

Special Meeting of the Board on Wildwood ROW Vacation - June 15, 2020

Trustees Present: Don Lantz, Susan Hancock, Catherine Freeman, Colleen Vlahovich, Dionne Deschenne, Sonja Selboe, Paul Larson, Karen Kinnaird, Sarah Runnels, Bob Kernaghan, Dave McIlvena (arriving late)

Trustees leaving before adjournment: Sonja Selboe (lost audio)

Guests: Attorney Eric Landeen

Call to order – Meeting called to order by Don Lantz at 5:00 PM. Note: Meeting conducted via video conference.

Wildwood R.O.W. Vacation– Don Lantz presided. A letter was received by Don from Mr. Bob Kraft regarding the Wildwood (Kraft-Rotegard) right-of-way vacation vote taken on June 11. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss Mr. Kraft's letter and to formulate a reply. Attorney Eric Landeen was invited to attend because the letter included allegations of illegal vote proceedings and slander and because of this, the Kraft-Rotegards had sought an attorney.

The Greenway Plan was discussed as a positive effort that would benefit Indianola's residents, providing trails to the beach and providing wildlife corridors. This plan was the main factor that produced the motion and vote.

Mr. Landeen advised that taking an active position on a right-of-way request to the County may be too removed from IBIC's purpose. A trustee brought up the risk factor of the IBIC losing their 501(c)3 tax status by going beyond the set purposes within their Articles of Incorporation. Mr. Landeen stated that the risk would be small but that the Club could alienate residents who could report this as a possible violation and could result in the Club having to defend itself.

A suggestion was made to submit an amended motion which would again oppose the vacation so it would no longer be considered an illegal action, a stance taken in the Kraft letter, and to vote on it again and consider it resolved. Some felt the June 11 motion was not an illegal vote and was properly made, seconded and voted on. The letter was sent and it should stand. A Board member cited the IBIC's bylaws under the Advisory Committee's duties that the Board is able to vote on matters like this.

Another took the position that this is an issue the IBIC should not be involved in, that it does not follow our Articles of Incorporation, and we should rescind the letter. The Trustee suggested that we take a straw vote to see if any Trustees now felt this way. Another maintained that the vote on June 11 already stated the opinion of the majority of the Board.

Discussion turned to the time deadline the County placed on receiving opinions, and that the IBIC wasn't given enough time to inform the residents of Indianola in order to get their perspective on the issue. Some felt the Club should represent its members only. Others felt that in the absence of a town government or more general organization, the IBIC functionally does represent Indianola's residents.

During the meeting, Don had received an email from the Kraft-Rotegards with information that 12 parcels of the Greenway Plan's mapped areas had already been vacated.

It was decided that a reply to Mr. Kraft would include that the Board reviewed the bylaws and determined that no bylaws rules were broken when taking the vote on the 11th. Mr. Kraft had asked for equal time to present his case but many of the Trustees wouldn't be available to attend a meeting in the 3-day time frame allotted. Regarding the new information that more right-of-ways had been vacated, some Trustees wanted more time to confirm that, and it was suggested that Kraft-Rotegards ask for a postponement of the County's vote to allow the IBIC more time to review their request and subsequent claims if they wanted the IBIC to amend its position.

A straw poll was taken to see if the letter sent to the County Commissioners should stand or be rescinded. 5 said let the letter stand, 3 said rescind the letter, 2 abstained, 1 absent at the time of the straw poll.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for the IBIC to come up with a policy that would determine what we should or shouldn't get involved with. Another felt this should be put to the membership to decide. Still another said if we were to change our purpose, the Articles of Incorporation should be amended to reflect that.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Recorded and Submitted by Sarah Runnels, Secretary

ADDENDUM: it was found later that there had not been twelve vacates, and of the seven that were found, none of them were along the Wildwood corridor.