

Village of Winthrop Harbor
Committee of the Whole
President and Board of Trustees Meeting
October 5, 2021

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bruno at 7:00 PM.

The following Elected Officials were present:

Mayor: Dr. Michael Bruno

Trustees: Buddy Hargett, John Levin, Robert Marabella, Dana McCarthy, Hartmut "Fritz" Weiss, Alana Whitmore

Also present:

Robert Long, Interim Village Administrator
Julie Rittenhouse, Village Clerk
Michael Sheedy, IT
Scott Fuller, Recreation Director
Ed Mohn, Police Chief
Pat DiPersio, Director of Community Development
Tim Nearing, Superintendent of Public Works

The meeting was called to discuss the following items.

10 – 20 Year Vision for the Future #1

Interim Village Administrator, Robert Long, explained to the Board, in the three night presentations, the Department Heads will be giving a presentation of what each Departments vision is in 20 years, and what we are doing today, for the years ahead, as it pertains to finances. He explained that this would not be a back and forth discussion, just a presentation.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief, Ed Mohn, gave a history on the Police Departments, budget, staffing, calls and reports for the last five years. He talked about how the cuts in staffing and funding have affected the department and the services they are able to provide. He explained that the calls they received have stayed pretty consistent for the last 5 years. Chief Mohn said that the Mutual Aid Organizations that the Village participate in, are "Insurance Policies" for Winthrop Harbor. The challenges right now are staffing, emergency response limitations and budget. The Vision for the Police Department moving forward are:

- Recover 3 Full-time Officer Positions - 2 Patrol, 1 Patrol & Part-time Lake Co. Drug & Gang Crimes Task Force
- Recover Deputy Chiefs Position
- Recover/Increase the Training Budget
- Enhance Recruitment – Incentive packages based on experience
- Recover Full-time Detective Positions
- Review, Update & Bring the General Orders into Compliance with the LEXIPOL Standards
- Establish a Zion Township EMA Collaborations
- Establish a Part-time Officer Chain of Command
- Establish an Annual Psychologist Visit for each Sworn Officer
- Establish a Senior Care Program
- Expand the Citizens Advisory Committee
- Establish a community Safety Capability
- Establish/Conduct Community Education & Listening Sessions
- Re-establish the Marina Security Contract

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Recreation Director, Scott Fuller, said the Parks and cultural amenities can help to increase the Community's marketability, improve public health, enhance aesthetic appeal and positively impact resident's quality of life. He talked about how all of the Parks needed updated equipment and the buildings that needed maintenance or repairs. Also, how the existing walk path around 38 Acre Park needed some attention and the skate park and tennis courts needed renovations. He addressed the ball diamonds that need updating.

Director Fuller referred to the COMP Plan Recommendations.

- 1st, Prioritize maintenance of existing facilities/amenities
- 2nd, Adding improvements for existing facilities/amenities
- 3rd, Adding new facilities/amenities

The overall Vision for Winthrop Harbor Parks and Recreation Department:

- Updated, aesthetically appealing parks, equipment and facilities (Passive Recreation)
 1. New playground equipment
 2. Skate Park renovations
 3. Tennis Court renovations
 4. Replace sections of existing walk path at Village Park
 5. Renovations of 2 Baseball/Softball Diamonds at Village Park and 1 Diamond at Broadway
 6. Renovation of existing fishing pier at Village Park
 7. Replace park benches and picnic tables at Village Park
 8. Connect walk path from east end of park to playgrounds, shelters and washroom bldg. at Village Park
 9. Repairs to Village Park road going to the washroom/storage bldg.
 10. Repairs/upgrades to electrical issues with exterior lighting at the Schlader Recreation Center

- 11. Update to Schlader Recreation Center – washrooms, kitchen, flooring in gymnasium and security camera system
- 12. Develop Community Garden Program
- 13. Develop Mangel Field Property

- Programming and Administration – have activities & programming offered from 7am – 9pm, daily
- Long – Term Goals
 - 1. Build an addition on the Schlader Bldg. – multiple meeting rooms, washrooms, office space, storage and common area
 - 2. Band Shell
 - 3. Splash pad water area at Village Park
 - 4. Land acquisition and creation of community pocket parks
 - 5. Expansion of parking lot at Village Park
 - 6. Addition of Supervisor, to help with administrative duties

The Next Vision Session will be Thursday, October 7th, 2021 at 7pm.

ADJOURNMENT

1 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Weiss to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m. on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

APPROVED:

DR. MICHAEL BRUNO, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JULIE RITTENHOUSE, VILLAGE CLERK

Note: This is not a verbatim record.

