

**CITY OF WOODSTOCK  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

Special Meeting  
February 19, 2014  
City Council Chambers

The special meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Andrew Celentano on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Andrew Celentano, Caron Wenzel, Susan Hudson

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mark Indyke

**STAFF PRESENT:** Assistant Director of Public Works Jeff Van Landuyt

**OTHERS PRESENT:** City Clerk Dianne Mitchell, McDOT Transportation Planner Jason Osborn

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by C. Wenzel, second by S. Hudson to accept the January 15, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Chairman A. Celentano, S. Hudson, C. Wenzel, Nays: None. Absentees: M. Indyke. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

**FLOOR DISCUSSION:**

C. Wenzel stated that she asked some of the students if they received their thank you notes from the City of Woodstock and they said they had not. She advised that Steve Thompson stated that he hadn't received his yet either. J. Van Landuyt stated that the thank you notes were sent and noted that he would contact Steve Thompson.

A. Celentano stated that Councilman Thompson mentioned that Marian students knocked on his door soliciting opinions for bike projects. He advised that he spoke to the Council last week regarding what the Commission is doing with the student projects. He stated that they were pleased that the Commission is working with the kids. He reported that Project Lead the Way is actually a K-12 program. He stated that Project Lead the Way is a non-profit and it costs money to be involved with them. He advised that to get someone to come and do a class is about \$500. C. Wenzel stated that it is not an unreasonable amount and that organizations like the PTO donate money for things like that.

A. Celentano stated that Richard Dreyfuss is on a crusade to reintroduce civics in the classroom. He reported that he sent a letter to him regarding the Commission's projects with the students. He advised that his web site is [www.thedreyfussinitiative.org](http://www.thedreyfussinitiative.org).

J. Osborn thinks engaging younger students is possible and he believes it would be exciting to see what they would get into; its project based learning.

**TRANSMITTALS:** (No discussion or action requested)

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Overview of 1/23/2014 Meeting w/ students @ Marian Central
  - A. Celentano reported that the kids are focusing on sidewalks, defining groups that are using bike paths and creating connectivity of the bike paths in Woodstock. He advised that the students are going to survey residents and he noted that they are working on an ordinance for snow removal and are also looking into available grants.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Discuss Holding a Monthly Meeting at an Alternate Location in 2014
  - A. Celentano referenced the meeting at Hearthstone and asked if the Commission would want to do it again either there or somewhere else. C. Wenzel suggested having a meeting one night at the library because it is on the other side of Woodstock. She noted that it needs to be well publicized.

S. Hudson stated that when they did the meeting at Hearthstone there were only two groups of people there; people from Hearthstone and people from the Armory. She questioned who would come to a meeting at the library. C. Wenzel thinks it is good location because it is in town and stated that it would be a public meeting questioning what the residents think about transportation in Woodstock. S. Hudson suggested tagging it on to something like Coffee with the Chief.

J. Osborn suggested the Farmers Market; hosting it either in Stage Left or outside at the market. He stated that people going to the Farmers Market are already in tuned to some of the local issues. He advised that the County did some of their long range planning events at farmers markets.

The group discussed having it at Stage Left. C. Wenzel stated that they could set up a tent since it would be easier to be outside in the Square rather than in Stage Left. She stated that if you want to get to people, you have to be in their face. A. Celentano stated that it wouldn't be an actual meeting and C. Wenzel stated that it could be an information booth where the Commission can talk to people. She then stated that the Commission can't do that because of the Open Meetings Act. She stated that the Commission isn't supposed to be somewhere together unless they are having an official meeting. A. Celentano affirmed. J. Osborn stated that you call it an official meeting and the one agenda item would be public comment. J. Van Landuyt stated that he will check.

S. Hudson stated that she doesn't see why people would go to the library if they don't come to the Transportation Commission meetings. She stated that if people have a real issue they come here. She advised that at the Hearthstone meeting the Commission was soliciting information relative to the survey that was distributed and they only got two people that weren't from Hearthstone. She believes people came to the Hearthstone meeting because they were from Hearthstone. She doesn't think anyone will come to the library if they just say they are having a meeting.

J. Osborn suggested the PADS location or the Farm Bureau. He referred to a meeting the County held at the Farm Bureau and stated that it was an eye opener to hear what the ag community has to say about transportation issues. C. Wenzel believes that would be better than the Farmers Market.

A. Celentano questioned who they would have to contact at the Farm Bureau and acknowledged that if they had a meeting together, there would be other topics being discussed, not just those related to transportation. C. Wenzel advised that the person to contact is Dan Volkers. J. Osborn feels that with the Farm Bureau building being right there on McConnell they will probably have a lot of things to say about the whole area. C. Wenzel stated that there is a lot of truck traffic in front of it too.

A. Celentano asked C. Wenzel if she wants to reach out to Dan Volkers. He asked the Commission if they want to move forward with an alternate location to get feedback from the public. S. Hudson questioned what the Commission would be doing; just seeking out people's opinion about transportation? She stated that the Commission would have to give them a presentation on something; invoking some reason for them to attend the meeting. C. Wenzel stated that commentary on Rt. 47 would really help. S. Hudson questioned what they would want the people to talk about.

A. Celentano stated that if nothing else it would make folks aware that they can have an impact if they just pick up the phone or send a letter.

J. Osborn stated that as a Commission working with the Farm Bureau they can talk to the Mayor and City Council about working with the State legislature to move the project forward. He stated that it would be like a goodwill gesture or cooperative gesture; meeting with them to talk about the issues with Rt. 47 and how important it is to the city and what the ag community thinks about it. He stated that it is very important getting shipments in and out of the county as a route plus there are a lot of active farms along Rt. 47.

S. Hudson stated that it would involve putting on a presentation or sharing some information to initiate the discussion. She advised that it would be a certain amount of work that somebody would have to do. J. Osborn suggesting getting the IDOT project engineers for the project to come out. He noted that it has been awhile since hearing from them, they are getting paid to do the job, but we haven't heard from anybody from IDOT. He suggested getting a State rep and somebody from IDOT to show up at a meeting that the Commission is having at the Farm Bureau. S. Hudson agreed and stated that there would have to be some reason for people to come. C. Wenzel stated that she or Jason can talk to Dan Volkers. J. Osborne stated that if Dan thinks that it's not a good idea, then maybe they go back and talk about what they want to do with the special meeting; is there some greater purpose that we want the meeting to serve. He advised that you can get state officials to come to the County building to have a special meeting about Rt. 47.

A. Celentano questioned if it is the Commission's place and J. Van Landuyt advised that they need to make sure the City Manager and the Mayor agree with going in that direction. S. Hudson agreed and stated that the City is already on top of the situation. J. Van Landuyt stated that the Commission's interjection and involvement may not help the City advance the issues with the project. In fact, it may hinder the progress that has already been made or even take it another direction. S. Hudson advised that the City has a paid lobbyist.

C. Wenzel stated that a lot of people are concerned about Rt. 47 and she advised that the Commission can tell the Mayor that there is a need for information and data of things that people want. She suggested creating a database of things that people really want; it's information gathering. She stated that you have to tell the IDOT engineers what you want to make the place look better and referenced Crystal Lake. J. Van Landuyt advised that Crystal Lake paid for all of the improvements so they would be telling the City Manager what they want them to do but the City might not have the money to fund it. He stated that he wasn't sure if it is the Commission's decision and he didn't think they should be organizing anyone to collect data that might inhibit the progress that has already taken place.

S. Hudson stated that there have already been a bunch of public meetings, which she has sat in on; when they went over everything they wanted. She stated that when they do the plan that will be the point at which you would want to solicit that kind of information. C. Wenzel stated that it is a good idea but it may be premature. S. Hudson stated that it is already being done as part of the process and C. Wenzel questioned why the Commission was even discussing it then. S. Hudson stated that the Transportation Commission is invited to the planning meetings and they will be able to see the plan they come up with and offer their comments on it.

J. Osborn stated that once IDOT has a plan, they tend to defend the plan and not turn back. He stated that it has been a couple of years since we have heard from IDOT and maybe it should be a suggestion from the Commission that the City reach out to IDOT instead of waiting for them to call another meeting because in this state if you're not your own advocate no one is going to advocate for you. S. Hudson stated that what has come out of this discussion is that the Transportation Commission wants to know what is going on with Rt. 47. She stated that if they do have a meeting

specifically soliciting, that is what people would come for, they will want to know what is going on with Rt. 47 and the Commission can't help them with that.

S. Hudson stated that she would vote no to holding a meeting until they have something specific like another survey. A. Celentano stated that if we have a specific idea, then the Commission is open to the idea of having a meeting.

S. Hudson suggested talking to the Chamber of Commerce. C. Wenzel referenced all of the industrial areas on McConnell. S. Hudson advised that she is thinking of a population rather than a location. A. Celentano stated that the population would be truckers and farmers. S. Hudson stated that she is thinking about groups of people who are an organization to solicit information from. A. Celentano stated that they would gather information to share with the Council; he doesn't believe the Commission has the station to go beyond that. S. Hudson stated that for other issues besides Rt. 47, like finding out the other basic transportation issues for the Chamber of Commerce. She stated that if their only issue is Rt. 47 then the Commission can't really help them. She stated that the Commission's venue is the satellite issues.

A. Celentano asked C. Wenzel if she wants to talk to the Farm Bureau to see if he feels it would be worthwhile to have a conversation with his group and the Commission. C. Wenzel questioned what the reason to meet would be and A. Celentano stated to get their input and concerns with what is going on in the City of Woodstock. C. Wenzel agreed to keep it general.

J. Van Landuyt suggested that they formally invite individuals/ groups them to the regular Transportation Commission meetings if the intent is to solicit opinions or comments from certain interest groups within the community. C. Wenzel agreed and advised that they can invite them to come to the Commission to talk about transportation issues in Woodstock as it relates to the farm and trucking community. S. Hudson stated that it makes sense to her and she believes it would be productive for them to put feelers out to different special interest group. J. Osborn suggested inviting someone from Pads, someone from Thresholds, etc. The group felt the meetings should be spread out.

J. Van Landuyt stated that they may need to bring this to the attention of the City Council and letting them decide how they want to partner. S. Hudson stated it wouldn't be partnering, just to solicit. C. Wenzel stated that it would be fact finding issues. J. Van Landuyt questioned what they would do with the information. S. Hudson stated that if they come as three or four individuals every month, they can get pretty turned in especially since people aren't coming to the meeting. J. Van Landuyt stated that he's not opposed to getting people to come to the meetings, but if they are reaching out to start becoming involved in other people's interests that might not be where we want to go.

2. The Richard Dreyfuss initiative - overview

3. Feedback from Woodstock H.S. Students

A. Celentano stated that their feedback was good and helpful going forward. He advised that the students found out how difficult it is to do these types of projects and how a team operates. He advised that they want to know ahead of time the speakers that are coming so they can have their questions ready. He advised that he will put the students' comments together and give it to J. Van Landuyt to send to the group.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Continued Review of Transportation Plan – March 2014
2. Prioritizing Sidewalks – March 2014
3. Bike Rental Plan – Discussion & Recommendation - March 2014
4. IL Rt. 47 – improved pedestrian crossings – April 2014
5. Marian Central Student Presentations – May 2014

6. Improved access to PADS on Kishwaukee Valley Road – May 2014
7. Improved access to Social Security Office – June 2014
8. Discussion on Frontage Roads along IL Rt. 47 Corridor – September 2014

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by C. Wenzel, second by S. Hudson to adjourn the regular meeting of the Woodstock Transportation Commission to the regular meeting March 19, 2014 @ 7:00 PM. Ayes: Chairman A. Celentano, S. Hudson, C. Wenzel, Nays: None. Absentees: M. Indyke. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dianne Mitchell - City Clerk