

**CITY OF HUDSONVILLE**

**Planning Commission Minutes**

October 15, 2014

(Approved December 17, 2014)

**FORMAL: Approval of the September 17, 2014 Planning Commission minutes  
City of Hudsonville Recreation Plan**

**INFORMAL: Master Plan discussion continued**

Present: Leatherman, Waterman, Sikkema, Van Doeselaar, Nesky, VanDenBerg, Westrate,  
Staal, Raterink, Strikwerda and Schut

Absent: None

**FORMAL SESSION:**

1. Chairman VanDenBerg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. A motion was made by Raterink, with support by Westrate, to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2014 Planning Commission meeting.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

**3. City of Hudsonville Recreation Plan**

Chairman VanDenBerg opened the public hearing.

The Planning Commission originally reviewed the proposed Recreation Plan at the June meeting. The Recreation Committee also went over the plan. It is in completed form and currently is in the public review period as mandated by the state.

The staff report was presented.

The following discussion took place:

- What is the difference between the Nature Center lowland area barrier free parking and the Nature Center picnic area parking? The picnic area parking is on New Holland Street and the lowland area parking is on Highland Drive.

- The roller blade hockey rink should be located in a location surrounded by neighborhood since most of the users will be in the 10- to 20-year-old range.
- People are really interested in pathways. The existing pathway is well used.
- Interest has been expressed in providing utilities to the Port Sheldon Sports Complex so there can be a bathroom facility.

Julie Schmuker – 4905 Valley Avenue. Walks around a lot with her 2 small children. This plan is very important. The proposed Chicago Drive underpass is invaluable. They often go to school and the library and crossing Chicago Drive is very unsafe. They have had close encounters. Any way to make it safer is helpful. Going to Harvest Health, walking along 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue there is not much separation from the traffic lane under the highway. Any way to make it safer would help such as constructing a guardrail. Would like a playground in city's southeast quadrant. Sometimes they go to Veteran's Park or other farther away parks.

- There could possibly be a pathway through the culvert under I-196 that would connect Quincy Street in Jamestown Township to the east end of New Holland Street through the Nature Center. This path would get more people to the Nature Center and it is safer than the pathway at the highway interchange.
- Reflector strips are a possibility to separate the pathway from the 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue traffic lane at the I-196 interchange.
- Staal's son saw a skateboarder and a bicyclist under the highway. His child commented on the danger of the situation.
- It was suggested to add a southeast quadrant park to the long range plan.
- It was recommended to inform the Recreation Committee of the proposed changes.

VanDenBerg closed the public hearing.

The intent for this meeting is to recommend approval by the City Commission.

A motion was made by Leatherman, supported by Van Doeselaar, to approve the Recreation Plan as presented with the changes that were suggested for adoption by the City Commission.

Yeas 9, Nays 0

## **INFORMAL SESSION**

### 4. City of Hudsonville Master Plan.

The Master Plan is currently in the state mandated minimum of 63-day public review period, which involved sending a copy of the proposed Master Plan to the neighboring jurisdictions, public utilities, and a few county and state agencies.

As a reminder, there will be a joint meeting on October 28 with the City Commission to go over the proposed Master Plan.

- It will be good for all of us to be there so the City Commission can hear our convictions in case they have concerns. It would be helpful for them to hear from others.
- The public hearing is mentioned in the city's newsletter.
- It is exciting and unusual that there are at least half a dozen projects that are already being worked on that are proposed in the plan that is yet to be adopted.
- We are working on putting together informational kiosks around town so people can learn about the plan.
- We are trying to make sure the public is well aware of the plan.

Julie Schmuker – 4905 Valley Avenue. On the west side of Balsam Drive just north of Chicago Drive, the sidewalk blends with the parking and there is no curb lawn. It is all paved and is unattractive. If the buildings need to be replaced, it is recommended to have the storefronts along Balsam Drive with a curb lawn or decorative bricks and a driveway off Oak Street for parking behind the buildings. This would be safer for road and pedestrian traffic and would be more attractive to have an old fashioned storefront. Likes the idea of a Village Green.

- In Europe each town has a Village Green. There is no Walmart to take out local businesses. The community goes to the Village Green where there are coffee shops, a farmer's market and other community amenities. It is a nice concept.

Julie Schmuker – 4905 Valley Avenue. Would like to additional Farmer's Market hours. A lot of working people she knows cannot get there during the workday that would like to go to a Farmer's Market in Hudsonville.

- An idea is to create a comprehensive plan of projects that truly make Hudsonville a more livable city and to put it into a millage proposal. It will take a long time to accomplish all of these tasks.
- One cannot put a price tag on all of these quality of life issues.
- Another idea is through fundraising if we can get a community excited about a project.
- The City Commission could appoint a committee that looks at funding. This could be a starting place.

5. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel J. Strikwerda, AICP  
Planning & Zoning Director