



Special/Study Session Meeting
6:00 p.m., Monday, April 17, 2017
Conference Room
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

FINAL

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on April 17, 2017, in Farmington City Hall, Farmington, MI. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Pro Tem Steve Schneemann.

1. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sara Bowman	Councilmember	Present	
Greg Cowley	Councilmember	Present	
William Galvin	Mayor	Absent	
Steve Schneemann	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Jeff Scott	Councilmember	Present	

City Administration Present

Assistant to the City Manager Knowles
Deputy City Clerk Mullison
City Manager Murphy
Attorney Schultz

2. Approval of Agenda

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Scott, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Cowley, Councilmember
AYES:	Bowman, Cowley, Schneemann, Scott
ABSENT:	Galvin

3. Public Comment

No public comment was heard.

4. Consideration to Appoint James White or Cheryl Blau to the Farmington Community Library Board

Council discussed the merit of both candidates. The consensus was that both White and Blau were great candidates.

Schneemann noted that Blau had expressed interest in serving in other areas in the city if she wasn't appointed to the Library Board.

Move to appoint James White to the Farmington Community Library Board of Directors for a 4-year term ending June 30, 2021.

RESULT:	APPROVED [3 TO 1]
MOVER:	Bowman, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Cowley, Councilmember
AYES:	Bowman, Cowley, Schneemann,
NAYS:	Scott
ABSENT:	Galvin

Schneemann asked administration to thank Blau for her interest in serving on the Library Board and offer her the opportunity to serve in other areas of the city.

Scott clarified that his nay vote was in support of Blau.

5. Presentation: Downtown Master Plan 2016 Update

Present: Heather Seyfarth and Matt Parks, OHM

Knowles provided an update on 2016 Downtown Master Plan and acknowledged the committee members who worked on the plan.

Knowles stated that the committee developed project goals as a basis for all proposed decisions. The goals included: build on what's been done, position the downtown for high quality investment, engage stakeholders to establish support, continue to advance a strong sense of place and community, and identify public/private investment.

Knowles and Seyfarth went on to provide an overview of the plan.

Responding to a question by Murphy, Knowles stated that according to a vision plan survey conducted in 2013, community members indicated that they wanted to see moderate growth in the downtown.

Murphy inquired about MDOT's thoughts on various types of crossing signals.

Parks stated that the city can and does use rapid flashing beacons for pedestrian crossing.

Seyfarth shared information regarding art and entertainment in the downtown.

Knowles provided additional information about the Public Art Blueprint. The DDA will be reviewing the proposed blueprint in June. It can be added as an addendum to the Downtown Master Plan. It requires approval from Planning Commission and Council.

Schneemann questioned why this Master Plan is more specific with development opportunities than previous drafts.

Seyfarth stated that being specific is more effective as it drives the type of development that the City wants.

Schneemann expressed concern regarding the design concept and worried that being too specific in the plan without considering all variables could be misleading.

Cowley agreed with Schneemann and pointed out that there are no economics behind the plan. Scott noted parking had barely been addressed. He also wants more information about connecting downtown to Shiawassee Park.

Discussion followed regarding connectivity of Shiawassee Park to the downtown.

Schneemann reiterated that he is concerned that this Master Plan is too specific. He would like to see less specificity with respect to potential development on particular sites.

Cowley doesn't believe the plan takes parking into consideration. He believes parking drives development.

Knowles stated that there is a place holder in the body of this plan to incorporate the parking study. She pointed out that at the time the Downtown Master Plan was prepared, the parking study was not completed.

Discussion ensued regarding parking and the Walker Parking Study.

Bowman inquired as to the deadline for the Downtown Master Plan to be adopted.

Knowles stated that the Downtown Master Plan was not intended to stand alone, but to be absorbed into the larger city-wide Master Plan. There is no looming deadline at this time.

8. Other Business

No other business was heard.

9. Council Comment

Council thanked Knowles for her time with the city and wished her good luck in her new employment.

10. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Scott, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Cowley, Councilmember
AYES:	Bowman, Cowley, Schneemann, Scott
ABSENT:	Galvin

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Steve Schneemann, Mayor Pro Tem

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Approval Date: May 15, 2017