

SUMMARY NOTES

Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting Village of Northfield

Monday, April 6, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room = 2nd Floor

Present: Fred Gougler, Chair
Margaret Parcels, Member
Peter Fischer, Member
Brian Kozminski, Member
Robert Hayward, Vice Chair
Linda Garard, Member
Barbara Moore, Member
Donald Klein, Member

Absent: Trustee Ted Greene, Member
J. Patrick Doherty, Member

Others Present: Stacy Sigman, Village Manager (Liaison)
Guy Chipparoni and Dennis Cullerton, Res Publica Group
Trustee Fred Teichert

The meeting was chaired by Vice Chair Robert Hayward who asked for a motion on the meeting minutes.

Approve Summary Notes of the February 25, 2009 Meeting

A motion was made by Member Peter Fischer and seconded by Member Margy Parcels to approve the February 25, 2009 meeting minutes. By voice vote all approved.

Update on Willow Road

Manager Sigman advised the group that due to a change in the Secretary of Transportation, now Gary Hannig, the contracts for the Phase I work including the early start up agreement have been delayed because all of the documents needed to be rewritten with the new Secretary of Transportation's name and authorization for his signature. IDOT was not anticipating they would be executed for an additional several weeks.

Consultant Interview from Res Publica Group for Media Relations

The Res Publica representatives Guy Chipparoni and Dennis Cullerton introduced themselves and talked about their backgrounds which are working on educating and getting their constituents' message out. They felt there are three approaches Northfield should be exploring: 1) sending targeted communications to the new Governor, educating him on what has taken place in the past and what effect some of the future changes will have and how implementation of the proposed three lane roadway plan would create immediate jobs for people; 2) outreach and educate Congressman Kirk and talk to him about the stimulus money and how that might be used on the Willow Road project; and 3) outreach to Senator Schoenberg and make him aware of the Village's continued concerns in this area and try to resolve the issue.

Res Publica representatives felt that all communication should be very open and transparent and that the purpose of them being retained is to make sure the Village's viewpoint is being fairly represented and understood. They felt everything should be put on the website and in the Village Newsletter.

Following the presentation by Res Publica, the Traffic and Transportation Committee discussed the possible retention of Res Publica. Member Fischer indicated he liked the firm and their strategy for approaching the issue. Member Kozminski felt the team was very strong and concurred that they had a good approach. Member Moore liked the transparency and their recommendation on how to feed information to the Governor. Member Kline echoed the same thing. He liked both their approach and transparency. Member Parcels felt they were very attuned to what is happening in Springfield and felt they had a good insight into current Governor Quinn. She also liked their ethical approach to the solution. Member Garard also liked their approach and felt they would bridge some gaps the Village needs help with at this time. Trustee Teichert was also present in the audience and felt that he was very supportive of them on a short term basis like 30 days. He was worried about the Village's ability to fund the work over a longer term.

Discussion of Campaign Funding

Vice Chair Hayward gave an update on where the Committee is at in terms of the outline and indicated that he felt it was important for the Committee to begin developing a PowerPoint presentation and an outline that could be taken to the schools, park district and NSAG to get their support for the project. As had been indicated in an earlier meeting, it was determined that until negotiations are completed on teachers' contracts, it would not be a good time to approach the schools. The Committee discussed developing a PowerPoint presentation over the next month and reviewing it at the May 27 meeting. They could then move ahead with a funding plan seeking participation sometime in early June.

The Committee felt it is important to capture what is currently happening in Springfield and take advantage of the possibility of getting the Governor behind the Village's position. They felt it is important to move forward with Res Publica on a short term project for about 30 days to outreach to Governor Quinn.

A motion was made by Member Fischer, and seconded by Member Garard to recommend to Village President Birkinbine that the Village enter into a contract with Res Publica for this purpose in an amount not to exceed \$12,000. By voice vote, all members were in favor and the motion was approved.

Discussion of E-Mail Policy

Manager Sigman presented an email policy for the Committee's use. The Committee felt it was important there be a general policy set up; however, they did not feel they needed to get emails from residents sent directly as they come in. They requested that staff print out the emails and include them with their monthly packets. If any emails are received by individual Committee members, instead of responding to them with the recommended language, they requested they be forwarded to the email site set up by the Village.

Manager Sigman indicated she would make those changes to the Email communications policy and the revised policy can be reviewed at the May meeting and then implemented.

Vice Chair Hayward confirmed that the next meeting is set for May 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

At 8:50 p.m., there being no further business, Member Fischer made a motion to adjourn the meeting; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.