

Village of Richfield
Public Works meeting minutes
July 29, 2021

Members present: Beshara, Domanick, Waszak

Others present: Mayor Wheeler and Service Director Papp

Definition of Public Works: We discussed combining Buildings and Grounds with Public Works.

Dark Sky Initiative: The International Dark Sky works to protect night sky. The City of Homer Glen, Illinois adopted this initiative and has valuable information listed on their website. Ralph provided handouts regarding Dark Sky. Ralph stated we could engage P and Z in work sessions to discuss interweaving Dark Sky zoning in our current code and possibly form a sub-committee to work on this. Gary brought up that there are quality of outdoor lighting websites to visit. We will discuss this with P and Z Chair Boester and P and Z Director Frantz at an upcoming meeting.

Center of Town/Richfield Woods: There was much discussion about the center of town and Richfield Woods. Mayor Wheeler suggested that we consider building a permanent pavilion for Community Days, concerts, etc. in the field just north of the front parking lot. Ralph brought up to the committee (photo attached) an idea presented to former Mayor Beshara, the installation of a 4 panel clock. Originally the thought was to put it on the northwest corner by the Tavenre but putting it in the green makes more sense. Other communities have placed similar clocks and it really brings a sense of community and a focus in the center of town. Perhaps we could have seating around the clock, This would require revitalizing center of town drawings, originally done by Craig Cawrse, with a refresh by Landscape architect Rob Morgan. Looking further, this would be a project that we could possibly use TIF money and donations (recognizing donors with a plaque) for as far as updating the plans and installing electricity, the clock, seating, updated landscaping, etc. More discussion with Chris Papp regrading turning lanes at 303 and 21 and what an improvement of underground wiring instead of above ground wiring. We all recognize the enormous cost of these kinds of improvements but will continue these discussions. Waszak brought up the type of gazebo or perhaps a more decorative building such as in Floyd, Virginia to be built on the Green. Waszak made a motion to revitalize the center of town by adding money to the 2022 capital plan for budget to upgrade plans, perhaps \$40,000-\$60,000. Seconded by Domanck. Motion carried.

The committee then discussed extending sidewalks in the center of town, and consider the kind of surface and the look of the sidewalks, standard vs. meandering sidewalks. Mayor Wheeler updated us on the renovation of the Veteran's Memorial but would have more information later for Council.

Crosswalks: We asked Papp to look into crosswalks at both Humphrey and 303 and at the Parker-Serdinak Trail. Both will require Papp to work with Council and ODOT to see if either or both of these will meet standards that enhance safety of pedestrians.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM. Next meeting: Thursday, October 7th at 6:30 PM

*Respectfully submitted,
Bethie Beshara, Chair*