

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024
FRANKFORT, IL – FOUNDERS COMMUNITY CENTER
7:30 p.m.

- I. Call Committee to Order – President McCarey called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.
Attendance: Commissioners Ruvoli, McCarey, Barz, Ponton, and Gentry; Executive Director, Gina Hassett; and Ed Newton, Supt. Building and Grounds.
Absent: None
Guest: Belinda Olszewski

- II. Administration – Gina said she is thrilled to have hired Regina Ross-Ellison. She noted that former employee Lisa Slattery was very helpful after she left and Gina proposed contracting Lisa to hold additional training once certain areas are identified as needing clarification.

- III. Illinois DCEO Grant – Gina is still working with the State to get the Grant Agreement for the money that is earmarked for the Fort Frankfort project.
 - A. Fort Frankfort –
 - i. Town Hall – February 15th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the grants with Senator Hastings. Gina described the set up for seating the audience. There will be a handout to welcome those in attendance. Keith Wallace will set up a sound system and FCTV will record the meeting to be shown on cable tv. Introductions of Senator Hastings, FPD commissioners, Operation Playground and Tod Stanton, Design Perspectives will be made. Dave McDonald will talk about how Fort Frankfort came to be and how it was built. Senator Hastings will talk about the funding. Presentation of the proposed designs will be given. Attendees will be given a paper with stickers of 1,2, 3 to put on the designs that they prefer. A Q & A will also be part of the presentation. Talking points of remodeling the Founders Center versus outdoor projects will be on some slides. President McCarey discussed the feedback from the website. Some residents want to have their pickets from the Fort back if they will not be used. Senator Hastings wants to talk about other DCEO funding that has been given to the Village. The timing of selecting a final design, going out to bid, demolition and purchasing equipment was discussed. Nothing will be purchased until the Grant Agreement is signed. Hopefully, the demo could begin after the summer ended.
 - ii. Survey – There has been 800 views of the online survey. Landmarks that are to be included in the survey were part of the suggestions. Gina will reshare the link to the survey and responses.

 - B. Founders Gym –

- IV. Facility & Property Update
 - A. Founders Center
 - i. Gym Truss Status – An estimated cost is being sought drywall the ceiling.
 - ii. Roof Issues – Discussed in the Board meeting.

- B. Windy Hill OSLAD – Ed reported in the Board meeting that it will begin in approximately 3-4 weeks weather permitting.
 - C. Laraway Road Property – road expansion – No Update.
 - D. Land Donation – No update.
 - E. Five Oaks Park Property – A memo was in the packets. Subject was discussed at the Board meeting.
 - F. Future OSLAD Projects – IAPD released a notice stating that applications for OSLAD Grants are due July 1, 2024. Gina is concerned with the timing, referendum, and finances. Staff is looking to determine if it makes sense to apply for it.
- V. Referendum – A memo was included in the Board’s Packets outlining the needs, costs and timing of going to Referendum. It also discussed the 2022 Referendum that failed. FPD will not have the money needed to make all the repairs to the Founders Cent for the next 5 years. It doesn’t include the maintenance of the parks. Five years ago capitol expenditures were \$1.5 to \$2 million annually. Then when the \$1.8 million bond was issued, FPD was able to spend the bond money on the splash pad, repaving, and other projects with the help of grants. Until recently the newest truck in the fleet was a 2011. Gina pointed out that the staff is conservative in spending, but the needs outweigh the budget. She believes that going to referendum is the answer needed. In 2019 the proposal was to refurbish only half the building. The need is a new facility because the Founders Center building needs better accessibility.
- The question is how quickly the Board moves forward with the process. Does the Board support the idea of surveying the community and move forward with a Bond Referendum to replace it and how quickly can it be done?
- There are two opportunities to hold a referendum in 2024. The first is the spring election, which is too late now, and the November 5th election. By August 19th the Board has to pass a resolution to pass a Referendum to take to the County. Aug. 29th is the date that the County needs to certify it. September 26th is when FPD would have to have information ready to get to the residents to be in time for mail-in voting. Next opportunity after that would be May 2025 when FPD commissioners are up for vote.
- Williams Architects and Design Perspectives would cost approximately \$75,000 to \$80,000 to put it to vote. The consensus was that no additional money would be spent on the Founders Center. It was suggested that the Puent Building should also be replaced. A survey process to engage the community would be the first step. Commissioner Gentry would like more education on how the Illinois Legislature could override the bonding capacity so FPD could borrow more money. The Laraway property was discussed for a proposed building. The ask could be for a Bond Issue versus a Tax Rate increase. Commissioners Ruvoli and Gentry would want to wait until 2025. (Mrs. Olszewski left the meeting). Discussion was held. The process needs to begin as soon as possible for a November 2024 or even an April 2025 referendum. Gina said Senator Hastings has

suggested that a residents' group be established to put a Referendum on the ballot. A Special Board Meeting to be held on February 28th was discussed. Approval of the contract for Williams Architect will be on the agenda.

VI. Miscellaneous –

- The expansion of the ROMA complex was discussed.
- Commissioner Ruvoli asked about the Solar Farm. It was discussed.
- Commissioner Ruvoli wanted to know if PAWS has contacted staff regarding the Sara Park building. No they have not.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – President McCarey asked for a motion to adjourn the Committee Meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Commissioner Ponton made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Ruvoli seconded the motion. Hearing no objections all present voted Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Strand Board
Minutes Secretary