

BOARDMAN CITY COUNCIL & BCDA WORKSHOP – NOVEMBER 29, 2021

Mayor Keefer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led attendees in the flag salute.

Councilors Present: Roy Drago, Jr., Paul Beagle, Paul Keefer, Katy Norton, Isaac Williams, and Brenda Profitt (all in person), and Leslie Pierson (via Zoom)

Councilors Absent: None

Staff: Karen Pettigrew – City Manager, Rick Stokoe – Police Chief, Jenn Rollins – City Recorder/HR, Marta Barajas – Finance Director, Lisa Middlesdorf, Tori Griggs, Marie Cain, Roz Pedro, Kelsey Salata, and David Norton

Audience: None

Guests: Morrow County Commissioner Doherty, and unknown attendee (via Zoom)

PRESENTATION

Boardman Community Development Association - BCDA

The BCDA was founded in 1999 and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The mission of the BCDA is to beautify and increase the livability of the Boardman community focusing on housing, commercial and retail development, and workforce training. The association collaborates with other organizations and municipalities, business leaders and residents to support progressive development in the community. The BCDA stated the purpose of this workshop was to have an open discussion and to have an interactive process with the city staff and council.

Past Projects

Torrie Griggs presented a list of past projects they have participated in and explained how each project met their mission guidelines. Ms. Griggs also explained they take a community survey every year to see what projects the community of Boardman would like to see prioritized.

Future Projects

Columbia Sidewalk

The BCDA has set aside \$250,000 to create a walking path or sidewalk on NE Columbia Avenue. The current issue with the project is deciding which side of the street to create the pathway to make pedestrian traffic safe on that roadway.

After some discussion, a suggestion was made that perhaps Anderson Perry could look at the project plans and give the BCDA and the City of Boardman some ideas for the project.

Another project mentioned for consideration in conjunction with the sidewalk or walking path was flashing crosswalk signs and flashing stop signs on S Main Street and Wilson Lane, and on NE Columbia Avenue into Morrow Estates.

Landscaping & Lighting around "Welcome to Boardman" Signs

The current "Welcome to Boardman" signs do not have any reflective vinyl and are hard to see in the dark. BCDA would like to install wired-in lighting to increase the visibility of the signs in the winter when days are shorter. One consideration for the type of lighting is meeting ODOT standards as the signs are located close to the freeway.

The landscaping around the signs also needs to be updated and cleared out in order to make the signs more visible and to avoid being damaged by trees growing in the location. Currently, BCDA is working

on creating a landscape design for the area which would improve the look of the signs and the areas where they are located.

Commercial Retail

The BCDA is working on creating a commercial retail space which would be visible from the freeway to create a space for local businesses to start in and attract other builders and businesses to the area and encourage growth.

Expanding Recreation Options in City Park

Recently visitors to the area have been asking if Boardman has any pickleball courts and it is proving to be a recreation of great interest. The BCDA would like to create a pickleball court in the City Park to satisfy a need for more recreational options in the City Park. It was suggested to perhaps place this new option close to the basketball court in the park.

NE Front Street Park Improvements

Play Structure, Skate Park Improvements, and Lighting

The BCDA would like to install a play structure in the NE Front Street Park as residents in Boardman currently use the play equipment at the SAGE Center. They also would also like to add more lighting in the area close to NE Front Street to improve safety.

Councilor Pierson mentioned the NE Front Street Park might be a great place to create a spot for food trucks to park next to the area and create a space where families could go and spend the day and have an experience.

An idea was brought up is the Skate Park in the area could be improved and updated to make it more attractive and usable to the community.

General Discussion

Councilor Profitt asked if the BCDA would be looking at other parks in the city needing attention. Ms. Griggs replied other areas in the city have park locations but it would be a good idea to look at all parks and to see if any other areas are mentioned in this year's survey.

The BCDA Community Project Survey indicated improvements to South Main Street are a priority. Completion of the S Main Street project will be delayed until money is available and other considerations such as a round-about at Wilson, and home constructions projects along South Main Street are completed.

Another project for consideration mentioned is N Main Street; the BCDA would like to add more attractive lighting on the high school side of the street.

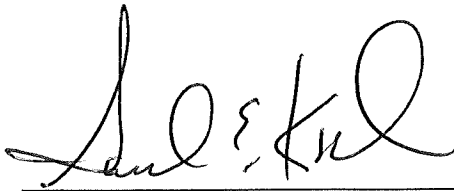
Councilor Pierson requested a separate council workshop to identify wish list items for improvement projects from city staff and council members.

The BCDA is creating a new Community Project Survey and will open it up to the community for members to contribute ideas for improvements to Boardman which is tentatively scheduled for the beginning of the year.

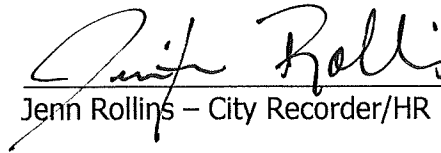
Chief Stokoe brought up the reader board at the corner of N Main Street and Boardman Avenue; City Manager Pettigrew would like the reader board to be replaced with a simple date and time board. Ms. Griggs, a BCDA board member, brought up the idea of installing a SUPA (interactive) sign on the corner to create more interaction with the community. Chief Stokoe also mentioned the traffic study coming to the area by the sign to improve the intersection traffic and safety.

Ms. Griggs thanked everyone for coming together to discuss these subjects.

The workshop was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Keefer", written over a horizontal line.

Paul Keefer – Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn Rollins", written over a horizontal line.

Jenn Rollins – City Recorder/HR