

**VILLAGE OF DRESSER
PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 22, 2018
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Richard Durand called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Roll Call: Richard Durand, Elina Kuusisto, and Jeff Gutzmer. Also present Jodi A. Gilbert/Clerk, Ryan Haass/Police, Karen Andrie, Tonya Borg, Cassie Petersen, and Grace Bjorklund. This meeting was posted that a majority of the board members could be present for this meeting. No press was in attendance.

Discussion was held regarding the Silver Ridge Green Area. Kuusisto asked why are we as a board looking at this. The developer of the property stated this area would be developed as a park. Is it the Village's responsibility? I don't know if we should be putting a lot of money into this area. Andrie stated this was originally owned by the developers. There was letter from G&D Developers on 4/5/01 stating that the Village Zoning Ordinance requires 1 acre of park space for each 15 dwelling units. The proposed subdivision contains 87 lots, which requires 5.8 acres and the proposed subdivision provides for 4.6 acres of park space. Planning commission discussed the number of easements for this area. The Board accepted the green space and dedicated it to the public. In June of 2012 there was a survey. Does the Village clean it up and mow it or leave it as is. Out of the responses there are now only 6 remaining homeowners that still live in the neighborhood. Andrie continued there were two meetings – one of which was cancelled and one meeting where nobody ever showed up. Flandrena and Thanig were going to look into cleaning up the area. With buildings going up - there were homeowners who didn't realize there were easements. Andrie continued I was told there was going to be a park area. There are a lot more kids in the neighborhood and they play in the road. I wish the police officer would patrol and watch the cars going through there. All I am asking is to maybe revisit a survey. I am not saying spend all kinds of money. Let the homeowner's decide what they would like to see there and bring it to the board. Take a look at the survey that had been handed out. I made a list of some of the things the survey should have on it – there is a lot of money. Several months ago I remember hearing about \$19,000.00 for playground equipment. Monies were being saved. We still have playground equipment in the current park. We have a neighborhood pot luck in June. This would be an ideal time when all of those homeowners would be together to do a survey have a box and have someone count. That is all I was saying. Kuusisto stated it is a pretty green space. If we start mowing we are going to be continuously mowing that area. I like the idea of having a walk way. We could meet half way. Use as a park space and people could walk/bike. I like that idea. Gutzmer stated since I live in the area I have my pros and cons on it. If we put in some type of access this may require some type of tree removal. It would be nice to get the pulse of the area. This should be tabled until we get some more input. Do we do the survey? Kuusisto asked is this feasible to do? Where do we go from here with this? Gutzmer stated do we table this until the July meeting. The block party is June 21st. Kuusisto asked do we figure this out prior to this – do we talk to finance? Gutzmer asked do we talk to public works. Kuusisto asked about putting together this survey – Gilbert put together the previous survey – could we come up with draft prior to the June 4th meeting. Kuusisto asked can it be emailed. Andrie stated I can get you a copy of her survey. The committee reviewed Andrie's suggestions for the survey. I don't want to see it all mowed down. Could it be landscaped and some playground equipment installed. Gutzmer stated we give some choices could they rank their choices. People need to see those access points. The survey from 2012 was handed out. Kuusisto stated leaving it as currently exists is a good option. My personal preference is the 2nd bullet point. Put #2 on the survey. Durand stated we should reword #1 – it

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is not real clear. Gutzmer stated I like the 2nd bullet point. 1. Clean it out 2. Install a walk way benches leave wild 3. Leave as is 4. Other suggestions. Durand stated that would be good. Will people be willing to respond? Kuusisto stated could we have them rank the 3 options. If everyone wants it groomed and mowed I don't know if we can that. Have them ranked 1,2,3 by importance. Gutzmer stated do we need board approval. Kuusisto stated how do we include the easement information. Do we include a map with the survey? There would have to be some tree removal at the access points. Easements are already in place. There are 4 easements are we going to use all four or do we use one Gutzmer asked. Kuusisto stated if trees are going to be removed I may not be in favor. Kuusisto stated lets send our thoughts to Jodi on the Survey. Respond by May 29th – the survey can be compiled for the board to review.

Discussion was held regarding proposal from Tanya Borg – Farm, Feral & Stray that the Village of Dresser designate a small piece of property as a community cat shelter area. Durand stated is there any land that anybody has taken a look at. Kuusisto stated personally I am not familiar with any areas. We kind talked about closer to the railroad tracks. Gutzmer asked have you traveled around Dresser. Borg stated I don't know what is available. We can move cats only a short distance. When you talk about how big of a space is needed. Page 5 tells you the base of feeder/housing 36 X 30. It holds 2 to 3 cats. If that can help you make a determination. Gutzmer asked has your organization seen an increase of drop offs. People are aware. Peterson stated there is an increase in people who care and they don't want to see the cats die. We have enough people to volunteer. The units are donated and they will be maintained. We don't want this too close to where people are living. Gutzmer stated my first thought was what do we have by the Village shop. Peterson asked about the piece of land that was going to an alley by F and Butternut Apartments. By the cemetery. The board discussed abandoning of it over 10 years ago. How far should the piece of property be from houses? Peterson stated I am giving them water so they don't go to bird feeders. Trying to keep them away from yards. They are scared to death of people. The property behind the shop is railroad property. Durand asked do we do some looking around. Gutzmer stated we may want to get some input from Rob and Arik. Kuusisto stated that alley area may be ideal. Haass stated you have a local Ordinance against cats running loose. If they are caught at this point they are taken to Arnell. People need to keep their cats under control. They can be on your own property, but if they are running loose they can be picked up and brought to Arnell. Haass stated if we know who the owner is we try to return it to the owner. Durand stated there are several in our neighborhood because the neighbors are feeding them. Gutzmer stated they are going to be running regardless. Haass stated State Statute says that you can't release. This is the same Ordinance for all animals at large. Does the Village want to change the Ordinance? Gilbert asked if we allow cats in a specific area is the Village liable if someone gets bit and/or scratched. Borg stated the volunteers have a waiver – there is one at the Baldwin trailer court. That is privately owned property. There is another one in Hudson, but that is also on privately owned property. In St Croix Falls a person who has privately owned property is looking into this. Gutzmer joked with Peterson are you donating some property. Peterson stated I would but I have 3 neighbors that would complain. Borg we tip the ears so people know who they belong to. Kuusisto stated we need to look at the Ordinance and figure out and liability on public property. I would really like to see something done on this. They are out there and it is not getting any better. People are feeding them in different areas. It is not a simple solution. Kuusisto asked what do we do from hear. Gutzmer stated do we bring some concerns to the board and the liability issues to Attorney Laux. Kuusisto asked what about looking into private lands. Durand stated this is still at a discussion point. Motion Kuusisto/Gutzmer to recommend that the board discuss this issue more in depth

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specifically liability concerns, current Ordinance, and location on private or public lands. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Discussion was held regarding parking in Soo Line Park. Durand stated I believe the area is currently being used by private residents. Kuusisto stated I see it sometimes. Durand asked do we have an Ordinance against that. Haass stated you have no Ordinance. It is not officially a parking lot. Several years ago the Village crew dumped rock in that area and I don't who gave that direction to them. It was done shortly after they did County Road F. At this time there is no enforcement I can do Haass stated. With the rental it depends on who lives there. Gutzmer asked if we are getting a lot of complaints. Haass stated one email and one citizen. Andrie stated that Greg couldn't understand why they dumped in there. No one can park there because the renters are there all of the time. Gutzmer asked about putting parking hours in the park. Haass stated we have park hours 10PM to 6AM. You could add to the park hours to include off street parking. Are you then closing the tennis court and the park at the other end of the walking trail? What about the maintenance of this area and how is it being plowed. This year people got off the rock area and tore up the grass. At this time they are not plowing this area. Andrie stated it is illegal to park in the park – onto the grass – we have the parking spots there. One option would be to eliminate it. Andrie stated I don't want it to be a spot – my brother, Greg, can't understand why they did it in the first place. Haass stated my suggestion would be to close the off street parking to the same hours as the park unless you have prior approval from the police department. We have events such as the Pumpkin Train where they need to leave things overnight. Kuusisto stated if we make it an official parking area then we add the maintenance issue. Gutzmer stated if we were going to allow it we would need to create a new Ordinance to regulate it or add a change to the Park Ordinance. If the area is eliminated then there is no changes needed. People can park on State Street. People can park there to use the park. Most people that use the park are walking through anyway and kids use the park. Kuusisto stated what do we need to do to eliminate the parking area. Durand stated that would leave the rest as they are and I like that idea. Motion Kuusisto/Durand to recommend to the Village Board that they eliminate any off street parking on East Avenue along Soo Line Park. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Discussion was held regarding a revision to Ordinance 9.071 Cigarettes and tobacco products. Haass stated this is an easy fix. Due to the fact that people now vaping, and it is banned for kids under 18 we need to update our Ordinance. We can add nicotine products to our Ordinance and I can then write a Municipal ticket. Durand asked is there anything else that needs to be added. Motion Durand/Kuusisto to recommend to the board that they review draft language to add nicotine products to our current Ordinance #9.071 and to move forward with passage. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Discussion was held regarding changing the Ordinance when a homeowner sells their properties that lot lines need to be verified/reestablished prior to selling. Gutzmer stated this sounds like a good idea. Durand stated the homeowner can do this if they want to. The Village does not settle property line disputes. This is why there are licensed surveyors in the State of Wisconsin. Any homeowner can pay to have his property surveyed. No action taken at this time.

No other items were discussed.

Motion Durand/Gutzmer to adjourn at 6:10 PM. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Jodi A. Gilbert - Clerk/Treasurer

These minutes have not been approved.