

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Caucus Room of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

The Chairman, Matt Smith, called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Roll Call

Members: Present –Vice Chairman Ralph White; Lois Shinko; Clint Gault; Chairman Matt Smith

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, April 10, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Gault to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, April 10, 2019, and approve said minutes as published. The vote was all ayes and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

Guests

Mr. Smith stated that Law Director John Gasior and Mayor Bryan Jensen would not be at this meeting tonight but both will attend the next meeting in June. Mr. Gasior is still gathering information that we were asking about on the demolition permits. Mayor Jensen is meeting with Council this coming Monday to discuss the pay raises for the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Landmarks Letter of Recognition – Ralph White

Mr. White said that there was nothing for this month.

Landmark Nominations – Lois Shinko

Ms. Shinko stated that she did not have anything.

Comments

Mr. Gault reported that he had attended a Committee meeting for the Bicycle Path and Walkway. There were two different discussions happening: One regarded kids walking to school. Less and less kids are walking or biking to school and so how do we encourage them to do this? Good things happen such as lower traffic and lower pollution when they walk or bike. The first question is, why aren't they doing it? An email was sent to parents asking what is important to them, why their kids were not walking to school, etc. The other part of the meeting was a discussion of trying to connect bicycle and walking paths from Avon to Sheffield and trying to connect over to Lake Erie. Where would it make the most sense to put the paths, how would you put them in there? So this was the initial meeting to see where we are and what we are trying to do.

Mr. Smith said that back in January there was an article in the newspaper about this project and then he never heard anything again. And talking about accessibility to schools safely, his brother lives on Detroit Road right before you get to Avondale Subdivision and when the Middle School or the High School let out, it is an accident waiting to happen for these kids. The sidewalk on the north side of the road basically ends with the Briar Lakes development and when the kids coming out of the Middle School and the High School run out of that sidewalk, they have to cross from the south side of Detroit Road to the

north side, and they will just run across the street and it is bad. Someone is going to get hit. There should be a stop light at Long Road and Detroit Road, with a crosswalk, and sidewalk from Briar Lakes all the way down to Arlington Estates; that should all be connected.

Mr. Gault said, so an email went out to parents and the Committee is also going to have different teams and groups go out and watch what goes on. There is no question that in 25 years, we will be a much bigger city but will we be a city which has preserved its character and charm and the quaintness of the small town feel? So that was discussed and also seeing that Detroit Road and the French Creek District in general feel special. Even though by Code the French Creek District is different, it will not feel any different unless we make it feel different. So the goal of having these quaint, charming light poles that go all down the street, would add to that. And having wider walking paths, more people walking and biking would also add to that friendly small-town feel.

Mr. Smith asked if it was the goal for the hiking/biking paths to be available throughout the whole perimeter of the City and Mr. Gault said that one of the questions in the survey is, what do you want to connect to? Mr. Smith stated that he would really like to see the Aquatic Center area connected by a pedestrian bridge over S.R. 83 to the Miller Nature Preserve, and from there to Schwartz Road Park. Then you have a huge hub of activity.

Mr. Smith asked if this survey was only going out to people with kids in the schools, and not to all of the residents? Mr. Gault responded, to his knowledge, it only went out to all of the schools, because there are two different parts to it. One has to do with a walking or biking path for safe schools. He then read from an email announcing – “The City of Avon, along with NOACA, are kicking off their City-wide bicycle master plan as well as the ‘Safe Routes to School’ plan for Avon Middle School, Heritage Elementary and East Elementary schools. The City was awarded grant money by NOACA last year to make these plans possible. Since both the bicycle master plan and the ARTS plan will inform and build off from one another, both will run concurrently and consist of the same Steering Committee to help guide each plan. The Committee will meet bi-monthly throughout the duration of the eight-month planning processand act as a sounding board for recommendations and ideas.” Mr. Gault said that the first meeting was May 7th at the Police Station and it was a meeting to see where we are and what we are trying to accomplish, the big picture of it. Also, the even bigger picture is trying to make Avon a more walkable, and bicycle friendly City and making it such that we can bike to destination places.

Mr. Smith said he thought that it was vitally important for the citizens of Avon that if they want to walk or bike to parts on the shore of Lake Erie, they can do that because that just makes Avon so much better. It is really important to build these paths now because in 10 or 20 years, there will not be access to any of that property to do it. Mr. Gault said, exactly, so we need a plan and developers need to be a part of that process. Mr. Smith added and of course we need to connect all the part of Avon, residential to commercial, so if a person wants to come down to Olde Avon Village or whatever, instead of battling traffic, they have an alternative to driving. They can walk or bike. So the news about the Steering Committee and going forward with the walking/biking paths is positive news for him.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Gault about the status of the light pole project in the French Creek District that he mentioned previously. Mr. Gault said that the meeting regarding the poles has to be rescheduled. There is a lot of cost for this project. You want the poles to be all the same and the more poles you buy at once, the better the price is but at the same time, it costs a lot more money at one time. So they are trying to balance these things out. The original plan was to do it in smaller pieces and have it extended out.

Ms. Shinko asked if anyone knew what was happening with the big farm property on the eastern end of Avon that is for sale now. Mr. White said that is Ruth Sweet's place across from Ernie's Auto Body. It has been for sale for a long time, but they just now put a sign on it. There are no sewers out there. Mr. Gault noted that it would be very expensive to develop that land in trying to connect to the next sewer.

Mr. White asked if anything was known about the status of the Cahoon House and Mr. Smith said that he saw the Malones about two weeks ago and they said they sold it to the City and that everything was going through so that is great.

Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Smith stated that the next meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, in the Caucus Room of Avon City Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Gault to adjourn the meeting and the vote was all ayes. The Chairman declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Transcribed by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council

