

**Mayfield Village
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2012**

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mayfield Village Civic Center. Chairman Brenda Bodnar presided.

Present:

Brenda Bodnar	Chairman
Tom Marrie	Council Representative
Mary Singer	
Merv Singer	
Joan Catalano	
Lorry Nadeau	
Carole Marrie	
Kay Phillips	
Sandy Batcheller	
Shirley Jay	
Bob Haycox	
Steve Jerome	
Joe Doran	
Marilyn LaRiche-Goldstein	

Absent:

Tom Piteo
Jeff Schiemann

Also Present:

Mayor Bruce G. Rinker
Diane Wolgamuth, Director of Administration/Committee Secy.

Mrs. Bodnar opened the meeting and, for the benefit of the three new Committee members, asked everyone to introduce themselves. Mrs. Bodnar thanked Mayor Rinker for attending the meeting to share his vision and goals for this Committee.

Mayor Rinker – Review of Committee Function and Goals

Mayor Rinker related his history with Mayfield Village stating that he started on Council in 1987 and became Mayor in 1993. He has always found that the Citizens Advisory Committee to be a good sounding board. The Committee was started by Mayor Fred Carmen and Mayor Rinker suspects Mayor Carmen's intent was to get feedback from residents. There were many policy decisions made in the mid-1990s, including the golf course, Village Hall, Progressive, and many capital improvements. Citizens Advisory was

critical to formulating policy during this time. Currently, the Committee invites different department heads to attend their meetings and share information. Mayor Rinker stated that he thinks this, too, is valuable.

Mayor Rinker stated that he does not have a specific plan for this Committee. He believes that there has been better interplay between the Committee and the Administration over the last several years and this group has dealt with a potpourri of issues. The items discussed by this Committee find their way back to Administration. When people speak up, both Council and the Administration listen.

Mr. Marrie agreed and stated that the Mayor has many times asked for feedback from this Committee.

Mayor Rinker provided some recent examples dealing with existing or proposed legislation that has resulted in making some residents angry. He stated that it is inevitable that decisions will be made that have such consequences. He believes the key is to find a calmer way to deal with issues. Mayor Rinker explained that legislation has to be general—one size fits all—and must be applied across the board. Typically, only a small percentage of the population is affected and legislation is not always the solution. Department heads deal with these issues every day and Mayor Rinker hopes they talk to residents individually and professionally.

Mrs. Bodnar agreed that everyone should try to get issues raised earlier. She believes that the Mayor, Council and Department Heads have always treated angry people with respect and she believes that this goes a long way to diffusing that anger.

Mr. Singer asked the Mayor about the status of the old Village Hall. Mayor Rinker responded that an asbestos assessment has been done and abatement will be needed. Mayor Rinker described that there was a fire in the building in the late 1960s. This is a building with a lot of maintenance and ADA issues and it is crumbling both inside and out. The building currently serves no real function and without spending money to make major repairs, it is blighted. The police trailers adjacent to the building that were previously used as office space are going to be used at the soccer fields as restrooms and concessions. The Mayor hopes that we will be able to proceed with demolition this spring. At the point, the Community Room is the only structure that will remain. The Community Room gets a lot of use, but has maintenance issues as well. We are working on getting a handle on the condition of the building and are simultaneously exploring the possibility of building another room off of the Civic Center. This is part of an overall evaluation of the Town Center. The opening of Heinen's back door has changed the parking situation here at the Civic Center. Mayor Rinker stressed that all of this is going to take some time but that the goal is to have a Town Center that looks good and functions well and includes a larger park component.

Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein asked about the two properties on Wilson Mills that were recently razed. Mayor Rinker described that the property at the corner of Raleigh will be used to create a park-like entryway. The house there was very small and it is a difficult spot to pull in and out. We are working on landscaping ideas and screening. The goal is to work with the neighborhood on the walkway and signage and gateway at both ends. Mayor Rinker stated that the other property is privately owned and, as far as we know, it will just be seeded.

Mr. Haycox asked for updates on the new Library, the trail, and the Hejcl property on SOM Center Road. Mayor Rinker responded that the discussion with the owners of the Hejcl property has been on and off. The Village is less interested in the house than in a piece of the property to create an overlook over the ravine and waterfall. Mayor Rinker stated that the Village is looking into an agreement with the family for an easement which would allow us to build an observation deck tied into the trail. We are simultaneously talking to the Sewer District about restoring the banks of Beechers Brook. Once this work is completed, we can then link to the underpass under SOM.

With respect to the main line of the trail, Mayor Rinker described that we are finalizing easements and expect to be under construction in 2013. The Library has gone through the P&Z process and is seeking final approvals in February. They hope to break ground in the spring with Library completion in the fall of 2013. Our goal will be to open the trail near the same time. Mayor Rinker reported that we had planned to start the trail at Wilson Mills but we have changed that to the property next to the Fire Station. This will allow us to create a trail head and parking area.

Mr. Haycox asked about plans for the property across from Governor's Village. Mayor Rinker described that P&Z is currently looking at options for constructing buildings on this property. They are considering one large building or several smaller buildings. Our goal is low profile. In addition, Governor's Village has indicated that they want to expand. This proposal will go through the usual committee process but it appears to be compatible for the location.

Mayor Rinker then administered the oath of office to members Sandy Batcheller, Kay Philips, Marilyn LaRiche-Goldstein and Joe Doran.

Mayor Rinker provided a brief financial update, highlighting road improvements and that the Village's revenue stream has improved.

Election of Chair

Mrs. Bodnar explained that although she had been recently elected as Chair of the Committee, it was necessary to go through the process again for 2012. Bob Haycox nominated Brenda Bodnar, seconded by Lorry Nadeau. There were no other nominations and Mrs. Bodnar was unanimously elected as Chair of the Committee for 2012.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Bodnar asked if the Committee members had any changes to the Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2011. The Committee had no changes and the Minutes were approved as written.

Council Report

Mr. Marrie reported on the following items being addressed by Council:

- With the retirement of Eunice Kalina, Council is looking into providing additional senior services through the Community Partnership on Aging.
- Some pool renovations are being planned for spring, including work on the floors of the bathhouse. The Recreation Board has been discussing the pool admission policy.
- The Ordinance Review Committee is reviewing our sign ordinance and trash ordinance. The trash ordinance is being looked at again after complaints by residents.
- The fiber ring on Beta Drive is doing well. In addition to providing inexpensive internet to our businesses, this ring provides all email and phones for the Village offices.
- Fireworks are again being planned and will be done again this year by Zambelli.
- The Village signed the County's anti-poaching protocol which essentially tries to stop municipalities from stealing businesses from each other. The County is authorizing a \$100 million development fund. Mr. Marrie's view is that we have everything to gain and nothing to lose by agreeing to abide by the terms of the protocol. Approximately 20 cities have signed on and our Planning Development Department is working with the County on many other things.
- The School's Wildcat Park Project is in motion. Mrs. Batcheller added that some of the work being done is School District work; the extras are privately funded.

Mrs. Bodnar asked if construction has started at Deacons. Mr. Marrie said nothing has happened since the successful rezoning.

Mr. Singer asked who is in charge of the hanging baskets now that the Beautification Committee is not doing them. Mrs. Marrie stated that the Service Department is ordering the baskets with assistance from Garden Club members.

Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein stated that she noticed the gazebo renovations being done. Mrs. Batcheller suggested that the Village consider putting white lights on the gazebo year-round.

Senior Services

Mrs. Wolgamuth distributed a copy of the January 2012 newsletter from the Community Partnership on Aging (attached) and described to the Committee the programming and services offered by this consortium of four cities—Lyndhurst, South Euclid, Highland Heights and Mayfield Heights. She described the programming currently offered by the Village and asked for the Committee members' feedback regarding whether expansion of senior services in the Village is something that they feel is worth further consideration. Mrs. Jay responded that she did not feel that many seniors in the Village would utilize the additional services. Mrs. LaRiche-Goldstein disagreed, stated that while the seniors themselves might not think they would use the services, their caretakers are likely in need of the services. Mr. Marrie stated that that was also the reaction of members of the Recreation Board—that the caretakers would be grateful to have transportation, housekeeping, etc. available.

After discussion about the costs involved, which services might be most useful, and the need to market sufficiently to make seniors and their caretakers aware that the services were available to them, Mr. Doran suggested that the Committee provide a show of hands in support. Six of the thirteen members in attendance believed that the Village should proceed to sign up for one year of membership at the quoted annual cost \$58,000 with a review after that time. The remaining members stated that they were not opposed to going forward with membership, but were unsure about how much utilization there would be by seniors.

Upcoming Village Events

Ms. Wolgamuth reported that the VOV would be in the mail soon with the Calendar of Events and specifically mentioned the following:

- Rain Barrel and Compost Seminar on March 22 in the Community Room.
- Wetlands Program regarding Timberdoodles on April 7 at the North Chagrin Nature Center.
- "Music Man" is being performed in Reserve Hall for two weekends, beginning Feb 23.
- Recreation Dept. Easter Party on March 31 in the Community Room.

Comments from Members

Mrs. Jay mentioned that she saw the news article about the Village considering larger toters for recyclables rather than using the yellow bins. She understood that recyclables would be picked up less often and that more recyclables would mean less trash. Mrs. Jay stated that she likes the yellow bins.

Mrs. Marrie reported that the Garden Club's Mistletoe Mart was very successful.

Mrs. Philips stated that the Hillcrest Patch carries lots of local information and is a very useful website.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Wolgamuth.