

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

January 25, 2021

Special Meeting

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Houk at 6:00 p.m. by a virtual Webex connection due to the Coronavirus-19 pandemic, as temporarily allowed by the State.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Roby Schottke Aaron Schlabach Christine Houk Randy Holt Ted Berry

1. Ms. Houk explained the purpose for this evening's meeting was to receive an update on the Town Center Conceptual Framework and relate it to the park downtown & Beulah Park, if time allowed. She recognized Ms. Kim Shields for a presentation on the Framework.

Ms. Shields started with a review of the background for the Framework. This document pulled together all the principles and goals of previous Town Center studies into one piece. The intent of the Framework is to set principles and general expectations to guide decisions in the Town Center. She noted that the overarching vision has been consistent through all the documents, dating back to 1987. She then provided an overview of the updated Framework and reviewed some slides with Council. She shared that the 2019 public meetings and survey that was conducted revealed that there is a desire for more restaurants and activity in the Town Center. Based on the feedback, the illustrative vision plan was removed and a new objective was added to prioritize attraction efforts to businesses that will generate foot traffic and activity. They also expanded the discussion on open space. The survey asked what this civic space should look like and what amenities it should have. The look was split with Easton Town Center fairing a little higher and the amenity of open green space was most desired. She reviewed the goals and objectives, which have not changed, and shared an interactive map of the Town Center.

Mr. Holt asked about the survey questions and Ms. Shields confirmed that more restaurants was the #1 priority. As for open space, the question asked what they would want the open space to look like and offer. Mr. Holt stated that we should look at limiting tractor-trailer traffic on Broadway. Mayor Stage and Staff explained that this has been and continues to be looked at, however, the City has very little control over the traffic on a State Route.

Mayor Stage said he would like to have Council adopt this Framework by Resolution. Mr. Berry said he would like to survey the citizens to see if the focus has shifted since the pandemic. He believes it may have with people wanting more green space and bike paths. Council reviewed the interactive map again and Ms. Houk noted that a key piece to open space development is the distance from the Town Center/City Hall to the park at Beulah. Mr. Berry suggested using green pathways as a point of reference rather than the park, since people perceive an open, green space is an "arrival" to a park. Mayor Stage asked if Council is ready for a Resolution or if an updated survey is needed. Ms. Houk said she feels the Town Center green space needs an answer for its vision in the Framework. Mayor Stage said the looseness of the Framework allows for Staff to have something in hand to work from. Mr. Berry said he feels it is important to have a generalized Framework, but feels focus has changed with people wanting more bike connectivity and is uncomfortable moving forward without new public input. Mayor Stage said any component/parcel within the Framework will have specific discussion. This Framework is sand and not concrete. Ms. Houk asked Council if there were any outstanding issues with the Goals and Objectives of the Framework. Mr. Schottke stated that he views the Framework as a "big picture" document that provides a guide and allows for adjustments for each parcel/component.

2. Ms. Houk transitioned the discussion to park areas.

Ms. Conrad, Dir. of Parks & Rec., provided an overview of the study that was conducted for the park on the former library site. She showed the final, suggested plan and explained the reasons why this was the plan that was decided upon. She shared drawings of plans that were reviewed and thought to be possible options for expansion if warranted in the future. These options offered additional space south of Civic Place and east of Arbutus.

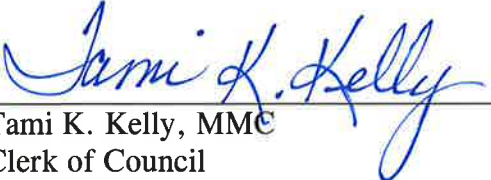
Ms. Houk said the key for her is programming. What is offered would determine how much space is needed.

Mr. Berry said securing the three areas with the proper zoning for parks would be his desire. Then, there could be public input to determine the activity and spacing needs. Mr. Schottke said he is comfortable with zoning the former library site, but feels we should start small. He feels there is a need to increase the restaurant and shopping, as the survey indicated, as well as more residential to support the businesses in the area. Mayor Stage said housing is something we all struggle with.

Ms. Houk asked what the next steps Council envisions would be. Mr. Schottke believes they are ready for a resolution to adopt the Framework; and a rezoning for the former library building site only.

3. After comments from Council and Administrative staff members, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourn at 7:32 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Christine Houk
Chair