

Report of the January 23, 2012 Town Wilson Long Range Plan [LRP] Ad Hoc Committee

Report of the Town Wilson Long Range Plan [LRP] Ad Hoc Committee meeting held Monday, January 23, 2012 in the Town Wilson Office Building. Agenda for this meeting was posted at the TW Office, TW Maintenance Building and TW Fire Department on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 between 9:30am and 10:30am.

Meeting convened at 6:30pm. Present: Co-Chairs Bob Werner and Marge Pearce. Kevin Struck – UW Extension, Jim VanTreeck. Gerry Bertsch, Dan Rostollan, Jerome Zimbal, Dale Sommer (TB Supervisor), Kory Wendtland (TWBRFD), Rich Ternes, Larry Pearce.

Werner met with the TW Plan Commission re setting performance standards for the OK Corridor. based upon recommendations from the LRP. It was decided the Highway Commercial criteria may need more study with the possibility of adding additional categories. Werner will continue to meet with the PC on this topic.

Visitor' s Map, which was developed by TWLRP, is now ready for presentation to the Town Board with request for funding. Werner and Pearce will schedule appointment for the February 6th meeting. Possible ways and locations for distributing the map were proposed. These include the TW Newsletter, TW Website and specific sites.

Topic: 'Green spaces' , Parks, Bike Trails and Places of Interest. Team continued to discuss the status of the firehouse park. This was an incomplete priority project of the former Park and Forestry Commission Chair. Current Chair was in contact with Pearce and asked the LRP 'get involved' .

Agenda packet included the report of the 2010 Fire Study Committee [attachment 1] and the data put together with the resulting recommendations [attachments 2,3, 4] from the 2011 Fire Study Subcommittee, as submitted by Sommer, Rostollan and Phil Mersberger. TW is a member of the 'Fire Partners' along with Oostburg FD and the towns of Holland and Lima – they do not have their own departments and contract for fire protection.. Currently TW supports (in total) its own fire department [TWBRFD], is part of the county-wide MABAS response team and has part-ownership in the Oostburg Fire Department. OFD is first call-out for 4 square miles (4 southern sections) of TW. Area has between 118 and 125 developed parcels including part-time residences on Lake Michigan and a portion of I-43.. TW has, in the past, paid 25% of the OFD operating and equipment costs. Due tp a substantial increase in the population and equalized value, of the Village versus TW, TW Board is proposing that amount be lowered to 10% and will not get involved in the funding for added equipment. This proposal was rejected by the Fire Partners. No further action has been taken.

The current fire station does not have adequate space for the equipment – one truck is currently housed at the TW Maintenance Building. There is also the ingress / egress response time in serving new subdivisions outside of the Black River area and the businesses which are being encouraged to develop in accordance with the Long Range Plan. There are basically three options:

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- 1) Add bays, meeting space and storage to the north and/or west side of the existing firehouse (where the playground is currently located)
- 2) Build a new firehouse in the vicinity of the OK Corridor
- 3) Build a satellite station to house some of the equipment. Could be at the Maintenance Building Site.

There does not, currently, appear to be a survey map of the firehouse site. And, in the 1960s, the site was a landfill. It would be necessary to do soil borings to determine if the area could support additional structures. The TB has not taken steps to do either at this point.

The matter of the playground area was then discussed. The current equipment is poorly located due to its proximity to Evergreen Drive and the area which serves the firemen responding to call-outs. It is also too close to the north property line and there have been complaints from residents on Pioneer Road. Question of how much local use does the park get was discussed. The team felt most of the residents are empty-nesters, but the playground is used by their grandchildren and for summer rec programs. Refer to reports of prior LRP meetings.

There was discussion as to the needs of the firemen for training and equipment purposes in the open area to the west of the firehouse, Flight For Life Landing area, the stand of mature trees and the parking area on Indian Mound Road. It was determined it might be best to use the firehouse meeting room for the April 2012 LRP meeting when an on-site could be conducted.

Bertsch objected to any further time being spent on the Fire Department Park until a Parks Long Range Plan – a task which the Park and Forestry Commission has not addressed – has been completed. Bertsch feels it is the responsibility of the LRP to undertake that project. Discussion was held as to how to best obtain ‘community input’ to developing a plan. The February 27th Meeting will be spent in developing a survey (based on a format used by Struck) for possible inclusion in an upcoming TW Newsletter.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

TW LRP Co-Chairs

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