

## VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Council Workshop held on Wednesday, August 24, 2022.

President Barry Gravitt called the council workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: President Barry Gravitt, President Pro-Tem Jack Davis; Trustees: Zach Fedoruk, Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder (arrived at 6:42 p.m.), Sandy Swartz, Kristin von Maur, Clerk Sheri Kesterke and Deputy Clerk/Clerk in Training Rachael Kuzda.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Kelly Ewalt, Community Coordinator and Dave Kunde, Public Works Superintendent.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

This Council Workshop was held to discuss: 1. Continue the discussion to plan for “Council Project Wishes” and 2. Discuss Focus Group Members and topics for updating the Five-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan.

Village President Barry Gravitt started the meeting off with reminding the council to keep in mind the economy problems and inflation. No un-needed spending and no more debt.

### 1. Continue the discussion to plan for “Council Project Wishes”.

- We already have a good start; the Village Hall lobby was approved at the last council meeting.
- Fill empty buildings and store fronts.
  - What legally can we pursue?
  - Kristin von Maur suggested having a workshop with the whole council, Historic District Committee, and Frank on empty buildings.
  - Dave Kunde suggested reaching out to Michigan Municipal League (MML) for guidance.
- Kayak Launch.
  - Ideas of where to launch from were discussed. Kelly Ewalt stated a problem is how people can get back; you can only launch and can’t paddle back because of the current. They might have to find their own way back.
  - Warning signs were discussed, such as “Launch at your own risk” or “Water activities at your own risk”.
  - Dave Kunde stated the small parking lot by the old Waste Water Treatment Plant could be fixed up to use for parking. It would have to be ADA compliant.
- Houses around town need some TLC.
- We have good parks we could use for more festivals, such as music festivals, and events. (Sheila Snyder arrived from an approved previous commitment at this time)
- Farmer’s Markets, Festivals, and Events.
  - Kelly would like some guidance from the Council on what they want to see done. Have more events downtown, like a “Date Night Downtown”. Kelly offered to make a list of ideas she has for events. It was suggested to prioritize events and how doable they are. The Community Coordinator Committee can discuss with Kelly different options for events.

### 2. Discuss Focus Group Members and topics for updating the Five-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan.

- Public Properties and Ordinance Committee recently met with Tanya DeOliveira from Williams and Works about updating the Five-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan.
- The council has to pick what focus group topics they want and a list of people to be part of the focus groups. Tanya DeOliveira organizes and takes care of the rest.
- Examples of focus group topics were as followed: Trails and non-motorized transportation, passive recreation groups, local stakeholders, or senior citizens.
- PPO is looking for people with a passion for the topic and some expertise to be part of the focus groups.
- The Council decided on the topics of:
  - 1) Trails and Non-Motorized Transportation
    - Roger and Kathy Kesterke
    - The Roses
    - Deb Conley

- Kelly suggested reaching out to some more people from the “Interurban Bridge” project/committee
- Arboretum Department at Andrews might know some names and Kristin will check
- Brain Wilcox
- Kelly suggested maybe someone from the fair.
- 2) Senior Citizens
  - Check with the Senior Citizen’s Center
  - Judy Larson
  - Leona Pitcher
  - Iona (friend of Leona Pitcher)
  - Jim Allred
  - Senior Citizens that stay at Shamrock Park
  - Someone at the Courthouse or Library might have some more suggestions
- The survey that will be distributed would help reach out to the younger generation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

\*Moved by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Ayes, 7, Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC  
Deputy Clerk/Clerk in Training

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Barry Gravitt  
Village President