

DRAFT

MINUTES

LA GRANGE 2020 TASK FORCE

Village Hall Auditorium
53 South La Grange Road
La Grange, IL 60525

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A meeting of the La Grange 2020 Task Force was held on September 18, 2013 in the Auditorium of the Village Hall at 53 South La Grange Road, La Grange, IL, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Present and Constituting a Quorum: Chairperson Diane Gormely-Barnes, Jim Arnold, Andrea Barnish, Laura Blentlinger, John Boehms, Ellen Brewin, David Bucaro, Julie Bunnell, Michael Cameron, Margaret Carlson, Karen Deane, Ken Eastman, Clayton Edwards, Elyse Hoffenberg, Jimmy Janevski, Bill Johnson, Katie Justak, Wayne Kardatzke, Michael Kotynek, Meg La Faivre, Bridget Lacey, Karrie Lange, Anthony Lewandowski, John Lorenzen, Ellen MacEntee, Caitlin Malloy-Marcon, Scott McPherson, Suzie Mosher, John Pappas, Russ Riberto, Lisa Sagami, David Schwartz, Elizabeth Stiles, Jeremy Strayer, Ray Swiatek, Laura Tussing, Glenn Wentink, David Wilkinson, Lester Williams, Rebecca Wimbush.

Absent: Michelle Halm, Richard Holly, Mark A. Lies II, Mark Nelson, Steve Palmer, Mark Reich, Sherry L. Robinson.

Also Present: President Tom Livingston, Trustee James Palermo, Village Attorney Betsy Gates, Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn, Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson, Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin, Assistant Community Development Director Angela Mesaros, Finance Director Lou Cipparrone, and Fire Chief Bill Bryzgalski.

II. INTRODUCTION OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS AND OPENING REMARKS

Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn began the meeting by welcoming members of the Task Force and introducing President Tom Livingston. President Livingston expressed his appreciation to participants for their willingness to serve and briefly discussed the ground rules and purpose of the LG 2020 Task Force.

The Task Force is scheduled to meet monthly for a nine month period. Five presentations on various topical areas will be provided to the Task Force by Village staff, leaving four meetings open for group discussion. The work of the group will culminate in a report outlining recommendations to the Village Board as La Grange enters its 135th year of incorporation.

Trustee Livingston introduced Chairperson Diane Gormely-Barnes who will be guiding the discussions of the Task Force and who, along with the group, will be determining a structure for the meetings. Chairperson Gormely-Barnes expressed her appreciation to Trustee Livingston, introduced herself, and asked each Task Force member to introduce themselves to the group.

III. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

At the conclusion of the member introductions, Chairperson Gormely-Barnes introduced Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin who provided an overview of economic development in La Grange from its early foundations to current status. The Village Board has considered post-Tax Increment Financing District mechanisms for economic development including alternative financial tools. In 2012, the Village Board affirmed current policies related to economic development opportunities.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Benjamin introduced Nancy Cummings, Executive Director of the La Grange Business Association. Ms. Cummings provided a presentation regarding the La Grange Business Association, its purpose, and the services that it provides to businesses and the community. Ms. Cummings identified several challenges for the organization and its membership including parking limitations, sustained growth, organizational leadership and administrative support.

Chairperson Gormely-Barnes advised the group that it has a strong base to begin its work. The Village has an excellent reputation and has benefitted from stable political leadership and a long term staff. The Village spent a significant amount of time in the 1980s updating its downtown plan in order to develop a foundation for future success.

Chairperson Gormely-Barnes asked the Task Force to consider emerging issues and challenges (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) for La Grange as she invited comments regarding the community's vision for 2020.

Discussion ensued. Members of the Task Force provided comments on various topics such as: 1) downsized housing opportunities to retain long-term residents; 2) significant parking demand also occurs on weeknights, not just weekends; 3) desire to strengthen and grow the West End Business District; 4) potential impacts of development in adjacent communities; 5) strategic partnerships with entertainment compliments; 6) attracting more non-restaurant businesses; 7) cost / benefit of additional parking opportunities; 8) renewing demographic and census data; 9) impact

of the development at Ogden and La Grange Road; 10) improvements to the Farmer's Market; 11) survey resident / visitor preferences; and 12) identifying areas in the community where development can occur. Staff responded to questions as requested.

The Task Force also discussed a potential structure for ongoing group discussions. Chairperson Gormely-Barnes indicated that the structure is a work in progress but the idea is to provide some defined topics in the initial meetings in order to encourage creative thinking. Ideas communicated in person or via e-mail will be recorded so that the group can sift out the main topics into more manageable discussion categories. It was suggested that perhaps the group would break into smaller groups at some point to facilitate the discussion process and define an overall vision. It was also noted that the group may wish to identify current assets and more specific measures / comparisons in order to better assess and recommend to the Village Board how identified goals can be reached.

Chairperson Gormely-Barnes indicated that she would take the feedback provided by the group and develop a framework and structure for the remainder of the meetings with the assistance of President Livingston and staff. In order to help Task Force members prepare for future meetings, a process for providing advanced information to the group will also be identified. The group generally agreed that 7:00 p.m. was a convenient time for the Task Force to meet in the future.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to come before the La Grange 2020 Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Andrianna Peterson
Assistant Village Manager