

Community Planning Committee (C.P.C.) - Village Of Arden

Minutes of Meeting Held On Wednesday January 15, 2014

Present: Ray Seigfried, Ron Meick, Cynthia Dewick, Dan McNeil

Absent: Michael Falstad, Sally Sharp

Guest Appearances: Bill Theis, Carol Larson and Danny Schweers

Meeting called to order by Chair Ray Seigfried at 7:06 PM

Ray Seigfried briefly highlighted the topics for this meeting: (1) The emerging debate related to the operation of the Buzz Ware Community Center by the Village of Arden; (2) The presentation by the Chairman of the Forest Committee on addressing issues on storm water drainage into Naamans Creek; (3) The presentation of the FEMA Resolution in the upcoming Village meeting; (4) The Vacant Housing Ordinance and the upcoming list of leaseholds in violation; (5) The Conflict of Interest Policy; (6) The unresolved issues between the Civic Committee and Arden Clubs on the location of the outdoor stage; (7) Code of Conduct Policy; and (8) Candidates for the upcoming village election.

The individual topics are addressed as follows.

Emerging debate on Buzz Ware Community Center

Bill Theis as Chairman of the Advisory Committee began this discussion by indicating that the Villages of Ardentown and Ardencroft have expressed a strong interest in obtaining a greater voice in the operations of the Buzz Ware Community Center. As the Buzz Ware Building is owned and operated by the Village of Arden, Ray indicated that any such approval would be subject to debate and approval by the residents of the Village of Arden.

Bill Theis indicated a growing animosity from volunteers of Ardentown and Ardencroft due to their perceived lack of representation in the operations of the BWVC committee. These volunteers feel that their communities are a vital component in the revenue stream generated through the BWVC, however, insufficient representation with no voting rights on the BWVC Committee has created a growing hostility of the volunteers. The elected officials of both communities have solicited Danny Schweers as Village Chairman to address this issue.

Danny Schweers indicated that this issue will be addressed at the upcoming January 2014 Village Assembly with the intention of scheduling an open community meeting in order to begin this debate. This open community meeting will address the future ownership, management and use of the BWVC.

Storm water drainage and Naamans Creek

Carol Larson as Chairman of the Forrest committee indicated that a grant from the State of Delaware is being solicited (\$50,000) for the purpose of addressing the issues related to excessive storm waters flowing into Naamans Creek and the ensuing soil erosion occurring on its banks. This is related to storm waters running directly through the Village of Arden as well as high volumes of upstream water attributed to the excessive impervious coverage along Naamans Road. Carol indicated that grant monies are available through the State along with assistance through the University of Delaware. The discussion on this topic finished with an idea for

exploring the feasibility of having the Civic Planning Committee assist in dealing with this drainage issue. Carol was asked to obtain cost for this plan and report back to the committee.

FEMA Resolution in the upcoming Village Meeting

Ray stated the FEMA Resolution is ready to be introduced at the upcoming January Village Assembly with a vote scheduled for the March meeting. John Cartier and a representative from the state/county will be in attendance to answer questions. Ray anticipates an additional three to four months after village approval before it is accepted and approved by FEMA. Cynthia volunteered to introduce this FEMA Resolution at the Village Assembly as Ray will be unavailable to attend the Town meeting.

Arden Vacant Housing Ordinance

Ray indicated that the final date is approaching for registering vacant homes with about eight homes identified to date. This will be addressed in the next monthly meeting of the C.P.C.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Ray indicated that discussions on establishing an official Conflict of Interest Policy are now underway. Initial feedback on Ray's draft policy are expected from the upcoming Advisory Committee Meeting.

Unresolved issues between the Civic Committee and Arden Clubs on the location of the outdoor stage

Since the Civic Committee assumed responsibility of the Arden Memorial Gardens it has declared that the Arden Clubs' outdoor stage was encroaching on the lands of the Memorial Garden. It was further demanded that this be cured immediately.

Since the outdoor stage is effectively a permanent fixture and this issue is not new, it was requested that the two groups arrange a mutually agreeable land swap. C.P.C. member Ron Meick, as a board member of the Arden Club's, indicated that negotiations have become strained with the Civic Committee showing no signs of compromise.

Code of Conduct Policy

Ray indicated that a Code of Conduct Policy is currently under development with further discussion to follow throughout the year. The policy will cover basic expectation of behavior between committees and how the Advisory Committee can be used more effect for issues between committees

Candidates for Upcoming Election

The upcoming village election requires a total of (4) candidates which can include existing members standing for re-election. Cynthia indicated her willingness to stand for re-election and Ray mentioned several additional names which will be placed on the ballot.

The C.P.C. meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Meeting minutes compiled and prepared by Dan McNeil.

