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MINUTES
Livable Communities Committee Minutes
Thursday, October 27, 2016, 7:00 pm
Flaherty Room/Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Richard J. Luby, Suzanne Reilly, Saundra Gesek, Karen Baker, Thomas LaPaglia and Stephan Behuniak
Member(s) Absent: Bonnie Wilkes and Elizabeth (Betty) Musto
Others present: Alex Danka

1. The meeting was **called to order** by Suzanne @ 7:07 pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – all present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Public comment**: Alex Danka had suggestions about implementing a welcome packet for new Seymour residents. The packet would provide town info and resources that would help new residents successfully transition into our community.

4. A **Motion** was made by Sandra to **approve the August 25, 2016 minutes** and 2nd by Stephan. Motion Carried.

5. **Members' comments**: Suzanne mentioned the results of the Valley Indicator Project. The project conducted a survey to gain a better understanding the needs of the Valley's population. Suzanne summarized the Senior Population results; Data Haven provided an analysis on a recent phone call survey that showcased 90% of our seniors want to age in place. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines **aging in place** as "the ability to live in one's own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of **age**, income, or ability level."

   Stephan discussed the recent meeting held by the town: Seymour's 10 year strategic plan. Rich Luby and Stephan Behuniak were in attendance. The goal of the meeting was to gain a better understanding of the expectations/desires of a selected group of town residents. The overall pulse of the audience was the need for expanding economic development, beautification of the town and a need for stronger communication internally/externally throughout the town.

6. **Old business**: We reviewed the results from the Livable Communities resident survey. The goal of the survey was to gain insight on what services the town of Seymour provides well and what services are in need of improvement. RESULTS: 45-50 participants,

   1. What programs and services does Seymour do well?
   2. Should any of these programs/services be expanded?
   3. What are the challenges that the town faces?
   4. What are the service gaps?

In summary:

a. Majority were pleased with the towns larger events: Pumpkin Festival, Seymour Pink, Smoke in the Valley

    i. Other services pleased with are Trash pick-up and Emergency Services

    ii. Youth programing

b. Large request for more community programing

    i. Increased activity needed for community center

        1. Better communication to residents

        2. Better marketing to get residents more involved

        3. Better utilization of parks/facilities (Collaborate with Rec Depart)

7. **Other Business**: Committee members finalized the Values portion of our Livable Communities Vision & Values:
   Values:
   1. **Accessible** – Accessibility should not be a barrier between the community members and their needs
   2. **Inclusive** – All members of the community should feel that they belong where they live.
   3. **Proactive** – Continual assessment to improve liability.
   4. **Convenient** – Community members should be allowed the option to meet their needs locally.
   5. **Vibrant** – The community should encourage increased retail and entertainment

   A **Motion** was made by Karen to accepted the finalized Values and 2nd by Sandra, motion carried

8. **New business:** Committee members discussed how we can work to address the requested needs from our questionnaire results. Committee members identified that transportation was another need that can be quickly addressed. Specifically within Seymour's senior population. There is a large need for readily available vehicles to assist seniors as they age in place: shopping & doctor's appointments. Town has designated vehicles for such need in the past. We need to revisit this resource and implement action items to offer these services.

   Suzanne will be sending an email to Community Center asking the current level of transportation services.

   Current Questions: Who would drive vehicles? How do residents access resource? How do we best utilize town vehicles? Do we need to provide a transportation needs survey?

9. **Our Agenda for November 17, 2016**: Develop and deliver the committee's vision. Also we need to continue to discuss the results of the questionnaire, addressing transportation needs and how we best utilize the town's current resources to answer those needs.

10. **Public comment:** None

11. A motion was made Karen and 2nd Sandra to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted by,

Richard J. Luby, Secretary