

Attendance: Cookie Ohlson, Mike Curtis, Ed Rohrbach, Carol Larson, Katrina Streiff, Jim Laurino, Jeff Politis, Steve Threefoot, Al Marks, David Michelson, Liz Resko, Ray Seigfried, Gary Quinton, John Di Giacoma, Elizabeth Varley, Cecilia Vore and Dave Claney.

Public Notice

Village of Arden Advisory Committee Meeting

7:30 PM at BWVC

Monday, January 4, 2016

AGENDA

PUBLIC SESSION

Acceptance of September Minutes

ITEMS for January 2016 TOWN MEETING AGENDA

Motions, resolutions, etc.

Alternative assessments

Elections

Old business items

New business items

Agenda order

Committee Roundtable Discussion

Trustees

Contacts for external requests

Officers

Committees

Millers Road – Orleans Signage

Guests

Adjournment

Advisory Chair, Steven Threefoot, commenced Advisory Meeting @ 7: 36 P.M

Minutes September 8, 2015 Advisory Monthly Minutes was approved as presented.

Advisory has two main roles: 1) Make sure all committees are aligned for Town Assembly meeting so the Town meeting can function (not addressing administrative matters during Town Meeting). 2) Coordinate committees discussions (not making policy) to make sure all are on “same page”.

Advisor Chairman Steven Threefoot

Nominations for Officers and Standing Committees

The selection process is handled by each committee. If there are not enough nominees for the positions past January, then Steve will provide the names. If the committee wants some choice as to who is running on their committee, then committees need to provide the name. Steve assures there will be a full slate this year. Steve will send out the worksheet that details how many slots need to be filled. Two people per each open slot.

A list of people who ran last time but did not get elected could be considered potential candidate to fill the upcoming slots. The list can be obtained on the Arden webpage. In addition, Cecilia will provide a list of new residents that will be eligible by March.

Clarification of alternate - The alternate has no formal role. They have no official standing. They are not the automatic nomination in case of a vacancy. Because the term “alternate” is confusing, it will be discontinued.

Town Chairman: Jeff Politis will make part of his report to thank committee providing refreshments.

Reports will be presented in Descending Order

Civic - Ed Rohrbach

Tentative Motion

Presenting a Motion at Town Meeting is contingent upon the Civic Committee meeting tomorrow for their monthly meeting (Tuesday, 1/5/16) to discuss the signage at Millers & Orleans. More specifically, if it is determined that the signage directing traffic flow is the responsibility of the Safety Committee, then Civic will propose that Safety Committee be directed by the Town Assembly to erect signage at Millers & Orleans that will keep traffic to the right of the island (whatever signage is appropriate for that purpose).

Steven - there is another issue and that is how the committees work together which will be discussed later in this meeting.

Jeff - Also, if Civic decides they want to present a motion, it needs to be written up ahead of time so it can be printed and available for people to see it. Make sure the wording is such that it conforms to guidelines.

Community Planning: Ray Seigfried
Motion

Follow up a resolution of recognition for Danny Schweers who was Town Assembly Chairman for three years to be presented at the end of Community Planning's report. Ray would invite all Chairs of each committee to come up and be a part of the presentation. The recognition should be presented as part of Advisory Report.

Mike suggests adding residents to the sentence that reads: "Therefore the committees and officers of Arden as well as the Village" instead of "Village" change to "residents of the Village".

Transformative Committee

Community Planning is currently working on concept of creating an ad hoc Transformative Committee (an update will be provided by Jeff Politis in the next few days).

Background provided by Jeff - The idea started at the last Advisory retreat where it was viewed as a disservice by not thinking about ways to use Johanna's funds that could impact the community in a positive way. Brainstorm with the community and list ideas that have come up that are major projects (example: bridge over Harvey Rd, water runoff that is eroding the woods; handicap access at least on one woods trail). It is not the group's job to create the idea; their job would be to try to inspire ideas and collect them.

Proposal –

In January present the idea of a Transformative Ad Hoc Committee with documentation and brief discussion.

Community planning will determine the official forming of the ad hoc committee:

1) Formulate group as an ad hoc committee of Town Assembly in which a motion will be presented to Town Assembly. Or 2) Formulate group as an ad hoc committee of Community Planning which would create group and report on it.

Report **Fire Arms** will be covered in Community Planning

Old Business

Slide - close to being finished and should be by Town Meeting. Also, playgrounds to address cost of slide - Approximately 60% of expenses are outside of any Town money. The other part is made up of the Schroeder Bequest, which is also outside of land rent, and is what the committee said they would do.

Fels Oak - There were valid concerns presented to Jeff about digging around the Fels Oak. A little digging around the Fels Oak was done to install a shallow fencing (shallow trench). Contractor confirmed that he did not cut any roots. Contractor is very aware of the Fels Oak and he has taken all necessary precautions to avoid damage to the Fels Oak. That will be part of Playground Committee Report. Playground is doing work on the green and the greens are maintained by Civic, Jeff recommends that Playground and Civic discuss a potential inspection and/or come up with an idea.

Labyrinth

Need to know if they are going to be providing an update on the Labyrinth. Status: Report or a blurb can be a part of Chairman's communications or Civic can report that it has been deferred till March. If they are going to make a motion, we need to know.

ADA

Jeff attended a class on ADA training and will provide information in his report. ADA falls under Community Planning. Community Planning will work on the funds and have someone else do ADA plan. Create a plan over a certain period of time.

Drainage pipe located at Orleans Rd & Harvey Rd.

There is large, dangerous drainage opening in which volumes of water flow past from one side of Orleans to the other side of Orleans. Civic is concerned that someone could be swept into drainage system. This is a High Priority. Steven recommended Safety to investigate and report on this.

Town Tours

Secretary receives email/phone calls about town tours and forwards them to Mike Curtis, Archives, and Sadie Sommerville. Majority of times Mike responds and provides information and whatever service is needed. It is becoming more frequent and overloading Mike. This is a responsibility that does not exist with any one committee at present. The question is how we are going to manage these requests. Possibly Archives because they do historical documentation. It is appropriate to continue coming through the town secretary and she would forward. Possibility creates a list of people who would be interested. Presently Archives has walking tours that they made available in print. Walking tour can be posted on website. Cecilia has some ideas that she would discuss with the officers. She is willing to work with Mike and Liz to come up with something quick that takes care of the problem immediately and then can improve on it.

Filming Town Assembly Meeting for Documentary

A request was presented to Mike Curtis to possibly film the town meeting for Henry George type of film by an established film director of documentaries. Mike informed him that permission is required to film town assembly. Cecilia pointed out that a Public meeting does not mean you can film it. She feels that the main concern of the Town Assembly should be to conduct town business and to allow for a true expression of the members of the town meeting. If filming would affect the true expression, then she does not believe filming should be allowed. And she personally believes it would compromise the true expression. At this point the advisory board is not sure how to arrive at a resolution point. Jeff will see if it is an issue because he is not sure if director wants to film the Town meeting. Jeff will decide.

New Business**Committees Working Together - Discuss Process**

Committees working together - How do we make that work?

Background - This is in reference to the traffic signs placed at Millers & Orleans in which Town Assembly instructed Civic and Safety to work together to evaluate and determine. Civic was also instructed in error by Advisory that it was in their purview since Safety was not responding to Civic's request to meet to evaluate and determine over several months. Al Marks, Civic Chairman, stated he went to two Safety monthly meetings in which Safety Chair refused to discuss signage. First meeting, Civic Chairman presented a motion for installation of traffic sign but died due to lack of being seconded. The second meeting, Safety Chairman informed Civic Chairman that they were not going to address it now. Civic committee installed traffic signs with no communication to Safety. In response to this, Safety Chairman personally removed signs with no communication to Safety Committee or Civic Committee. Turf war ensued over jurisdiction.

Discussion -

Two components- Rights of Committees & Process
Rights of Committee

Ordinance states it is Safety's responsibility for traffic signs and Civic's responsibility for maintenance of roads. Clearly it is safety's responsibility and to not enforce safety, they are in violation. They have been legislated to take care of that issue.

Process

Many things fall outside of one committee. When they affect someone else, we have a right to go with the other committee by trying to work things out. Even if Civic should not have installed the signs, do not go reversing it. Talk through it and do it in an orderly fashion. If two committees can't resolve an issue, then they need to reach out to officers prior to taking an action. (Conflict of interest Policy: Committee Dispute Resolution)

Jeff reached out to both committees to try to set up a joint meeting prior to this Advisory meeting and was unable to pull enough people from each committee (3 members from each committee). Therefore, there was no meeting. If committees are not willing to resolve conflict, the only resolution is to take it to Town Assembly. Jeff has requested that a representative from each committee talk to each other and put together a plan. He is not sure if that will happen or how soon. Jeff believes that Civic is prepared to present a motion to have the Town Assembly at least enforce or push Safety or Civic to put up signs. Jeff is not sure of the extent of the motion but to at least have it voted on at Town Assembly so action can be taken. Jeff thinks something needs to happen at that intersection (Harvey & Miller) because it is a dangerous intersection.

John Di Giacom, sitting in for Chair of Safety, stated he believes that the Safety Chairman did not refuse to address safety signage. He believes that the Chair had not had time to address directive. In response to not enough time, it was pointed out that it has been at least four months since receiving Town Assembly's directive for Safety to work with Civic. If a committee refuses or does not have time, then the Town Assembly can assign it to another committee.

Ray asked Safety – "Will you raise that issue and come up with a recommendation to present before Town Assembly (January 26, 2016). John Di Giacom feels it is up to the Safety Chairman to decide. Steven reminded him that the Town did ask for at least a recommendation whether it be nothing or something. Emphasized that the real issue is that the Town Assembly raised an issue and it is in the ordinance that Safety is responsible for the Signage. They need to come up with an idea and present it at Town Meeting as directed and to work nicely with each other.

Refreshments will be provided by Audit Committee

Meeting adjourned: 8:55 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Resko
Secretary, Village of Arden