

A JOINT MEETING OF THE CITIES OF BERKLEY, HUNTINGTON WOODS AND OAK PARK, AND THE BERKLEY BOARD OF EDUCATION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014, AT THE CITY OF BERKLEY BY MAYOR PRO TEM DAN TERBRACK

PRESENT:

Berkley

Dan Terbrack, Mayor Pro Tem
Tina Edgar, Councilmember
Alan Kideckel, Councilmember
Eileen Steadman, Councilmember
Jane Bais-DiSessa, City Manager
Annette Boucher, Deputy City Clerk

Huntington Woods

Robert Paul, Commissioner
Mary White, Commissioner
Amy Sullivan, City Manager

Oak Park

Marian McClellan, Mayor
Erik Tungate, City Manager

Berkley School District

Paul Ellison, President
Randy Travis, Vice President
Roger Blake, Treasurer
Mary Jo Israel, Secretary
Mitchell Moses, Trustee
Ron Justice, Trustee
Dennis McDavid, Superintendent

Mayor Pro Tem Dan Terbrack opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the 5th Safest City in Michigan. In the spirit of collaboration among cities, the Berkley School District, Board Members, Council Members, Commissioners, and elected officials this meeting strengthens common bonds. We are able to build and foster personal relationships through meetings and these meetings are in the best interest of our residents and constituents. He thanked the Berkley School District Board and administration for their collaboration and agreements with the City of Berkley. It has taken a lot of time and effort to complete the purchase of Oxford Park, it makes fiscal and practical sense for both parties. He turned the meeting over to the City Managers in the respective areas to discuss the challenges such as infrastructure, roads, and receiving fewer resources from Lansing.

City Manager Jane Bais-DiSessa welcomed and thanked everyone for visiting the 5th Safest City in Michigan. She talked about what the City of Berkley is working on and an update of the previous year. The roads have been an issue, especially pot holes due to the weather and amount of snow fall this season. The City Council held an important Work Session with administration to identify a plan of action, with roads as key to our community, and to further discuss a road millage. The purchase of Oxford Park was a major undertaking and the City of Berkley is very grateful to the Berkley School District for all their help. Our goal is to strengthen the recreational system, have a mitigation committee, and create three acres of green area within our parks. The Woodward 5 will be meeting to collaborate within the cities to create a bike path for better connection, review Building Codes to create similar ordinances and continue the Sustainability Study that was completed recently. The City Council and administration will be looking into infrastructure and will be hiring a specialist to examine all of our facilities and decide what to do in the near future. An (IT) Information Technology Plan is another issue to be addressed and Jane thanked the Berkley School District for a sample of their (RFP) Request for Proposal. We are working on a Capital Improvement Plan and potentially giving our parks access to Wi-Fi. The City of Berkley will be reviewing a Branding Study to update the city's logo and colors which needs a little sprucing up. The Way Finding Study was initiated and completed one year ago; we are looking to implement it and currently preparing a budget. Jane thanked the voters of Berkley for passing a millage to maintain our services and perhaps expand a little. In helping our residents, we hope to improve and provide cost efficient services.

City Manager Amy Sullivan stated that she has had previous experiences with the City of Huntington Woods which, in turn, has helped familiarize her with the community. They are in the process of budget preparations and their taxable value has increased by 3 ½%. Their cost of living was capped at 1.6% on revenue and they are looking to be fiscally prudent. Ms. Sullivan was pleased to announce their Finance Department received AA+ Bond Rating. They are in the process of

selling bonds for a multi-road rehab project; this will be an ongoing project and in the summer they are looking to start on a couple of roads in the City. Another infrastructure project is redoing Burton Park, thanks to \$330,000 from fundraising and private donations to rebuild playground equipment. The City of Huntington Woods will be responsible for \$70,000 of that project. They are scheduled to update the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and City Master Plan. She concluded by noting that the City has applied for the (SAW) Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater Grant dealing with aging infrastructure.

City Manager Erik Tungate spoke to the four pillars they are trying to accomplish with a population of 30,000 residents. The first pillar is Growth Strategy; they had discussed economic development at last year's joint meeting and now have the department in place with an Economic Development Plan. It is designed for quality of life improvements, business attraction, business retention methods and facade improvement programs. The Oak Park City Council has approved the hiring of five Code Enforcement officers and two Building Inspectors due to huge back log of project requests. They are expanding the Code Enforcement Department from 28 to 37 hours a week to help with blight in the neighborhood. The Street Diet is another method to help improve islands, protected walkways, and green paths to make it safe and pedestrian friendly. Public Safety reports and continuous updates from the Public Safety Department are another important pillar. The City of Oak Park had seventy Public Safety officers in 2000 and it was decreased to forty-two officers in 2012. The current goal is to have sixty Public Safety officers. Recently the Public Safety Department received a Cops Grant to hire three officers but was denied a second Cops Grant to hire an additional three. Other projects include the City Council engaging in a strategic planning process and the City Hall Project was completed on time and half a million dollar under budget. With the savings from the City Hall Project we were able to make some technology improvements. The City Council authorized the purchase of the BS&A System - a Windows based drop down menu system. Code Enforcement will be armed with field laptops and will not have to return to the office to report violations. The City has executed a Parks and Recreation consolidation with the City of Ferndale as resource sharing program. Other issues include a Cops Grant expiring in two and half years for the three Public Safety officer positions. In the fall of 2012, Public Act 345 was put in place for the Public Safety legacy costs. Another issue is crime; this is the number one priority in city government. Just recently, the City honored the Public Safety officers for capturing a criminal who stole from a local jewelry store. He continued by stating that the City Oak Park has become more open to change, growth, sharing, and working with surrounding communities.

Superintendent Dennis McDavid spoke about student achievements including successful MEAP test results, more students are taking AP classes this year with 70% scores of 3 to 5, and 80 AP Scholars in comparison to 53 in 2012 and 65 in 2013. These results speak highly of the building administrators, communities, and teachers. In the Arts Program, there are 175 students in the Drama Club with the help of the newly hired Drama Coordinator who has energized the program and shown progress. Band has increased in members along with Orchestra and Choir who are scheduled to perform in late March at Carnegie Hall. Last night, the Board of Education honored 20 students from grades K through 12 in Fine Art Achievements who won in county and statewide awards. Nearly 40% of the students are participants in athletics. The Hockey Team went to the State Quarter Final and will value their experience. Berkley Wrestler Aaron Parr-Besemer participated in the State Wrestling Tournament. As for cooperation with cities, they are currently working on Burton Community Park with City of Huntington Woods and worked on Oxford Park with the City of Berkley. They are currently working on a Facilities and Technology Report that includes a Facilities Assessment with (IDS) Integrated Design Solutions who is evaluating rooms, boilers, roofs, and technology. Monday, March 31st this draft report will be presented to Board of Education. They will have community meetings, gather input, and move forward with the Board of Education to make a decision with Berkley School District's recommendation. They are likely to hire an architect to look at these issues and opportunities. In terms of Board achievements, as of Friday, Berkley School District has earned the Standard of Excellence established by the Michigan School Board Association. For a number of years they earned the Honor Board that requires each Board Member to complete 30 hours of class time. The next level is that Standard of Excellence in which each Board Member completes 30 hours plus an additional 45 hours of class time. There are over 600 school boards with 27 Honor Boards and 19 Standard of Excellence; this shows their level of commitment and dedication.

Mayor Pro Tem Terbrack commented that the amenities younger generations are looking for are jobs, a downtown, chamber of commerce, recreational activities and a rapid transportation system. We would like to maintain what we are built to adapt to the changes. He spoke about collegial atmosphere, great rapport, communities working together, getting things done, having trust, reaching agreements, making things happen, and working and promoting each area. He congratulated the Berkley School District for their many achievements.

City Manager Bais-DiSessa added that the City of Berkley is in the midst of developing a Mobile Application; it's another mechanism for communication and keeps transparency with the residents. Our community is attracting young families with key entities being walkability and access. The Woodward 5 consists of core cities on the Woodward corridor and our main goal is to promote our communities to businesses and residents. Other goals include continuing to expand, change and be viable in the future, and meet the needs of everyone. She mentioned finance, the economy, and legislative changes impacting our communities. Many issues like medical marijuana need to be addressed. We have benefited from kind public relations including realtors taking the Safe City ranking and promoting it. One of the realtors has also selected the City of Berkley as one of the 12 Best Communities. This is due to the success of the schools, seeing positive changes, and a lot of hard work from the community.

City Manager Tungate added that he thinks that the core city needs to be better, attract the millennial generation, and on a long term trajectory, we will see positive things. The millennial generation wants walkability, bike paths, greenway areas, and outdoor dining. The City of Oak Park is inheriting Royal Oak Township as part of their expansion efforts. Issues being addressed include current commercial zoning ordinance that require a 25 foot set-back and changing from the traditional dry city. The City has moved forward to establish a tavern license ordinance approved by City Council and is working on an outdoor dining ordinance. City Manager Tungate recommended that the City of Oak Park host an alumni event for the students that graduated from Berkley School District at their new City Hall. He suggests that the communities should share a foundation to promote schools and businesses. The retail shops, art incubator and other businesses can be replicated in our communities; with coordinated efforts and power we can do many of these changes.

Vice President Randy Travis announced that Berkley School District is the number one district in Oakland County with over 90% of students still in college after 2 years enrollment. He invited everyone to come to the Berkley Home Improvement Expo on Saturday, March 15th at Berkley High School from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event helps promote local businesses, encourages families to improve their homes in the district, and increases values in the cities. There is currently an alumni newsletter created for the purpose of promoting schools and communities. Vice President Travis suggested that something similar to Wayne State University's Incubator Program and Groves High School Business Center can be mirrored here.

Commissioner Mary White talked about bringing youth back into our cities and having development available to our graduates. To bring back growth, develop young neighborhoods, and attract young educated people. For example, heating and cooling is a much needed skill set and can possibly attract our students back on an informal basis.

Councilmember Alan H. Kideckel stated he has seen younger generations move in and being proactive. We are headed in the right direction with the tri-city area working together. He asked a resident what was of importance in a community and the answer was education, school, recreation, and especially having easy access to downtown. Once the rail system is in operation, we will be on the right track.

Councilmember Tina Edgar suggested having past students speak with current students via video for each community would encourage future students. The schools play a huge part in attracting new residents with college statistics and the positive attitudes of administration.

President Paul Ellison spoke about having nice safe communities that are not expanding rapidly but gradually changing. We need to continue maintaining the core values of these tremendous communities with favorable zip codes.

Mayor Marian McClellan stated that the fear of change is significant; they have faced this obstacle from changing their ordinances.

Councilmember Eileen Steadman gave an example of honoring graduates - Royal Oak had a Wall of Fame displayed in the gathering area.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Dan Terbrack thanked everyone again for coming and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.