

December 15, 2015 (Village Board Meeting)

**ALLOUEZ VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015
6:30 P.M., ALLOUEZ VILLAGE HALL**

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

President Gast called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Present: Harris, Rafter, Gast, Dart, Green, Dennis,
Atwood (arrived at 6:55 pm)

Also Present: Clark, Fuller, Berndt, Lange, DEO Loppnow

MODIFY / ADOPT AGENDA

Gast / Rafter moved to adopt the agenda as modified. Move item #7, request for a Class B fermented malt beverage & liquor license to #4a and flip flop items #5, options for Riverside Drive design and #6, snow removal on Allouez portion of Fox River Trail. Motion carried (Atwood not present for the vote).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Annual Seroogy's Valentine Run/Walk on Saturday, February 6, 2016 (re-occurring event)
- Campaign Registration Statement, Declaration of Candidacy and Nomination Papers must be submitted no later than 5 pm on January 5, 2016 by those interested in running for Village President
- Resignation of Brent Kehr from the Historic Preservation Committee

Fuller

- An Allouez Bicycle and Pedestrian survey is available online for input on village amenities (infrastructure and programs)

Berndt

- With the major rainfall on December 13-15 we experienced high flows in the sanitary sewer system requiring us to bypass some wastewater out of the system. Approximately 12 homes experienced basement flooding due to failure of their sump pumps and approximately 24 homes experienced wastewater backup into their homes. The Village will be filing a report and working with the DNR to resolve this.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Jim O'Rourke, 2339 Oakwood Avenue

- Feels a Bill currently before the Assembly to remove local control from Historic Commissions is a bad Bill and explained why
- Asked that the Historic Preservation Commission designate the Murphy Cowles Estate as a Historic Structure to protect the homeowners along the corridor that was known 200 years ago as Shanty Town

REQUEST FOR CLASS B FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE & LIQUOR LICENSE FOR WISCONSIN PUB AND PALETTE OWNED BY CARRIE SCHMECHEL – AGENT: CARRIE SCHMECHEL AT 516 GREENE AVENUE (Palette and Pub)

Carrie Schmechel

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- Explained her plan for a Palette and Pub at 516 Greene Avenue and was present to answer any questions

Gast / Dennis moved to approve the request for the Class B fermented malt beverage and liquor license contingent upon all paperwork being filed. Motion carried (Atwood not present for the vote).

SNOW REMOVAL OF ALLOUEZ PORTION OF THE FOX RIVER TRAIL (from 12/01/15)

Judy Poh, 2375 Riverside Drive

- Requested Board and Staff use their microphones and speak a little louder.

Roger Retzlaff, 209 W. Whitney Street and member of the Plan Commission

- Recommended we seriously consider removing snow from the Fox River Trail which would be beneficial to the community so that users of the trail are able to avoid injury and the village and/or county can avoid legal action that could be taken against them.

Tom Delsart, 2502 Riverside Drive

- Is on the trail a lot and feels it is a great 4 season trail as it is. To try to keep it clean and ice free would be virtually an impossible task creating a liability for the village.

Cliff Wall, 2576 Riverside Drive

- Enjoys cross country skiing, however, if it means using the Fox River Trail and not doing anything with Riverside Drive, let' plow the trail.

Jim O'Rourke, 2339 Oakwood Avenue

- We are required to have a pedestrian accommodation and by plowing the trail, we can prove to the Department of Transportation that we are making pedestrian accommodations and that we are also within the area of impact for the highway project. He supports clearing the trail so we don't have to put a sidewalk on Riverside Drive in front of the Murphy Cowles Estate.

Jen Van Den Elzen, 3742 Eastwood Avenue

- Doesn't believe there would be a liability issue due to recreational immunity
- Recommended that we look into a fair way of determining what the desired use of the trail is by the residents in Allouez
- Questioned whether or not snow removal from the trail would really allow us to not have to put pedestrian accommodations around Riverside Drive

Joshua Swobey, downtown Green Bay resident

- Likes to ride bike and has used the trail with snow on it but would support the trail being plowed because it is rather difficult to navigate when there is a little bit of snow on it.

Rehna Bernhardt, 200 W Briar Lane

- Having the trail cleared would provide safer walking for pedestrians in the area. There is usually enough snow on the side of the trails to accommodate skiing and snowshoeing.

Steve Sevenich, 2394 Riverside Drive

- Traffic on the trail in the winter time is predominantly cross country skiers and snowshoers. Why consider clearing this portion of the trail unless the rest of the trail is going to be cleared as well. If the State is going to mandate a sidewalk on Riverside Drive, it seems to be redundant and you are actually

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taking away some of the seasonal recreation.

Judy Poh, 2375 Riverside Drive

- Is in favor of having the trail plowed. The trail would be much safer than having a sidewalk on Riverside Drive. A sidewalk on the east side of Riverside Drive would be hazardous and not get enough use to pay for it being put in.

Rich Leick, 2365 Riverside Drive

- Need to determine how the trail is being used, then decide whether or not to clear it.

Don Halron, 2536 Riverside Drive

- Give it a try, if it doesn't work, cut it out.

Rod La Luzerne, 541 W. Briar Lane

- Is a biker in summer and walker in winter and he is for plowing the trail. The sidewalk, as soon as there is much snow, is unwalkable. The sidewalk gets plowed, then the street gets cleaned off and it's all pushed back onto the sidewalk.

Tom Delsart, 2502 Riverside

- Plow 4' (standard sidewalk width) of the 12' trail with a snowblower for the walkers and to accommodate the state DOT as an alternate to sidewalks. This also allows winter people the resources to enjoy the trail.

Mary Lou Jaekels, lives in Parc de Langlade

- Green Isle Park has a lovely trail for skiers, but not a good trail for walkers

Heather Gentry-Nimmer, 249 Kenney Street

- Feels we are excluding a large portion of the population in Allouez if we don't plow. Try it for a year. Believes Green Bay and De Pere are also interested in plowing their portions.

Gast / Green moved to defer action on item #6, snow removal issue until after public comment on #5, Riverside Drive design issue. Motion carried.

TWO OPTIONS FOR RIVERSIDE DRIVE DESIGN (from 12/01/15)

Gast explained this is a State Highway. Construction of the highway is currently scheduled for 2021-2022. We are looking for input as to design alternatives to suggest to the Department of Transportation in terms of what we as a Village would like to see in the overall design concept. Input as to design alternatives.

Roger Retzlaff, 209 W. Whitney and Plan Commission member

- Would be great to have sidewalks so people could circulate more effectively in the neighborhood
- Would like to see bicycle accommodations, but he would ride on the road whether it has them or not
- Should be designed to allow for and encourage the growth of bicycle and pedestrian use
- Would like to see bike lanes be designed and included from Taft Street to Lazarre thru the 172 interchange area
- Thinks it would be better to have more crosswalks than shown

John Trester, 2030 Jourdain Lane

- Is in favor of designing the highway with no pedestrian or bicycle accommodations if an alternate parallel route is provided. That would require redesigning the Fox River Trail to include: 1) lighting, 2)

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clearing properly, 3) open 24 hours, 4) have an adequate width of 16 – 18’ striped for separation, 5) maintained by the Brown County Highway Department and 6) remove the mandatory fees.

- As for the historic structure on Riverside Drive, he doesn't see why it can't be picked up out of the ground, restored properly so that it is really nice and then move it east 20'.

Judy Poh, 2375 Riverside Drive

- If they move the Murphy Cowles Estate fence 20' they would also remove her and her neighbors shrubbery and they would then have a sidewalk right in front of their front door. Leave it alone. She likes the idea of having a wider trail so it could be used by bicycles, joggers, walkers, etc. and not be congested at all. Doesn't think it would be any more expensive to do that and maintain it than it would be to put in 5' wide sidewalks.
- Let's have more than 3 access crossings on Riverside Drive.
- Look at reducing the speed limit to 25 mph to be consistent with De Pere and Green Bay.

(Atwood arrived at 6:55 pm)

Tina Plouff, 321 Braebourne Court

- With Riverside Drive being a state highway, it's busy, and to think about putting a sidewalk or bicycle lane is ludicrous. Not only would the fence area have to come down, but 2 huge cotton woods would be in the way of widening the area as well and to take them out would cost thousands of dollars.
- There are exceptions for sidewalks allowed. Let's exempt bicycle and pedestrian from 172 going south to Allouez Avenue. The area with the fence is unique, it has become kind of a landmark and consider designating it as a historic structure.

Don Halron, 2536 Riverside Drive

- Every time you make the road wider, you are compounding the problem of snow removal. There is no place to put the snow.

Cliff Wall, 2576 Riverside Drive

- Leave Riverside Drive, at least the section from Allouez Avenue to Lazarre the way it is and just resurface it.
- Plowing the trail which gives us the access we need and a much safer corridor for transportation of bikers, walkers, etc.

Ann Laes, 434 E Mission Road

- Likes Riverside Drive the way it is and feels sidewalks on that road would be too dangerous. She is for trail usage. Expand the trail to allow for pedestrian traffic in the winter months as well as recreational users. Also in favor of getting rid of the fees as long as the trail is being used as a sidewalk.

Jen Van Den Elzen, 3742 Eastwood Avenue

- If the trail is going to provide bike and pedestrian accommodations instead of Riverside Drive, we need to look at funding for those improvements, look at lowering the speed limit, provide better crosswalks and increase access points which would require real estate acquisition.

Rich Leick, 2365 Riverside Drive

- We have to preserve our heritage. He suggested rerouting the highway to Webster, narrow Riverside Drive, bring it down to two lanes north of 172, put in the bike lanes and sidewalks and you will actually expand peoples yards by doing that.

Roger Retzlaff, 209 W. Whitney Street

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- Previous suggestion had been examined early on in the design process. The two or three lane roadway with bike lanes and sidewalks is a realistic solution. They have been used in other communities nationwide successfully.

Jen Van Den Elzen, 3742 Eastwood Avenue

- Encouraged the Village to push back on the design with the DOT. It seems as though this would be an option that would potentially please residents on Riverside Drive and also residents that want a safer road to cross to get to the trail and to have adequate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. She would like to see the original option again and knows it can be done based on precedence around the state.

Mary Harrison, 1484 McCormick Street

- Supports Jens comments. Challenges us to be a community that leads other communities in our state.

Heather Gentry-Nimmer, 249 Kenney Street

- Whether you are in favor of bike lanes or not, speed on Riverside Drive seems to be the cohesive issue. Bike lanes, shrubbery, and sidewalks are all traffic calming measurers and do tend to bring speeds down a little bit. She understands the Fox River Trail is ultimately the safest option for bicycle commuter traffic, but her concern is the land acquisition for widening the trail. Safety and speed on that road need to be considered for everybody.

Judy Poh, 2375 Riverside Drive

- Thinks the DOT should be asked to reconsider the two lanes and the twiddle in the middle. Thinks this would solve a lot of problems for all sides concerned.
- If there is a 60' access on the trail, she doesn't think you would have to acquire property to widen the trail.

Curt Beyler, 511 Beaupre Street

- Riverside is a critical community route. We need either the Fox River Trail kept open, lit, plowed and maintained with safe access across Riverside or we need to put in bike lanes and sidewalks on Riverside. We need to plan for the future.

Ray Bares, 2702 Lola Drive

- As a truck driver, when you have someone on a bike lane or even the sidewalk, the amount of air turbulated by those trucks and their wheels is very dangerous even at 25 mph. Therefore, he can not see any viable reason to put bike lanes or sidewalks on Riverside.

John Harrington, 560 St. Mary's Blvd

- Concerned with the speed on Riverside and doesn't feel bike lanes would be safe. The trail is a good option and should be looked at. Hwy GV may be an alternative and better option to get the State Highway out of the Village. Snow removal is going to be an issue if you narrow the road.

Tom Delsart, 2502 Riverside Drive

- The idea of reducing Riverside Drive to two lanes of traffic with the volume of traffic we have doesn't seem plausible. Bikes lanes would be very dangerous. The Fox River Trail seems to be the only safe system. He is against widening the trail 4'.

Jen Van Den Elzen, 3742 Eastwood Avenue

- We know statistically that if we narrow the road visually and physically vehicles will go slower and that will result in fewer accidents. A safe and viable option to consider is the twiddle option that would reduce the speed and make it much safer.

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Jim O'Rourke, 2339 Oakwood Avenue

- By establishing the Murphy Cowles Estate as a local landmark, the property owners adjacent to that can force the State to give them extra ordinary consideration for an alternate use for pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. And by establishing the Murphy Cowles gate as a local landmark, using the Fox River Trail as a pedestrian and recreational bicycle accommodation and having Riverside Drive with a wide outside lane, he thinks we would meet all the federal regulations and show the DOT that we are working hard to include bicycles, pedestrians and the rights of property owners as well as historic structures in this one project.

Discussion:

- Safer crossings are needed on Riverside Drive to access the Fox River Trail
- Incorporate speed reduction concepts into the redesign to reduce the speed
- Whether or not to expand (widen) Riverside Drive
- Fox River Trail is a viable alternative for people that want to walk and bike
 - o Plowing (will De Pere and Green Bay plow as well / try it for a season), lighting, maintenance, recreational immunity
 - o This is a State Recreational Trail maintained by Brown County Parks Department
- Include sidewalks in the commercial area if possible without expanding roadway
- Could money designated for bike lanes on Riverside Drive be used for a safer option on the Fox River Trail
- Obtain more information from Matt Kriese, Assistant Director of Brown County Parks

Gast / Rafter moved to charge our Park and Rec Director to develop appropriate procedures and firm up the cost estimates in terms of plowing half or all of the Fox River Trail and to run any policies and procedures past our legal counsel in terms of the immunities that may or may not apply and to engage the other trail partners in terms of if they have any issues with what we are contemplating. Motion carried.

Rafter / Green moved that we reaffirm our earlier position to inform the Department of Transportation that we as a village are interested in the non-wide outside lane alternative and to send letters to Representative Steffen, Senator Cowles and Congressman Ribble and Senator Ron Johnson. Motion carried (Harris voted nay).

REQUEST FROM BROWN COUNTY COMMUNITY WOMEN'S CLUB TO SELL JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES FOR A FUNDRAISER AT GREEN ISLE PARK ON OCTOBER 22, 2016

Rafter / Dart moved to approve request from Brown County Community Women's Club to sell jewelry and accessories for a fundraiser at Green Isle Park on October 22, 2016. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF JOHN HORN TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Gast / Harris moved to appoint John Horn to the Historic Preservation Committee. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS MINUTES DATED DECEMBER 10, 2015

- a. Pickup truck purchases 2016 budget

Green / Harris moved to approve purchase of pickup truck as budgeted. Motion carried.

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b. Approval to proceed with water utility operator hire

Green / Atwood moved to proceed with hiring of a water utility operator. Motion carried.

c. Vacating a portion of River Lane

Green / Rafter moved to vacate a portion of River Lane (between property at 2606 River Lane and the street). **Motion carried.**

SANITARY SEWER RATE FOR 2016

Berndt explained the need to increase the sanitary sewer rate for 2016 primarily due to the cost increase from Green Bay Metro Sewerage District and recommended a fixed charge of \$12.40 or a 6.7% rate increase.

Rafter / Gast moved to approve the sanitary sewer rate increase for 2016. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Dart / Dennis moved to adjourn at 9:10 pm. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Debbie Baenen, Clerk-Treasurer