

April 11, 2024 – Joint Meeting of Village of Cape Vincent, Town of Cape Vincent and CV Development Committee – Rec Park

Mayor Golden opened the meeting at 6:30 PM with Trustees Dave Bonney, Christine Stark, Pamela Young and Robert Ewing present. For the Town of Cape Vincent, Supervisor Paul Aubertine, and Council people Timothy Maloney, Heather Miller and Dan Wiley were present and Alan Wood participated via ZOOM. For the Development Committee, Mary Farrell, Amanda Mason, William McDonough, James McQueeny and Scott Burto. Mayor Golden welcomed the attendees and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mary Farrell began with the CVLDC update, as this is the bi-annual meeting and supplied the financials through the end of March 2024. Mary reminded everyone that the CVLDC was finally granted their 501c3 in October. Mary explained all the financials and stated that the current contract they have with Scott Burto will be expiring on 6/20/24 to get the contract schedule to align with budgeting. Mayor Golden then stated that the Village is currently working on the 2024-2025 budget and one proposal from the Village would be that the funding be suspended for one year, as the Village works to balance their budget. Mary stated that the CVLDC is still in its infancy and a full financial commitment from the Town and Village is necessary for them to move forward. Trustee Stark had then expressed some concern about billable hours that the CVLDC is paying. After a brief discussion, Mary then reiterated that it is her feeling that the CVLDC should get the funding as agreed to with the IMA to ensure that the LDC moves forward as planned.

Mayor Golden then spoke about the Joint LWRP document. This document is up for final review. The document is very large, and the process is very time consuming. Mary Farrell stated that the CVLDC could assist in the review of the LWRP and Trustee Youngs also stated that the Village Planning Board should review the document as well.

Discussion about the strategic plan then began. CVLDC member Amanda Mason then spoke and stated that plan will focus on childcare, center or family, as the need to get families to move to the area is necessary and childcare will be needed. Housing will be another piece and other information will be gathered via a survey they are creating. These survey results will give data to help move forward and will help provide focus to the LDC. The goal at this time is to send the final copy of the strategic plan to the Boards in June and then surveys will follow.

Mayor Golden then excused any CVLDC members that would like to leave the meeting.

Mayor Golden then shifted focus to the Club St. project, as the upcoming vote and the large number of attendees are very interested and would like to have a chance to ask some questions. Mayor Golden and Trustee Youngs began the conversation. They inquired as to why the Town had not responded to the letter of concern that the Village sent to the Town, prior to their last meeting, about the direction of the Club Street project. The Village also stated that as officials, they have received many concerns from Village taxpayers who have many questions about the plan. Mayor Golden stated that he was hopeful that the Town will be open to brainstorm different ideas for the waterfront area on Club St. It is the feeling of many Village residents and Board members that a waterfront commercial space/restaurant would be a better fit than just green space on the entire waterfront of Club Street. At this time, Supervisor Aubertine spoke and stated that he has concerns because this conceptual design that has been created by Edgewater and reviewed with the steering committee is approved and ready to move forward. Mayor Golden stated that the design is a concept only, not a concrete plan. It was then

discussed that the neighboring property owner, Michael Figueroa, was just met with April 10, 2024 and he felt as though the meeting was well overdue and they have several ideas they would like to discuss before anything moves forward, as much of the plan will require docks to be placed on their property and the Town would like to use the bottom floor of their building, potentially for bathrooms.

Trustee Youngs then asked for the Town to formally address the Village's letter of concern. Dan Wiley then addressed the Boards. He attempted to give his own reply to the letter of concern but was corrected by Councilman Timothy Maloney, as he stated that the Town Board did not officially discuss the letter. Also, it was expressed by Trustee Stark, who also serves as the steering committee chairperson, that the steering committee has not been consistently updated by the Town on the Club Street project. As this was discussed, Dan Wiley then produced several binders with paperwork that he stated were copies of all correspondence. A discussion began at that point, changing topics quickly. The Village requested to contact Greg from Edgewater to discuss some options.

At this time, Mayor Golden opened a public comment session. A brief description of each speaker is as follows:

Lee Edsall: Has concern that Town can't support another restaurant and questioned if referendum and bond are the same meaning. It was clarified that the Town is seeking a \$1 million bond.

Colleen Knuth: Wondered if a restaurant could be considered in one of the three phases of the concept plan, maybe in a different location.

Stan "Butch" Bach: Spoke on riparian rights for under water spaces. Also questioned on the idea of not having a restaurant on the waterfront and concerns of having the Town removing the structures.

Marty Mason: questions the LDC about billable hours for Scott Burto and different projects. He corrected a statement made by Dan Wiley about the proposed docks and where these docks would be pulled out of the water and stored during the off season.

Ron Trottier: Spoke about the riparian rights under the now removed boathouse.

James Johnson: Questioned if the Town approved the "ad" put out in the paper. The town approved and the LDC distributed. Mr. Johnson stated that he felt the "ad" was very one sided. Councilman Maloney did state that he didn't see or approve the "ad" before it was distributed. He did get a copy after the fact.

Tammy Mason: Inquired if the Town can use this upcoming summer's data from the Village dock use as guidance moving forward, to see if as many docks are necessary.

Christine King: Inquired who was involved in the steering committee and stated that there seems to be a lack of communication between Board and committee.

Alicia Johnson: Inquired about different parts of Phase 1.

Lorrie Moss: As business owner, feels that waterfront restaurant is crucial, as many tourists are looking for waterfront dining. Also feels a commercial area in that space is needed as well.

Nicole Paratore: Questioned if Edgewater has ever done concept designs for small communities. She also stated that she has first-hand knowledge from the Chamber visitor center that visitors are looking for

fuel, shower facilities and a burger and beer at lunchtime. She also added that she is a member of the steering committee, and she was omitted from much of the correspondence, as previously discussed.

John Mason: Wondered why Capt Jacks property can't be subdivided, as the Figuero's have already expressed some space for parking.

Trustee Ewing excused himself at 8:26pm.

Patty Bach: Stated she felt that the "ad" was a poor piece that was biased. She stated that she is not against the development, just would like clear answers.

Elizabeth Golden: Stated that businesses must stay open with consistent hours to be successful and the locals have to support those businesses.

At 8:34pm, Trustee Youngs made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Trustee Stark seconding the meeting and all voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Rupp, Clerk/Treasurer