

At 7:02 p.m. the Regular meeting was called to order by Chair Piotrowski on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 remotely via Zoom.

Commissioners Present: Mark Piotrowski, Chair
 Jason Hammond, Vice Chair
 Anna Thompson, Secretary
 Wilbert Fobbs, III, Resident
 Les Stansbery, Resident

Excused: Commissioners - Charito Hulleza and Bruce Kantor

Staff Present: Dr. Sheryl L. Mitchell, City Administrator, Susie Stec, Community and Economic Development Manager, Yvette Talley, City Clerk

Also Present: Scott Baker, City Attorney, Jill Bahm and Meghan Cuneo of Giffels Webster

All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PC-28-20 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. Motion by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Stansbery to excuse Commissioner Charito Hulleza and Commissioner Bruce Kantor from this meeting.

Motion carried.

PC-29-20 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Stansbery, seconded by Commissioner Thompson to approve the Agenda.

Motion carried.

PC-30-20 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – May 19, 2020

Motion by Commissioner Stansbery, seconded by Commissioner Thompson to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 19, 2020.

Motion carried.

PC-31-20 PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PC-32-20 **NEW BUSINESS**

None

PC -33-20 **OLD BUSINESS and TABLED ITEMS**

a. Comprehensive Plan-Virtual Open House

Meghan Cuneo gave a summary of public input of the Comprehensive Plan – Virtual Open House.

Participants were asked - Thoughts on Lathrup Village. Words used to describe Lathrup Village were community, friendly, beautiful and diverse.

Transportation and Mobility – comments were – bike lanes on Southfield Rd., bike trails, wider sidewalks and safer crossings. Other recommendations were – sidewalk repair, eliminate chronic and persistent flooding of sidewalks.

Sustainability and Resiliency - improving sidewalks, eliminating flooding, drainage system improvements, make grocery and restaurant access available on a walkable basis.

Discussed - How should the city prepare for the next natural disaster. Setting up a response team to make sure resources are ready to be dispersed, develop a disaster recovery plan, make sure there are adequate police, fire and medical staff.

Discussed -How much would residents be willing to spend annually- 50% residents willing to spend \$1-\$50 per year to make improvements.

Discussed Southfield Rd. on-site parking- buildings on Southfield Rd. should be improved, cars should be parked in lots, not on city streets, expanding parking areas should be permitted but only with a development project, landscaped screening of parking areas are important.

Discussed - Additional Feedback- code enforcement, drainage system, create strategic volunteer engagement through tree planting. Participants were able to select a place on the map and leave a corresponding comment about that location; example the blight on Southfield Rd. to make that a priority. Green scape around I 696 intersection and safer signage.

Jill gave an overview and answered specific questions on neighborhoods and development sights.

Discussed - Neighborhoods – are important because they draw people together and are the building blocks of the community. Social networks within the neighborhoods tend to be significant because they encourage civic participation. Disconnected neighborhoods people are less likely to feel like they're part of the overall community. Strengthening the neighborhood ties the community together and improves the quality of life for everybody.

Discussed why there is low resident participation in the survey from those who live south of I-696. Why?

Commissioner Hammond stated most city events are held at civic center district. Most businesses that are frequented are in the civic center district. It takes effort for those in the southern portion of the city to participate. We need to find ways to integrate neighborhoods in the southern area of the city into the community.

Commissioner Fobbs said it feels like to two separate Lathrup Village's. Commissioner Piotrowski said he feels there are larger areas to walk about in the northern neighborhoods. The expressway contributes to the feeling of separation and newer homes are in the southern section of the city and the housing character becomes less historic. Commissioner Stansbery discussed what's the perception of Lathrup Village as real estate agents market the neighborhoods. Jill Bahm stated the lack of trees south of I-696 makes big difference in how the neighborhoods feel.

Discussed – Parks and open space, convenient shopping a place to relax meet with friends the city doesn't have a lot of this type of space but we do have several park areas – mini parks are within a five-minute walk radius from neighborhoods, neighborhood parks are 10- minute walk. Convenience goods-gas stations, grocery store (Kroger 12 mile/Evergreen), a couple restaurants on the north end of the city the library and there are no pubs/bars in the city. Comprehensive Plan and future land use map show a mix of uses along Southfield Rd. and the civic center/village center area in the middle. Years ago a non-motorized transportation plan was done along with a complete streets plan. Mile roads commercial/automotive uses at the intersections, single purpose office district, multiple family districts. Years ago a non-motorized transportation plan was done along with a complete street plan and due to the city being divided into 4 sections, we need to make the city more walkable. Lathrup Village is a unique city and each time we meet with the Oakland County Road Commission it is stressed to make the city more walkable. Bike route signage and repair stations coming to the city soon and will continue to work with the Oakland County Road Commission. We may have to think about a way for people get around the city by making additional improvements within the neighborhood to be more accessible for pedestrian and bicycle access. A possible solution would be to create a neighborhood association to get people more engaged. Commissioners Fobbs said we need more community connection-suggested block parties. Commissioner Hammond said we need to try to engage the people who are active in the city like; City Council to help identify a leader in each section of the city to be a liaison for each quadrant of the city. Other suggestions to bring residents together– competition between different neighborhoods-for a small prize/bragging rights and cross neighborhood potlucks.

Jill Bahm gave an update on the 3 redevelopment sites –

1. House in the Woods – open house feedback from residents suggested build residential housing, walking trail, gardens, or a dog park. Attorney Baker stated City Council will send an RFP to list the property. Discussion – the design of the homes built on that property has to fit in with the current design of homes.
2. Southfield Rd. south of I-696 between Margate/Rainbow there is a vacant lot designated as mixed use. Susie Stec gave history of property – it's overflow parking for Primerica (doesn't think it's being utilized in that manner)
3. Annie Lathrup School – located in the village center can be utilized. Suggested uses – condominiums, refurbished stores/office space, senior living or an expansion of the civic center. Discussion – a lot of work needs to be done on the property to make this a viable redevelopment without incentives. It's a historical gem for the city. Will come back with some concepts/images that maybe respond to what was heard from the community and the comments made by the Planning Commissioners. Next step is to work on draft plan and update as needed. Planning Commission and Downtown Development Authority

discussion in August. Tentative dates – When ready, City Council will approve distribution of final draft. Will hold Public hearing and adoption by December 2020.

PC-34-20 OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Jill Bahm gave an update on Panera Bread – She has discussed with Mr. Surnow about a different type of use (medical use) and what the timeline would be.

PC-35-20 GENERAL COMMUNICATION & CORRESPONDENCE

a. Legal Update

Scott Baker stated June 15th was first reading of the swimming pool ordinance to permit above ground pools. Will remove confusing language from the ordinance about the apron being at ground level. Pools must comply with all requirements of the zoning ordinance. The ordinance should be approved next month.

b. Planning Update

None

Staff Update

Susie Stec discussed- how Panera is doing through the pandemic and they're doing well with curbside pick-up. Thanked everyone for assisting with Southfield Rd. corridor clean-up -30 participants. Distributed 156 re-open kits to Lathrup Village and Beverly Hills businesses. (80 Lathrup Village businesses) Patronicity goal was met \$6,000 along with \$4,000 match from Oakland County will be used for mini-grants for DDA businesses. Planters/hanging flower baskets will be displayed along the business corridor. Susie Stec's Summer hours – Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday and working from home Wednesday and Friday.

Dr. Sheryl Mitchell said City Hall has reopened -8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Please wear mask and practice social distancing. You may make payments, submit forms by using the locked drop box located on north side of city hall, use the lock box for absentee applications/ballots and our online systems.

PC-36-20 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Thompson to adjourn this meeting.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37p.m.

Submitted by Yvette Talley

Recording Secretary