

VILLAGE OF FOX POINT
SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2012

A Special Meeting of the Fox Point Village Board was held on August 20, 2012 in Schwemer Hall, 7200 N. Santa Monica Blvd., beginning at 4:00 p.m. Members of the Village Board present included:

Village President Michael A. West

Trustee Bill Warner

Trustee Eric Fonstad

Trustee F.R. Dengel III

Trustee Douglas H. Frazer

Trustee Christine Symchych (Left at 5:32 p.m.)

Absent: Trustee Beverly Bell

Also present were Village Treasurer/Deputy Village Clerk John S. George, and Village Attorney Eric Larson.

Notice of the meeting was provided to the North Shore Now and to all others as required by State open meetings laws and posted on the official bulletin boards.

Subject Matter of Special Meeting

Barbara Schwartz, 7239 N. Barnett Lane, President of Footbridge Friends gave a brief summary of the purpose of her group and what they have been doing. The group was charged by the Village Board to raise \$625,000 in private donations as part of the cost of replacing the Bridge Lane Ravine Footbridge by January 31, 2013. Ms. Schwartz said that in order to raise that amount of money the group felt they needed the help of a professional fund raiser. As a result of this decision her group took the necessary steps to incorporate as a 501 C3 organization under federal statutes. After completing an interview process Ms. Schwartz's Group selected Amalia Schoone (CFRE) of In Progress Consulting LLC to conduct fundraising activities. Ms. Schwartz introduced Ms. Schoone to the Board.

Ms. Schoone described her organization's part in the process. She would head the fundraising effort. Any payments received in payment of invoices would be disbursed through her to their subcontractor, per their agreement; Clear Verve Marketing, who would lead the marketing and design elements. Ms. Schoone briefly described to the Board how the fund raising effort would be made.

Ms. Schwartz said her group is excited about the prospects of raising the funds required and their intention is to reimburse the Village for any funds the Village might give them as initial start-up monies. She said her group is committed to keeping costs down by such means as providing volunteer help for various clerical activities. However, she stated that based on her understanding that if her group raises monies above the \$625,000 amount and the Board decides to

not follow through with the replacement of the bridge, Footbridge Friends would owe those extra monies collected to the Village. She felt this would tie her group's hands.

VILLAGE OF FOX POINT
SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2012

Village Attorney Larson suggested that paragraph 4 of the “Resolution to Provide Initial Funding On Behalf Of Footbridge Friends, Inc. For Retention And Utilization Of Consultant For Fundraising Campaign With Respect To The Replacement Of The Bridge Lane Ravine Footbridge” be changed to read, “The payments to be funded by the Village shall not exceed the lesser of (a) the stated total amount set forth in the attached proposal from In Progress Consulting, LLC and Clear Verve Marketing, LLC, dated August 6, 2012; or (b) \$45,450.”

President West asked for unanimous consent to amend the draft Resolution as suggested by the Attorney. Without objection, the draft was amended.

Cissy Bryson, 7272 N. Bridge Lane, said the whole process is very confusing and she has doubts as to the ability of raising \$625,000 in volunteer contributions. She felt the whole matter should go to referendum.

John Bryson, 7272 N. Bridge Lane, felt this process seemed like Chicago politics. He felt by the Board wanting a new bridge puts an additional obstacle in the process and may cause some potential contributors to opt out of giving monies for that option rather than a reconstructed bridge. Mr. Bryson said that if the fund raising fails and refunds to contributors are necessary, it will be a real mess.

Trustee Symchych left at 5:32 p.m.

Mary Connelly, 7267 N. Bridge Lane, said thousands of dollars will have been lost to consultant costs if this project is not brought to completion.

James Connelly, 7267 N. Bridge Lane, felt that if the Friends Group cannot get one person to step forward financially to kick off the campaign and instead rely for help from the Village, the whole campaign is already in serious trouble.

Larry Booth, 220 E. Clovernook Lane, said that this meeting has for him raised more questions than it has answered. Mr. Booth said that the Board previously voted as a condition of proceeding with the footbridge construction a requirement that there be a 50% funding by the lobbying group. The meeting notice and the contract presented at this meeting both indicate a set figure of \$625,000. Mr. Booth inquired as to when this change was made. He said the lowest estimate that the Village’s engineering firm came in with was \$1.45 million for the construction of the bridge and a possibility of up to \$1.75 million. He said 50% of \$1.45 million is \$725,000 and 50% of \$1.75 million is \$875,000. Therefore, if the lobbying group even raises the \$625,000 as

shown they will fall short of the required 50% figure. He said the Board is not being honest about this. According to Mr. Booth, the Village already gave the Group start up monies and now they are approaching the Board asking for a bailout because they are not willing to assume the necessary financial risk. Mr. Booth felt that if this Group needs a marketing company to reach their goal, that is their problem and not the Village’s. He further said that the vast majority of Village residents do not want this project and that is the reason that the Board will not vote for a referendum on the matter.

VILLAGE OF FOX POINT
SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2012

Bob Cory, 7740 N. Santa Monica Blvd., said that a year ago the Village gave the bridge group “seed money” to start up. He went to their first meeting and it is his opinion that they did not know how to go about starting this fundraising project. Their second meeting according to Mr. Cory was mysteriously canceled. Now the group is asking for more money from the Board. Mr. Cory asked what happened to the money given to the Group as start up funds. He said that in his opinion this project will reach \$2.0 million by the time it is completed. He is opposed to the use of any taxpayer money being involved in this project and said the money instead should be used for needed work in the Village.

David Goelzer, 7307 N. Bridge Lane, a member of the Footbridge Friends Group said that he and many fellow residents have done volunteer work on this project and expect to do much more. He felt it was unrealistic for the Board not to fund the full amount asked for by his Group and then expect the fund raising drive to be successful.

Trustee Frazer made a motion to adopt the amended resolution and to have a new paragraph 7 read, “Subject to an agreement being entered by Footbridge Friends, Inc., and the Village requiring reimbursement to the Village under the circumstances described in paragraph 6, in a form approved by the Village Attorney, prior to the Village disbursing funds, or being obligated to do so.” President West seconded the amended motion.

Bob Cory, 7740 N. Santa Monica Blvd., said he would like the Board to consider issuing an informational flyer to residents and revisit the idea of a referendum on this matter. He felt that the majority of residents do not know that the Village is considering spending \$2.0 million on a low priority capital project.

Larry Booth, 220 E. Clovernook Lane, asked how a number can be set on a contract when the Board does not know what the final number will be for the project.

Trustee Fonstad made a motion to amend the motion to amend the resolution so that in paragraph 4, the resolution will read that the “payments will not exceed \$30,000, subject to further review by the Village Board to increase this amount.” Trustee Dengel seconded the motion. With Trustees Fonstad and Dengel and President West voting aye, and Trustees Warner and Frazer voting nay, the motion carried.

Trustee Fonstad made a motion to amend the motion to amend the resolution to delete the current paragraph 6 in the resolution and replace it with a paragraph to read “Footbridge Friends, Inc., will reimburse the Village for any funds advanced on behalf of Footbridge Friends, Inc. pursuant to this resolution.” Trustee Dengel seconded the motion. With Trustees Fonstad and Dengel and President West voting aye, and Trustees Warner and Frazer voting nay, the motion to amend carried.

With Trustees Fonstad, Dengel and Frazer and President West voting aye, and Trustee Warner voting nay, the amended motion carried.

VILLAGE OF FOX POINT
SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2012

Larry Booth, 220 E. Clovernook Lane, said the Board just approved spending public money with a good chance of not getting the money back and this is irresponsible. He said that just because the Board has foolishly spent public money before is no excuse to do it again.

Adjourn

On motion of Trustee Frazer, seconded by Trustee Warner, and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John S. George, CMTW, CMFA
Village Treasurer/Deputy Village Clerk