

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON JULY 6, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Kevin Gilmore called to order at 7:30 p.m. the July 6, 2009 meeting of the Ottawa Hills Village Council.

He asked for a motion to appoint Marc Thompson as acting Clerk Treasurer due to the absence of Katherine O'Connell. Mr. Reichert made such a motion which was seconded by Mr. Walter and unanimously passed.

Mr. Thompson then called the roll with Council members Jeff Gibbs, Norma King, Rex Decker, James Walter, Robert Reichert and Jack Straub present. Also present were Mayor Kevin Gilmore, Village Solicitor Sarah McHugh and Village Manager Marc Thompson. Clerk Treasurer Katherine O'Connell was absent from the meeting.

Citizens present included April Swick, Reed Silverman, Debbie Dolgin, Jay Brewster, Cindy Niggemyer, Laura Baird, and Nasrin Afjeh.

Mayor Gilmore then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Debbie Dolgin, the Student Assistance Coordinator addressed the Council regarding the efforts of the Ottawa Hills Prevention Advisory Council. Handouts were provided listing recent tasks and accomplishments of OHPAC. She also introduced those who were in attendance with her including April Swick and Reed Silverman.

Mayor Gilmore asked Mr. Silverman what percentage of Ottawa Hills High School students drink or use drugs. Mr. Silverman responded by estimating 35% to 40%. Mr. Silverman continued by stating he believed participation in programs sponsored by OHPAC helps reduce that number by spreading awareness of alternate activities and education about the problems with drug and alcohol abuse.

Mrs. Dolgin thanked the Council for continued support and asked Reed Silverman to identify a program which he thought was particularly helpful. Mr. Silverman described the Y.E.S. program stating that he had participated in it as a fifth grader and again as a high school student. As a fifth grader he heard from high school students visiting the elementary school about making proper choices in terms of life styles and activities. As a high school student he has visited the fifth grade on two different occasions to talk to fifth graders.

April Swick mentioned the Challenge Program stating it started well but lagged recently, but more students were participating and the program was growing again.

Maggie Reilly entered the meeting at this time and spoke about Dialogue Night that she has participated in which involves parents, children and teachers talking about various subjects.

Debbie Dolgin stated that no successful program would exclude parents and that the Prevention Advisory Council does a lot of work to get parents involved.

Mrs. King asked if there were any activities for high school students that were similar to the junior high Youth to Youth program. Mrs. Dolgin responded by stating that the Challenge Crew programming is like Youth to Youth except that it is geared toward high school

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students. One of the strong aspects of the program is older youth mentoring elementary school children.

Mayor Gilmore thanked the OHPAC representatives for attending and for the good work that they do.

Mr. Decker asked about the recidivism rate on the Diversion Program. Mrs. Dolgin said that in 2008 there were approximately 6 participants in the Diversion Program and that she thought the recidivism rate was very low.

Members of the OHPAC presentation then left the room.

Mayor Gilmore then called upon Mr. Straub to review the results of the sculpture meeting which was on June 16. Mr. Straub stated that he thought it was a very positive meeting. Everyone present had an opportunity to provide their opinion regarding the sculpture and the Village owned property. His conclusion was that the Village needs to take a more comprehensive look at the property and develop a plan. He said that the sculptures in the area look terrific now because the grass is still green. In the late summer it can become unattractive as well as in the winter. He also thought that the planning effort would include questions about whether we should have sculpture, and whether there should be formal gardens. Mr. Straub suggested that a planning group be established which would eventually report back to the Council with any ideas and have another public meeting. He commented that the previous meeting was primarily to discuss the sculpture not the potential design for the land.

Jay Brewster commented that he had put together a very simple design for the site.

Laura Baird commented that a handful of women don't like the quality of the art that has been on display and that it was unfortunate that a small group of people could become such a disruptive force. She commented that many of the participants are losing interest because of the difficulties that have developed.

Cindy Niggemyer stated that she was the coordinator of the project and was at the Council meeting to ask if they could continue with new sculptures for one more year. She said that there is a long lead time and that in order to have new sculptures there in 2010 it is necessary to get started now. She also commented that as in the past she would hope for a \$3000 commitment, if necessary from the Village. If not, she would expect to end the program and remove all the sculptures except for the three permanent pieces.

Mrs. Niggemyer continued by stating that all of the money funnels through the Foundation. They receive all donations and they pay all bills. She also commented that the University of Toledo asked them to get involved with a similar project on the UT campus. Canton, Michigan and Perrysburg also have followed the lead of the Ottawa Hills Sculpture Garden. She also commented they only needed the \$3000 stipend from the Village on one occasion, but was concerned that negative publicity might diminish other fundraising.

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Mr. Gibbs commented that he thought even the “negative” comments were not negative to the concept of sculpture.

Mr. Straub said that the project has grown beyond original expectations because of the involvement of dedicated capable people but perhaps there should have been more involvement or oversight by the Village Council.

Mrs. Niggemyer commented that a substantial amount of landscaping at the site might enhance the appearance but would result in the need for a significant increase in maintenance and associated maintenance costs.

Mr. Straub made a motion to contribute \$3000, if necessary, to the sculpture program and to authorize it to proceed through calendar year 2010. Mr. Walter seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Reichert made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8 meeting. Mr. Gibbs seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Decker commented that the income tax collections through June were generally flat when compared to last year except for exceptional revenues received early in the year. He also commented that one payment on the school turf project has been completed and a second and perhaps third payment will be due in the very near future since the project is nearing completion.

Mr. Decker also reported on good news that Standard & Poor’s have upgraded the Village’s bond rating to “AAA”.

Mrs. King reported that there will be a Human Resources Committee on Thursday morning.

Mr. Gibbs stated that the Safety Committee is scheduling a meeting for next week. On the agenda will be discussion of crosswalks at the Darlington/Hempstead/Gallatin area. The results of the Bonniebrook/Brittany stop sign survey will be reviewed, also.

Mr. Walter reported on a June 29 meeting of the Services & Environment Committee which dealt with deer population. He said that there were about 20 people in attendance at the meeting which began with a history of deer issues in Ottawa Hills. The general feeling was that it was necessary to reduce the herd size and the committee said that they would report back to the Council at the meeting. Mr. Walter commented that the Committee Members Walter and Reichert agree that action needs to be taken and that Committee Member King does not agree. After additional discussion Mr. Walter made a motion to direct that the Village take steps necessary to begin the process to move ahead to address the problem by reducing the size of the herd.

Mr. Reichert said that it would probably next be March before any deer herd culling took place. Mrs. Afjeh interrupted asking if it would be done through sharp shooters or hunters. Mr. Walter said that it would be a company retained to do sharp shooting and reviewed in general terms how the process would work.

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Mrs. King stated that she was concerned that there were not a large number of people at the meeting and would like to hear from more residents.

Mayor Gilmore stated that he had been hearing a lot of complaints recently about the number of deer and the problems they are creating. Ms. McHugh said that deer problems were mentioned in the most recent survey.

After additional discussion there was a vote upon the motion made by Mr. Walter. Five members of the Council voted in favor of the motion. Mrs. King voted against the motion.

Mr. Reichert provided a brief report on the Orchard Rd. project stating that it was proceeding although bad soils were continuing to be a problem.

Mr. Straub commented that there would be an Equipment, Utilities, Building & Grounds meeting on Friday.

Solicitor McHugh said she had an item for executive session dealing with pending litigation.

The date of September 26, 2009 was approved as the date for the Fall Festival.

Mrs. King made a report on the three meetings of the Joint Recreation Board. The initial meeting was an organizational meeting wherein Lori Dixon was appointed as Chair and Willis Day was appointed as Secretary. The next meeting, on June 5 was devoted to touring the recreational facilities. On June 17, the third meeting occurred which primarily dealt with the Village's recreation program based on a presentation from Mrs. Gottlieb. The next meeting is scheduled for July 8 and will involve substantial discussion with school personnel about scheduling issues.

Attention then turned to legislation.

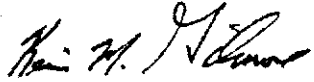
Ordinance 2009-8 (First reading)	Regulating non-storm water discharges to the storm drainage system in order to comply with the national pollutant discharge elimination system.
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Motion for approval was made by Mr. Gibbs, seconded by Mr. Reichert, and the roll being called the vote thereon was as follows: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays.

At 8:31 p.m. Council moved into executive session for the purposes of discussing pending litigation and potential purchase of real property.

Council returned to regular session at 9:27 p.m. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Village Council would be on August 3 at 7:30 p.m. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Kevin Gilmore, Mayor