

Plan Commission Meeting November 1st 2016

Gordon Rowley called a special Plan Commission meeting to order at 6:00PM in the meeting room at the Town Hall. Present were Gordon Rowley, Carol Williams, Jim Schorer, Peter Jacobs, Ken Uhlhorn, Cal Oldenburg, Bill Nelson (alt.), Haley Adams and 5 visitors. Doug Smith was absent.

Deputy Clerk verified posting. Motion made/second Carol/Ken to accept the agenda. Carried.

Continue discussion on traffic/parking concerns in downtown area - Gordon first introduced the Plan commission members and then introduced their two guests. Rob Burke, UW extension Door County, along with Todd Johnson, UW extension River Falls were present upon invitation by the Plan Commission. Gordon gave a small overview of the perceived parking issues and hopes Rob and Todd can offer some of their expertise on how to deal with the issue.

Todd suggested administering a parking study rather than a traffic study due to the complexity of Baileys Harbor's seasonal tourism. In his experience, Todd expressed that heavy foot traffic can positively impact spillover business and can directly correlate to generating commercial growth. Todd recommends the Town conduct a parking study based strictly on counting parking spaces during an entire calendar year with heavy focus on the peak season. Gordon explained that the primary concern pertains to the ingress and egress of School Alley. Todd explained it can be somewhat difficult to anticipate traffic/parking issues without the business in full operation. Todd gave testimony from his previous work with similar. He found that having a clear delineation of reality vs perception will be most beneficial when conducting a study. In his observations, business moving into your downtown core is a positive and you will learn the most about your own parking design from the impacts the new business will create. He further explained that Local residents may have a vastly different opinion of parking issues in comparison to visiting patrons. Lastly, Todd reminded the Commission that the best source of knowledge and judgement on parking solutions will most likely come from locals, but if the Town decides to move forward with a study he will gladly offer his services.

Gordon invited the visitors to join the conversation. Bruce stressed the importance of maintaining a friendly fishing community. He fears the trailer parking will be lost and fisherman will slowly migrate elsewhere. Brann Field as well as the Recreation Park were discussed as alternatives to aid in parking. Mariah Goode suggested painting parking spaces along Guy St, she confirmed roadway is plenty wide and now includes sidewalks that promote a safe passage to HWY 57. Gordon also informed the Commission he has been in contact with Paul Salm and Bob Schultz to research options for School Alley. The Commission will actively continue to be proactive on improving the downtown parking issue.

Motion made/second Ken/Jim to adjourn at 7:16PM. Carried.

These minutes are subject to correction at the next regular monthly Town Board meeting.

Haley Adams, Town Administrative Assistant

Douglas Smith, Town Clerk/Administrator