

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AMBERLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009**

The Council of Amberley Village, Ohio met in a regular session at the Amberley Village Hall, 7149 Ridge Road on MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009 at 7:30 P.M. Mayor Charles Kamine called the meeting to order. The following roll call was taken:

PRESENT:

Charles Kamine
Jon Chaiken
Fran Cohen
Peg Conway
Louis Katz
Leslie McIntosh
Merrie Stillpass

ALSO PRESENT:

Bernie Boraten, Village Manager
Stephen Cohen, Village Solicitor
Chief Monahan, Police/Fire Chief
Rick Kay, Village Treasurer
Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

ABSENT:

Mayor Kamine welcomed everyone to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Amberley Village Council, and led those in attendance through the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

Mayor Kamine presented clarifying revisions, as shown in underlined text below, to the November 10, 2008 minutes, as proposed by Mr. Stan Cohen.

Mr. Stan Cohen, resident for 45 years at 2301 Royal Oak Court presented for donation to the Village staff a high-precision engineer's 18-inch dumpy level with a tri-pod. He stated that the level, which was in good condition, would be worth \$3,500 if it was purchased new today. The instrument is approximately 60 years old, however, it will provide accurate service for many years to come.

Mrs. Stillpass moved acceptance of the revised minutes of the November 10, 2008, regular meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Conway. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Kamine presented the December 8, 2008, minutes with revisions, as proposed by the Village Manager, shown below:

Mr. Boraten reported that the Village has continued to work with FEMA for reimbursement of expenses related to the wind storm. He stated that the representatives of FEMA have been very thorough in their review of our documentation and have done a great job. He stated that the FEMA representatives were at Village offices last week discussing details for reimbursement and has concluded that the Village will receive \$100,000 in reimbursement funds from FEMA. This would represent 75% of the Village's total cost for which we were eligible. Mr. Boraten then stated that FEMA has informed the Village of an additional opportunity for reimbursement somewhat above the \$100,000 amount. He clarified that the allowable costs included reimbursement expenses such as all regular time, outside contractors and use of our own equipment.

Mrs. Cohen moved acceptance of the revised minutes of the December 8, 2008, regular meeting. Seconded by Ms. McIntosh. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Kamine presented the minutes of the December 15, 2008, special meeting. Mr. Chaiken moved acceptance of the December special minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Cohen. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Boraten presented the Finance Report for the month of December, 2008 (Finance Report attached). Mr. Chaiken moved to approve the December Finance Report. Seconded by Mrs. Cohen. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LONG RANGE PLANNING:

Mayor Kamine announced that the Long Range Planning Committee would give a presentation to council regarding a vision plan for the Village. Council will take the presented vision under review prior to a vote to adopt the final long range plan.

Mrs. Stillpass reported that she had the privilege of working over the past year with the six members of the Long Range Planning Committee. She introduced the following members: Peg Conway (Council Member), Bill Lennard (former Vice Mayor of the Village), Frank Davis (presenter), Jose Garcia, Connie Hinitz and Michael Schuster, residents of the Village. Mrs. Stillpass then gave special thanks to Jim Rulli, a resident who volunteered as a facilitator for many of the committee meetings, which was most helpful to create productive sessions. Mrs. Stillpass then gave special thanks to Leslie McIntosh for preparation of the PowerPoint presentation.

Mrs. Stillpass reported that the charge of the Long Range Planning Committee comes from the Village Code Section 33.04. The committee is charged with making recommendations to council for actions where appropriate on land development, intergovernmental issues, financial management, ordinance review, communications, personnel, schooling, recreation and any other areas of long range planning that we wish to consider.

Mrs. Stillpass continued by reporting that the vision plan that the committee worked on for the past year provides principles to guide council and staff in future decision-making. The vision statement supports a foundation to guide future decisions and initiatives in the Village, supported by the pillars, goals and objectives. The committee also identified strategies for implementing each pillar of the vision and recommendations as to which committee might be involved.

Mrs. Stillpass introduced Frank Davis to share the process that the committee went through that developed the pillars of the vision for Amberley for the year 2018.

Mr. Frank Davis thanked Merrie for the introduction. He stated that he resides on Ridge Road and stated that was pleased to be asked to participate on the committee. He reported that he has been involved in planning studies for about 20 years, however, normally he is on the staff level and it was nice to participate on a citizen level.

Mr. Davis reported that the goal for the evening was to present council with an explanation of the committee's process, and to introduce the vision, pillars, goals and strategies, as well as the priorities. He stated that this is a long-range visioning process, which developed principles for council to use when developing individual projects, tactics, and upon adoption of this plan, it will

make it easier for council to reach conclusions and consensus on different projects without having to debate the background and purpose.

Mr. Davis began the PowerPoint slide presentation. He stated that first slide is an overview of the process. He stated that a number of people came to different meetings and the attendees are listed in the executive summary of the presentation. There were seven meetings over the course of the year. A survey was also conducted at the Ice Cream Social in August 2008.

Mr. Davis began further explaining the process which started with identifying the issues. Then the S.P.O.T. (strengths, problems, opportunities, threats) and cover story vision exercises were conducted. He then thanked Merrie Stillpass for generating the process and the outline that we would go through, which made it easier to stay on track. Mr. Davis also thanked Jim Rulli for putting together and facilitating some of the exercises.

Mr. Davis explained that the result of those exercises created the vision pillars along with the goals and strategies. He stated that a priority exercise was then conducted which defined the next phase of steps.

Mr. Davis stated that the identity issues were defined by the ordinance, which listed all of the different types of perspectives and priorities that the committee could review. The committee started out by going through that list to develop the highest priorities. The high priorities were considered to be image, environmental sustainability and land use, open space and landscape, technology, and economic development. He stated that the discussion on image concluded that Amberley Village residents have a certain image of themselves, there is an image of Amberley from the surrounding neighbors, and then there is the image of what the Village wants to be in 2018. He stated that the committee clearly felt that image was a critical component to address.

Mr. Davis explained that environmental sustainability was also a high priority as well as open space, landscape, technology and economic development. He reported that the committee next conducted a S.P.O.T. (strengths, problems, opportunities, threats) survey/exercise where the committee took post-it notes without any limitation on the number of ideas and listed ideas that related to the current and future strengths, problems, opportunities, and threats of the Village. From the S.P.O.T. exercise, the committee then went to the cover story vision which was a fun exercise.

The committee, again, used post-it notes, on which each committee member wrote down a headline of what they wanted to see as an article about Amberley Village in the year 2018. He stated that one of the headlines was that Amberley Village was chosen most livable community by Cincinnati Magazine. Additional ideas that the committee came up with were: living local like a Village, pollution-free, most beautiful street, twenty minutes from anywhere in the greater Cincinnati area, and best K-12 school system in the state.

Mr. Davis explained that from that S.P.O.T. and headlines exercise the committee started forming different categories for vision pillars to support a vision statement. He stated that the committee narrowed it down to leveraging the green, which was a common theme throughout most of the ideas. Other category ideas included green beauty, collaboration with other neighborhoods to benefit the Village, diversity, human resources, economic sustainability, and general sustainability of the community. Through a series of additional exercises, the many category ideas were further massaged to create the vision.

Mr. Davis then stated that he wanted to thank the committee members for their helpful discussions and ideas, which were always civil sessions. He stated that he appreciated their interest, thoughtfulness and civility through the process.

Mr. Davis explained that the result of the continued exercises developed the vision statement and the pillars of the statement. He then read the vision statement, as follows:

Amberley Village is identified as a place of diversity and tolerance for its vibrant mix of ages, nationalities, races, and family styles residing within its peaceful, park-like pastoral setting. Hallmarks include the strong economic base, efficient local services and governance that maximize the central location in the Cincinnati region.

Mr. Davis then introduced the pillar regarding the environment and read it, as follows:

With its wooded surroundings, meandering creeks and natural beauty, residents enjoy the benefits of living in a low-density village setting with quick and easy access to the offerings of the entire Cincinnati area. Recognizing its valuable assets, the Village preserves the natural environment while enhancing amenities to complement it, utilizing “green” technology wherever possible.

He stated that goals, objectives and priorities were developed based on the environment pillar. He read the goal that was developed for this particular pillar, as follows: Protect, enhance and promote natural features and environmental resources. Individual objectives were listed as follows: Greenspaces: Develop methods to preserve the natural beauty and wooded surroundings. Green initiatives: Amberley Village will be a leader of sustainable policies and environmental conservation in the region. Environmental Education: Encourage environmental stewardship. Green Identity: Amberley is recognized as a green community.

Mr. Davis stated that the council will see the issue of identity weaving throughout this information. He stated that there was a lot of discussion regarding whether or not identity should be its own pillar. However, the committee felt that the identity was such a crucial part of all of the other pillars; it was incorporated into all of the pillars within the objectives.

Mr. Davis then introduced the pillar regarding the economy and read it, as follows:

Amberley’s efficiently management government provides residents with superior services while maintaining a significant reserve fund. The Village enhances its economic base by attracting a mix of businesses to appropriately zoned areas.

He read the goal that was developed for this pillar, as follows: Ensure fiscal health of the Village. Objectives were as follows: Revenues: Amberley will maximize income opportunities through the expansion of existing and new revenue streams and outside funding sources. Operations: Amberley will maintain a high level of efficient, cost effective services. Financial Planning: Amberley will make every effort to match revenues to expenses.

Mr. Davis stated that there was a lot of discussion on the financial aspect, without getting too involved in the individual day-to-day budgeting and details. The committee still felt it was important to focus on that issue and establish priorities.

Mr. Davis introduced the third pillar regarding the community and read it, as follows:

Amberley is a safe, family-friendly place offering varied recreational and educational options within its boundaries and nearby. Collaboration with adjacent communities to enhance services and opportunities is a hallmark of the Village. To strengthen community, numerous opportunities exist for residents to get together to know one another.

He read the goal developed for this pillar, as follows: Augment the amenities that make Amberley Village a safe family-friendly, diverse place to live. Objectives were listed as follows: Connectivity: Expand the network of connections linking neighborhoods and destinations. Social: Create more opportunities for interaction among residents. Diversity: Create a community where everyone feels welcome.

Mr. Davis next introduced a list of priorities based on the vision and its pillars. Within the priority spreadsheet, each committee was assigned strategies. He stated that the next step in the process is to allow council to review the vision plan and consider it for adoption by vote. He then thanked council for asking the members of the committee to participate in the process. He stated that he is hopeful that the committee has provided a framework for council to utilize moving forward to make decisions in a quicker manner. He stated that most of the committee members were present, and offered to answer any questions from council.

Mrs. Stillpass then asked if any other members of the committee would like to add any comments. Mrs. Conway commented that the committee was attentive to the Village's history and tradition, which was carried through this process and incorporated into the vision plan. She stated the members involved were dedicated and passionate with their efforts.

Mrs. McIntosh stated that she became a part of the committee late in the process. She stated that all of her questions were answered very thoroughly with well thought out strategies.

Mayor Kamine stated that copies of the PowerPoint presentation can be obtained from the clerk. He invited everyone to obtain a copy and review it. He stated that residents should call their council members with any ideas or comments, or send an email through the Village website. He stated that this vision plan will be reviewed again at the February council meeting. Mayor Kamine then thanked Frank Davis for giving the presentation.

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE:

Ms. McIntosh reported that the committee met on January 9th and reviewed a list of topics including deer vehicular reduction techniques. She also stated that signage with alerting features was discussed as a possible effective measure as well as sign reflectors in high incident areas. The committee felt that education was needed to prompt drivers to slow down.

The committee also discussed the Village's waste contract with Rumpke which will expire this year. She stated that the committee felt that there might be a need to reduce the cost to the Village as well as maintain a high level of service. She stated that these discussions were very preliminary.

Ms. McIntosh reported that two residents participated in the committee meeting. She stated that she enjoyed their attendance and encouraged more residents to participate. She stated that both residents were interested in the topic on the meeting notice which was regarding pathways. She stated that both residents had varying opinions as to the need for pathways in the Village. She

stated that these discussions will continue next month and interested residents are welcome to attend.

BEAUTIFICATION:

Mrs. Stillpass reported that the Village had recently been asked to participate as a sponsor of the Growing Green workshops. The workshops will consist of five free lectures which will be held on March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2. The workshops will be held at Terwilliger Lodge. Details for these workshops are available on the Village website.

Mrs. Stillpass reported that the council received in their council packets a memo and information regarding the Pleasant Ridge Park Concept project. She stated that the Beautification Committee supports this project and requests that the council consider sending a letter of support, similar to the letters attached to the memo. She stated that this concept incorporates the development of rain gardens and a green roof. She stated that surfaces will be designed to filter rain water, and that nearby schools could find this site a good fit for their curriculum.

Mayor Kamine clarified that there was no cost to support this concept. Mrs. Conway moved to approve support of the Pleasant Ridge Park Concept project. Seconded by Ms. McIntosh. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Stillpass reported that the next Beautification Committee meeting will be held on January 26th at 7:30 p.m. She stated that the topics will include Arbor Day. She would like to expand participation this year. Letters were sent out to invite scout troops and businesses. Everyone is welcome to attend.

LAW:

Mr. Katz reported that he was presented with an amendment to the Village's tax ordinance to confirm with a new law. He stated that the committee will meet to further refine the ordinance and will present such at the February council meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Boraten reported that in conformance with the auditor's requirements, an ordinance to transfer funds is necessary. He stated that there are 200 line items in the budget and the auditor requires that the Village review those accounts and designate which funds were over and under. The ordinance then balances those accounts.

Mr. Chaiken moved to approve ORDINANCE NO. 2009-01, ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2007-27 PASSED DECEMBER 10, 2007, TO PROVIDE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS. Seconded by Mrs. Cohen and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Kamine, Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Katz, McIntosh, Stillpass (7)
NAY: (0)
ABSENT: (0)

Mr. Chaiken moved to approve the Ordinance passed as an emergency measure. Seconded by Mrs. Conway and the roll call showed the following vote:

AYE: Kamine, Chaiken, Cohen, Conway, Katz, McIntosh, Stillpass (7)

NAY: (0)
ABSENT: (0)

Mr. Katz clarified that section one of this ordinance represented the increases and section two represented the decreases. Mr. Katz then asked Mr. Boraten for the status of the FEMA reimbursement funds.

Mr. Boraten reported that FEMA released a media announcement that listed the obligated funds to each municipality. He stated that \$114,000 was now listed as being obligated funds to Amberley Village. The federal government has not provided an absolute date for disbursement of the funds. The Village assumes that this will be the final amount, but should not actually count on that amount until the check is received.

Mayor Kamine then reminded everyone that the Village newsletter will be out the first week of February.

There being no further business, Mrs. Cohen moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Stillpass. The motion carried unanimously.

Nicole Browder, Clerk of Council

Mayor Charles Kamine