklin between Wellington and Vincennes.

Hansen summarized what she had heard: Council was still willing to consider pedestrian walkways on both sides of the street; they don’t need to be exactly the same width; they were exploring some design options, taking into account the residential portion of the Historic District.

For the next meeting, Huhta will take all the feedback from tonight’s meeting, do a test case incorporating what he had learned, and come up with a layout plan. He showed slides of a different community with different sidewalk and curb options. Further, he would redo the framework plan, look at it from an engineering perspective, get the sidewalk widths, and the curb designs.

The agenda for the next meeting will be lighting. Creech has reached out to several lighting firms and hopefully, will have estimates for the next meeting.

VI. CONSIDER FRANKLIN ROAD STREETScape CORE COMMITTEE.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: Gallasch, Gordon, Hansen, Lamott, Saenz, Seltzer, Stakhiv
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Beke, Recording Secretary

Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk

Pamela Hansen, President