

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on Monday, June 7, 2004, in Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem McShane.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bush, Knol, McShane, Mitchell.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Campbell.

**CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Clerk/Treasurer Cantrell, City Manager Pastue, Attorney Schultz (arrived at 6:45 p.m.).

**CIVIC THEATRE COMMITTEE:** Charles Paul, Bill Richards, Skip Rosenthal, Ara Topouzian.

**MUSEUM REPRESENTATIVES:** Director Linda Horvath, Jack Horvath.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING CHATHAM HILLS SUBDIVISION LANDSCAPING**

Mayor Pro-Tem McShane requested that City Manager Pastue address the first item on the agenda concerning Chatham Hills Subdivision landscaping. Pastue stated that he and Director Gushman had met with Mike Warner of the Chatham Hills Subdivision regarding improvements in the public right-of-way along Brittany Hill. He stated that some of the improvements involving the City would include road striping and cross walk designation.

Mark Ihm, representing the association for the Chatham Hills Subdivision, stated that some of the changes the Subdivision is seeking are due to a need to slow down traffic coming off of Grand River onto Brittany Hill. He stated that as a result of a meeting with Grissim Metz, it was recommended that striping and a marked crosswalk would visually encourage drivers to slow down. He stated that a longer-term goal would be the addition of landscaping to visually narrow the street. Pastue stated that the City would be willing to mark the crosswalk, paint the road striping and provide a couple of trees. He further stated that Steinkopf Nursery, as part of the Emerald Ash Borer program, has agreed to provide trees to residents at the City's bid price.

Responding to a question, Pastue confirmed that the Subdivision association would be responsible for planting and maintenance of trees.

Mr. Ihm stated that the association would also like to post signs at the crosswalk. Pastue responded that the City could provide signs at minimal cost.

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Responding to a question, Mr. Ihm stated that due to the narrowing of the road, a bike path would be difficult to mark. He further stated the association is more interested in providing a safe zone.

Responding to a question, Mr. Warner stated the lighting under consideration would be a solar-paneled, staked system. Discussion continued regarding the landscaping and location of the bus stop.

Council concurred with a plan for the City to fund the road striping and crosswalk marking and provided assistance with signage at a later date.

Pastue indicated he would follow-up regarding implementation of the plan. Mr. Ihm confirmed that the landscape plan will be implemented as the budget allows.

**DISCUSSION WITH CIVIC THEATRE COMMITTEE RE: EVENTS AND PROJECTS**

Mayor Pro-Tem McShane asked Ara Topouzian to provide an update on Civic Theatre activities. Topouzian stated events and activities at the Theatre include:

- Lights, Camera, Call To Action Event
- Classic Movie Series
- Sensation Saturdays
- Movie Meal Deal
- Pre-Movie Ads
- Funny Film Festival

Topouzian stated that the plans for the Funny Film Festival are going well. He indicated that sponsorships continue to come in. He stated the next phase is to meet with City Administration to review specifics relative to the Downtown Plaza.

Topouzian noted that the Civic Theatre Committee is the most effective committee on which he has served. He further noted that the media outreach has been outstanding largely due to committee member, Brian Belesky. Responding to a question, Topouzian stated that Belesky does not currently provide media coverage for the Main Street program.

Bill Richards stated that the Committee is close to a commitment for a national, live radio broadcast from the Civic Theatre during the Funny Film Festival.

Council member Knol stated that the Main Street promotions committee would be approached to assist with the Funny Film Festival.

Topouzian noted that the Committee is in the early stages of planning a "friends of the Civic" drive.

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He stated that the members of the Civic Theatre Committee include: Ron Baker, Brian Belesky, Tom Buck, Kristine Franko, Valerie Knol, Deborah Nussbaum, Charles Paul, Skip Rosenthal and Megan Saunders.

Responding to a question, Topouzian stated that the talent show went well, a little long and he was surprised at the high level of talent. McShane noted that a different time of year might draw a larger crowd. Toupouzian noted the excellent publicity the Civic Theatre events are receiving.

Responding to a question, Charles Paul stated that all checks for the pre-movie ads are written to the Civic Theatre Fund. Discussion followed regarding the administration of fees and expenses relative to the Civic Theatre.

McShane asked if the Committee has considered raising money for a specific purpose, such as dressing rooms for the Theatre. Toupouzian responded that initially the committee focused on events that promoted the Theatre, however, in the future their goals will become more specific.

McShane congratulated the committee on their excellent work.

**DISCUSSION WITH MUSEUM DIRECTOR LINDA HORVATH RE: EVENTS AND PROJECTS**

McShane asked Director Horvath to discuss activities at the Mansion. Horvath spoke about the Museum's photo archives which include 350 photographs of the Warner family. She stated the collection is stored in sleeves and is accessible to the public. She noted that with a recently acquired computer and scanner, pictures for a variety of exhibits and other uses are easily reproduced. She further stated that approximately 100 items were found on the Mansion property that have been made part of the collection.

Horvath stated that the education program is going well in large part due to a grant secured by Brian Golden for student bus transportation. She stated that Brian is also providing teaching assistance at the Mansion. She noted the availability of an outreach education program.

Horvath discussed the text and photos scanned for use in the Mansion's Centennial exhibit and other education programs.

Horvath spoke about the success of the "Queen Victoria's Birthday Celebration" recently held on the Mansion's porch. Responding to a question, she confirmed that this event was a fundraiser. She stated that as a result of acquiring the necessary equipment to host events at the Mansion, additional funds can be raised because money is not spent on rentals.

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Horvath indicated that the Mansion now has an events committee made up of Questers who will organize events in addition to those currently in place, such as the Founders Festival, the Halloween and Holiday Programs. She noted the recent addition of a hat workshop.

Horvath spoke about publicity for the mansion that has included: flyers, signs, publications, cable and internet. She stated that based on her survey of visitors, the most effective approach is word of mouth or drive-bys.

Horvath discussed the printing press and noted a new print shop volunteer. Jack Horvath described the process by which they will produce Christmas cards available during the Founders Festival.

Horvath spoke about activities planned for the Founders Festival that will include: vintage cars, Victorian kid's games, and the antique market and appraisal to be managed by the Questers. She spoke about fundraising items that will also be sold.

Responding to a question, Horvath stated that the Mansion is low on docents at twelve. She noted that the collections volunteers can also act as docents if necessary. Responding to an additional question, Horvath stated that the Mansion averages about 500 visitors a year, excluding school children and visitors during Christmas and the Founders Festival.

Council member Knol asked about programs or activities that would attract a younger crowd. Horvath responded that the exhibits must be constructed and rotated in such a way so as to appeal to both children and adults. Knol suggested removing some of the furniture in a room to provide more space for lectures. Horvath responded that her concern would be storage and protection of the furniture.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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ARNOLD T. CAMPBELL, Mayor

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PATSY K. CANTRELL, City Clerk/Treasurer