

BOUNDARY COMMISSION
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2023

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Rick Dorsey, Tom Mooney, Steve O'Rourke, Ann Pluemer (via Zoom), Stephanie Robinson (via Zoom), Tom Schneider (arrived 6:34 p.m.), Ben Uchitelle, and Steve Wegert

Commissioners Absent: None

Commission Staff Present: Michelle Dougherty, Executive Director
Michael Hart, Legal Counsel

Others present:

Kathy Schweitzer

Sam Johnson, City Administrator, City of Normandy

Chairman Uchitelle called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the first-floor conference room of 231 S Bemiston with some commissioners and public attending via Zoom, recorded and uploaded after to the Boundary Commission's YouTube channel.

ROLL IS CALLED – QUORUM DECLARED

Roll was called and a quorum declared by Ms. Dougherty.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mr. Dorsey made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Wegert seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.*

APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Dorsey made a motion to approve the minutes of January 24, 2023. Mr. Wegert seconded the motion. Ayes, 5. Nays, None, Abstentions, 2. Voice vote: *The motion passed.*

STAFF REPORT

Chairman Uchitelle opened up the floor to the Commissioners to express their thanks and gratitude to Kathy Schweitzer for her 13 years of service to the Commission. Mr. Wegert said he couldn't have asked for better person to work with. Mr. Mooney said he learned so much from Ms. Schweitzer's leadership and sharing of knowledge. Mr. Dorsey said he appreciates her not only as a commissioner but as a friend too. Mr. Schneider said he appreciates her long service to the Commission and thanked her family for their sacrifices so she could serve. Ms. Pluemer stated Kathy was the chair when she came on board and was so smart, a great leader and great with a gavel. Ms. Robinson thanked Kathy for her longevity of service and wished her well in her future endeavors. Chairman Uchitelle said he echoed all the sentiments that had been expressed and said she really is a star. He thanked her for her 13 years of wisdom, service, leadership, and humor. Ms. Schweitzer replied that it has been her honor and pleasure to serve the Commission and she has

enjoyed the camaraderie. Ms. Schweitzer opened the thank-you gifts from the Commission. She joked that she loved everyone so much that she was going to stay for the rest of the meeting.

Chairman Uchitelle welcomed Steve O'Rourke to the Commission and mentioned the large shoes he's going to be filling. Chairman Uchitelle shared some highlights from Mr. O'Rourke's bio. Mr. O'Rourke replied that he felt he is in good company and is impressed with the caliber of the people serving on the commission. He said his biggest experience with government service was on the Robinwood Community Improvement District. He recognizes that the work the Commission does is important, and he appreciates the opportunity to be a part of it, to contribute, and to learn from the group.

Ms. Dougherty stated she didn't have anything to add to her staff report than what was in their packets other than she is currently on jury duty.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. ACCEPT and SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE for BC2301 City of Normandy and Village of Glen Echo Park Consolidation proposal.

Chairman Uchitelle asked Ms. Dougherty to say a few things about the consolidation proposal. Ms. Dougherty mentioned that Sam Johnson, the City Administrator for Normandy was attending the meeting via Zoom. She said the proposal had been submitted electronically through the city's Municipality Account on February 27, 2023. Ms. Dougherty stated she conducted the Completeness Review that evening after jury duty. She reminded the commission that she doesn't evaluate the proposals for quality of the content just to make sure all the required elements are in the proposal. She said she notified Normandy that the Completeness Review was complete and there were no deficiencies. She mentioned that Normandy had requested, if approved, the election to be held in August. Ms. Dougherty commented that this was a shorter timeframe than the statutorily allowed nine months for review. She wanted to be sure everyone was aware of that request for an abbreviated time frame. She said the Commission's next steps were to accept the proposal and set the public hearing date. She continued by saying that normally the public hearing is held on the next regular meeting date but that that wasn't the best day for Normandy. Although Ms. Dougherty said Normandy would work around it and do whatever the Commission wanted.

Mr. Dorsey made a motion to accept BC2301 Consolidation proposal. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.*

Chairman Uchitelle asked Sam Johnson to explain why Normandy was proposing this consolidation. He said the two entities have a long history of working together. He said both municipalities have been heading towards this

for a long time. He continued that both entities' boards are in favor of this consolidation. He said the Village has no full-time staff and with the consolidation they can take advantage of the full-time staff and hopefully the residents would see their services improve. He said the Village are two streets that jut into Normandy. Chairman Uchitelle asked why the proposal was withdrawn in 2020. Mr. Johnson replied that it was a decision the mayor of Normandy made at the time. He said it was before his time with the city, so he wasn't exactly sure. Ms. Dougherty interrupted and shared that she had been told by the city administrator that it was withdrawn due to new people being on the council after the municipal election. They felt they had not been a part of the decision to do a consolidation and wanted to learn and know more about it. Mr. Johnson said that there is a new mayor, Mayor Mark Beckmann, who is fully on board with a consolidation and the city council. It was a unanimous vote for both ordinances to establish a plan and to submit it to the commission. He stated it is the same for the Village of Glen Echo Park.

Chairman Uchitelle asked if the 28th of March would work. Mr. Johnson said they have a planning and zoning meeting that evening but felt they could get to the public hearing in plenty of time. He reiterated that they would do whatever the Commission wanted. Mr. Dorsey suggested Wednesday, March 29th for the regular commission meeting and the public hearing.

Ms. Pluemer stated she'd be out of town. Mr. O'Rourke said he'd be at a conference. Ms. Dougherty said the public hearing will be a hybrid of in-person, on zoom, and livestreamed to YouTube. She said they don't need a quorum for the public hearing, but they do for the regular meeting. Chairman Uchitelle offered that there is also the ability to use a proxy for the regular meeting. Discussion continued about what Ms. Pluemer and Mr. O'Rourke could do on the 29th.

Mr. Dorsey asked Mr. Johnson if the 29th works for Normandy. He said it does.

Ms. Robinson said although she'd be out of town, she'd be attending via Zoom for the meeting on the 29th.

Mr. Dorsey made a motion to set the regular meeting and public hearing for Wednesday, March 29, 2023 starting at 6:30 pm for the regular meeting followed at 7 p.m. for the public hearing. Mr. Wegert seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.*

Mr. Schneider added he was aware of the interest in the consolidation from the early 2010s. He said he hoped this would encourage other communities to explore consolidations. Mr. Schneider asked why they were looking at an August election versus a November one. Mr. Johnson replied that they were pushing for the next available election. He said that the Village of Glen Echo Park is ready for the transition to the full-time staff at Normandy.

Chairman Uchitelle asked for the population of Village of Glen Echo Park. Mr. Johnson replied the 2020 census had the Village at 122. Mr. Johnson believes they are one of the smallest geographical areas in the state of Missouri.

B. Closed Session.

There was no closed session.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Appointments for 2023

It was decided to defer the appointments until the March 2023 meeting.

B. Sunshine/FOIA Requests Policy on Fees

Mr. Hart stated the committee who had been appointed had not met yet. He suggested it get postponed so they could get together and discuss the policy.

Chairman Uchitelle asked for a summary of this issue so Mr. O'Rourke could be brought up to speed. Mr. Hart replied that the Commission didn't have an explicit policy or rule regarding Sunshine requests. In the Manchester proposal there were a lot of sunshine requests and the Commission felt it would be good to establish a policy clarifying when to charge fees to the requesting bodies and how much the fees should be. Mr. Dorsey added that several requests were voluminous and taking up a lot of Ms. Dougherty's time. Mr. Dorsey shared that when he made the request for the Commission to establish a policy on fees that it was the fiscally responsible thing to do to at least recoup the Commission's costs. Mr. O'Rourke stated he had been involved in that sort of effort with Robinwood West Improvement District.

It was decided to defer discussion to the March 2023 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dorsey made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mooney seconded the motion. Voice vote: Ayes, All. Nays, None. *The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Dougherty
Executive Director

Approved: March 29, 2023