

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF FLAT ROCK AGENDA WORKSHOP MEETING
ASSEMBLY ROOM
FEBRUARY 27, 2017
9:30 A.M.

Mayor Staton presided over the Agenda Workshop meeting on February 27, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. Those present in addition to Mayor Staton were Vice Mayor Weedman, Council Members Brown, Coletta, Gooch and Jamerson, and Village Clerk Parker. Council Member Dockendorf and Village Administrator Boleman were not present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Staton led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Staton welcomed Mr. Tristan Winkler, Transportation Planning, French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mayor Staton stated there is funding available for the Service Transportation Block Grant program, and the Village is considering an application for a program grant for a feasibility study for a trail from the Village Center to the Park at Flat Rock.

Mr. Winkler stated the grant can be used in various ways: feasibility study, preliminary engineering, acquiring right of way, and construction. The grant is from federal transportation funds, and is portioned to urbanized areas. The FBRMPO receives \$3.5 million a year for programming and transportation projects themselves. He stated with this program local governments may apply for the funds and manage projects themselves. He recommends a feasibility study for the Village's purposes, because there is no follow-up requirement that the project studied be undertaken. The results of the study could well be that the project is not feasible.

Mr. Winkler stated \$8.8 million would be available in fiscal year 2018/2019. The applications are due by March 31, 2017. There was discussion of the possibility of retaining Land of Sky or FBRMPO to administer the grant due to the Village having limited staff, and the requirements and steps to take. The Village could engage a consultant to administer the grant.

Following discussions with Mr. Winkler, a draft agenda for the March 9, 2017, council meeting was presented. With no changes, Mayor Staton stated an agenda has been set.

Discussions:

Council Member Coletta stated the new website design is up on the Village's website and asked Council to let her know if anyone had any changes or would like any additions to the website. She will draft a press release about the three bat houses installed at the park.

Council Member Brown reported the ceremony to name the perimeter trail in memory of Ed Lastein may be held in June. She mentioned she is looking at the possibility of citizens reserving

and paying to rent the Pavilion and the Rudnick Room online. She will get more information to bring to Council at a later date.

Vice Mayor Weedman reported on the following;

Tax Report

99.1% collected to date, with \$8,358.00 still outstanding. He has concerns about the collectability of a couple of accounts. There are 29 properties and 23 owners currently delinquent. Three are personal properties (Mallet, Just Vino, and Frank). Will be sending letters to outstanding accounts in early March advising we will use garnishment, advertisement of delinquent accounts and other collection methods to obtain payment. Goal is to have fewer than 20 delinquent properties by the end of March. (No written report was available.)

EV Project

No progress other than the formalization of the Duke grant.

Sidewalk Project

Seek agreement to pursue the most cost effective construction if project on Village center to park route proceeds. Probable use of paved surface rather than pavers but depends on cost analysis. Assume that the NCDOT Highland Lake project will take care of NC 225 to park portion of sidewalk/walking trail. Pursue construction grants that might be available. If installation is on the west side of NC 225, only five property owners would be involved (Flat Rock Playhouse, Fretwell, Boyd Apartments, St. John in the Wilderness Church and possibly Rindall). On the east side, there are 18 property owners.

Accounting Software

Will begin the process of examining accounting software alternatives.

Council Member Gooch reported Martha Orr will be sending out notices asking for newsletter articles. He and Village Administrator Boleman met with the caterer for the volunteer appreciation event set for September 9, 2017.

Council Member Jamerson reported the budget process will start next week. She mentioned asking the Park and Recreation Foundation for funding for completion of the perimeter trail and trail D, Vice Mayor Weedman will write a letter requesting funding.

Mayor Staton reported the General Assembly is considering changing the municipal elections from odd years to even years. Council members expressed no objection to such change.

Maureen Adams reported over forty-two people have donated to the park in memory of Ed Lastein. An Ed Lastein Memorial Fund has been set up for the purpose of funding the creation and maintenance of trails within the park. She mentioned she is working to improve the functionality of bulletin boards in the park.

Ms. Adams asked Council if the Foundation could raise the entire amount needed for design and construction of all park trails remaining to be installed, would the Council agree to build those trails? After discussions, Council agreed that, if the required funds are raised, the trails would be built.

Steve Jamerson mentioned he was waiting for a cost estimate from an engineering firm for all trails remaining to be built in the park's trail system. There would be some cost savings in having that engineering work done at the one time.

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Michelle Parker, CMC
Village Clerk

Robert V. Staton
Mayor