

MINUTES of the Village of Montgomery Master Plan Committee meeting held in the Conference Room of the Village Hall, Clinton Street, on Thursday, August 15, 2014 at 7:30 pm.

ATTENDANCE: Chrm. Conero, Mbr. Wallace, Mbr. Steed, Mbr. Freeman, Alan Sorenson

OPEN: Chrm. Conero opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Although there wasn't a specific agenda, the Chrm. wanted everyone to look through the Master Plan to see if there were issues that are erroneous or need to have modifications made to them, to update it. The previous Master Plan was not specific; it gave the Trustees the option to make changes.

Alden Link and his son, who own an industrial piece of land across from Chandler Lane, want to do a presentation for the Master Plan Committee, as per the Village Attorney, who suggested the Master Plan hear him out. Mr. Sorenson said that any zoning changes will have to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan so a recommendation for an amendment from the Master Plan will need to go to the Village Board. Mbr. Sneed offered to look up the property history. Mr. Sorenson reminded the committee that the purpose of creating the Comprehensive Plan was to develop a vision for how the community wanted to see the community develop in the future. There is an existing land use map and the future land use recommendation. Regardless of what the landowner is saying about the marketability, no one has an inherent right to change the use so they can market it for a better return on investment. The Chrm. said they need to know how changing this will benefit the Village of Montgomery, because that is what it really is about. The committee decides to invite the Links to the next Master Plan Committee meeting on September 18th.

Mbr. Freeman brought up, from Bob Wiggins who is on his board, spot lighting on the historically significant buildings in Montgomery...Village Hall, Patchett House, the Bandstand, Borland House and the two churches. Mbr. Freeman does not approve of the lighting on his house. Mr. Sorenson suggested a lighting curfew.

The second issue that Mbr. Freeman brings up is regarding an article in the Parade about the ten best downtowns in the United States. The number one thing that makes up a good downtown is: are there people on the street? A walkable town. Encourage people to eat outside, shop outside and walk the streets. The Village Board needs to understand that this is a good thing. Mr. Sorenson said that successful communities allow it. Appropriate policies must be made to regulate it, no permanent structures and have sufficient width on the sidewalk. The Chrm. said that it was brought to the Village Board, the need to have a sidewalk on Charles Street. This would increase the size of the downtown. People will come. Mr. Sorenson said it's a matter of amending the zoning, identify where it is appropriate. It was mentioned that alcohol isn't allowed on the street but there is a difference with eating outside with an alcoholic beverage-roping off the area to eat in. Enforce stronger language on walkable community-have complete streets. Mbr. Freeman also suggested speed bumps on Clinton Street and reduced speed limit signs in the Village. The crosswalk law isn't enforced and should be. The culture in the community needs to change.

Encourage the Village Board to seek out grants. Consolidated funding is one they can utilize as well as Transportation Alternatives Funding. The need to be specific with the Village Board is important, so they are aware of the free grants that are available.

For the next meeting, highlight Capital Improvement Plan, PDD's, is there anything new that should be added to the Plan and discuss solar energy.

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 7:30 pm.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting by Chrm. Conero at 8:45 pm.

Tina Murphy
Deputy Village Clerk