

April 11, 2024

Joint Meeting CVLDC, Village of Cape Vincent, Town of Cape Vincent

Present: Supervisor Paul Aubertine, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Tim Maloney, Councilwoman Heather Miller, Mayor Jerry Golden, Trustee Pam Youngs, Trustee Bob Ewing, Trustee Christine Stark, Trustee Dave Bonney, CVLDC Chairperson Mary Farrell, CVLDC Member Mandy Mason, CVLDC Member Jim McQueeny, CVLDC Member Bill McDonough, Village Clerk/Treasurer Mary Rupp.

Councilman Alan Wood present via telephone.

There were approximately 32 visitors.

Mayor Golden opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

CVLDC Chairperson Mary Farrell said that the meeting was being held for the purpose of the Village, Town and CVLDC bi-annual meeting.

Chairperson Farrell discussed with the board members that they have received their 501C 3 status, but it needs to be amended as the wrong box was checked stating they are a public organization; the attorney will correct it.

Chairperson Farrell reviewed the CVLDC budget lines with the board members. She explained that the planner, Scott Burto, has an amended contract from Jan. 1, 2024 to June 2024. She stated that a new fiscal calendar will begin and that is the reason for the amendment.

Chairperson Farrell and CVLDC members reviewed with the boards their assets and asked for questions.

Mayor Golden said that the village is working on their budget and it will be adopted in May. He said that he would like to open a discussion about the villages share of the LDC budget. He said that he doesn't feel the village can commit the full \$40,000.00, and asked Chairperson Farrell if they needed it.

Chairperson Farrell said that they did. She said their budget relies on the \$40,000.00 in June from the village, and the \$60,000.00 in September from the town. She discussed the matching funds and how they rely on this funding to merit the matched funds.

The boards discussed the REDI grant and the planner's salary.

Trustee Christine Stark said that the village is financially challenged at this time because of East End Park. She said that she does not want to give the CVLDC any funding as they could use the \$40,000.00 to help with the debt of East End Park.

Chairperson Farrell said that she hears what Trustee Stark is saying, sympathizes, but the CVLDC is not to look like a slush fund. She said that the organization is several years in the making. She said all three boards need to be on the same page.

Mayor Golden said that the village will stay on track with what they are doing and budget the \$40,000.00 for the CVLDC. He said that they will have to look at other funding sources to help them. He explained that the costs got ahead of them and they are looking for a way to ease the burden.

Trustee Stark asked Supervisor Aubertine if the town has the \$60,000.00 for the CVLDC and Supervisor Aubertine said that they do as the town budgeted the funds.

Mayor Golden said that he welcomes the CVLDC to review the Local Waterfront Revitalization Project document.

Councilman Wiley said that the document has been picked over and is ready for review.

Trustee Youngs said that regarding the Comprehensive Plan, the town of Clayton had their Planning Board involved and Cape Vincent did not.

Chairperson Farrell said that they are working on their Strategic Plan, and they have sent out a survey to the public.

CVLDC member Mandy Mason said that one of the biggest items brought forth from the survey was the lack of child care. Member Mason said that this is one reason families aren't choosing to live here.

Chairperson Farrell said that they feel the need to collaborate with our neighbors across the border.

Member Mason said that they would also like to address the lack of housing. She said many homes are being bought and used for AirB&B's. This is taking away homes for families to buy. She also said the school will suffer from this. She said that these issues are part of the Strategic Plan and they need the funding from the town and village to see this through.

Chairperson Farrell said that a draft of the plan will be available in May to share.

Trustee Stark said that she was excited to see it.

Mayor Golden said that the village gave the town a letter regarding the Club Street project. He said that he would like to set up another meeting with the two boards, steering committee and Edgewater.

Supervisor Aubertine said that the conceptual design was done by Edgewater and the steering committee. He said that he wants it to be clear, that the design came from Edgewater and the steering committee.

Mayor Golden said that they are all for the concept, but would like to talk about it.

There was a discussion about the letter the village sent to the board. Trustees Youngs and Stark said they would like a response from the town board.

Mayor Golden said that he would like the town and village to have a civil discussion about the Club Street project. He said that they would like to see a change to the design.

Trustee Stark said that the design was given full approval from the Steering Committee. She said that the ideas of the committee have been dismissed. She said that she wants Figueroa's to be brought in on the discussion.

Supervisor Aubertine said that the steering committee signed off on the design.

Councilman Wiley said that the steering committee has been a part of this all along. He said that he has binders full of emails which he offered to anyone wants to read them.

Mayor Golden said that the plan needs to be a group effort. He said that people have told him they want a waterfront restaurant. He said that the design may have to change. He said that town can own the restaurant and rent it out.

Trustee Youngs suggested a discussion between the boards to alter the current plan to allow for a smaller park and commercial space.

Councilman Wiley said that the grant requirement states that the property will be forever a municipal green space. He also discussed the grants and matches that have already been applied for.

Mayor Golden opened the floor for questions and comments.

Trustee Youngs made a motion to adjourn at 8:35pm

Michelle Bouchard, RMC - Town Clerk