

Bee Editorial

Micromanaging hinders village planning

Planning for the future? A great idea. Trying to control the future? Not so great.

The Williamsville Community Plan Committee, after a summer-long hiatus, recently reconvened to discuss the draft of a 20-year community plan so that it may be presented to the public and eventually implemented.

Months worth of committee meetings, public input and hard work by the committee's consultants, Behan Planning Associates, have yielded a document of more than 100 pages that chronicles the committee's vision for the future, including short- and long-term goals for achieving it.

So what's the problem?

What started as a guideline for future boards and committees has turned into a room full of people arguing over minute details that are years away from being addressed in any "real" context.

Despite the consultant's never-ending pleas to think in terms of a big picture, committee members continue to nitpick through a conceptual document, arguing over specific words, in order to control what future Williamsville leaders will or will not do.

Not to say that the subjects being brought up in these meetings are meaningless. Issues such as limiting the numbers of cul-de-sacs in the village to ensure continued connectivity, solving a heinous parking problem for businesses and customers on Main Street, and increasing the village's walkability are all real and important points that need to be dealt with.

But is it the place of a committee to allow only one interpretation of this plan so that there is only one plan?

For example, the plan focuses heavily on the Williamsville Water Mill as a hub for potential commercial growth, as well as a historical site.

The issue was raised that the mill has significance in the plan because it is currently the focus of several boards and committees in village government. But should the mill fail for whatever reason, be it man-made or natural causes, there would be a large hole in the plan for future boards to fill.

Planning for the future with fervor and passion is a feather in the cap for Williamsville. It's not every community that has such large numbers of concerned citizens willing to give up hours upon hours of their lives to civic service.

But rather than thinking of the village as it is now, perhaps it would be better to consider the changes that most likely will occur in the future. Egos, personal agendas and tastes have no place on a committee like this. It is better to think of the good of the community rather than of the individual.

Spindle items



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• **IT'S ONLY A GAME** — Last year at this time I was happily telling you that I had finally attended my first World Series game, thanks to one of my favorite childhood teams, the Detroit Tigers. Well, my other favorite from the late Sixties was

the Cleveland Indians, who I had hoped would have provided me tonight with my second World Series game in person.

What the two teams had in common was my favorite player, Rocky Colavito, who broke in with the Tribe in 1955, was traded to the Tigers the day before the 1960 season started, then returned to Cleveland in 1965. The Rock finished his career 40 years ago next summer with the New York Yankees, but that's a different story.

Now what the two teams have in common is that they have really disappointed me in two consecutive years in my adult life. I had purchased two standing room only tickets for what would have been the first game of the World Series tonight at Jacobs Field.

Instead, I guess I'll clean the basement. No Red Sox cheering from me. They spoiled the party by eliminating the Indians Sunday night. My dad took us to Cleveland twice to see Indians games, in 1965 and 1966. What a thrill it was to drive along Lake Erie and see Municipal Stadium rise up to greet us. Chief Wahoo, the team's grinning mascot, was perched high above the main entrance where we bought our tickets. I remember how big

the stadium was, and the fireworks shot from the scoreboard following every home run by the Indians. My mother put newspaper clippings from the games into a scrapbook for me.

I nagged my father into stopping for gas at one of the Sunoco stations offering a free Indians glass with a fill-up. Surely, they would offer us one with The Rock on it. No such luck. The attendant even allowed us into the back room to look through several boxes, but all we could come up with were plastic tributes to Chuck Hinton and Fred Whitfield.

One year my Uncle Walt gave me a breathtaking Christmas present: a baseball personally signed by each member of the team. He worked for Hickok, the Rochester company that sponsored the Pro Athlete of the Year award, and he knew people who worked for many of the major sporting goods companies.

I collected 8x10 black and white glossies of all the Cleveland players as well as yearbooks, buttons and a pen-

nant. After Colavito was traded away in 1967, my fondness for the Indians endured but at a much less frequent level. But when the time came for my own two kids to see their first major league baseball game, it seemed the Indians were the "natural" choice.

June 4, 1995: It was a perfect, sunny Sunday afternoon. Haunted by their years of futility, the Indians fell behind early by an 8-0 score to pitcher David Cone and the Toronto Blue Jays. But in an amazing turn of events, Cleveland's Paul Sorrento homered with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to win the game. The scoreboard exploded with fireworks to signal the win, just like at the old stadium.

"I haven't seen an Indians game in almost 20 years," I shouted with joy to an equally-excited usher as the crowd went wild. "You'll have to do better than this!"

Until last week, I thought they had done just that.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago Oct. 26, 1882

The Reist Roller Mill Company is now engaged in placing in their mills additional rolls, purifiers and grain cleaning machinery, introducing new and improved procedures. They will undoubtedly have one of the best equipped mills in the country.

Streamers are to be seen all over town bearing the name of Frederick Busch, the popular candidate for Keeper of the Alms House.

Sportsmen are just now enjoying a season of good duck shooting at Niagara Falls.

Mrs. E. Schultz is recovering from her late illness and is now able to sit up for an hour or more.

Last Sunday Mrs. Phoebe Smith was ninety-three years of age, and celebrated the event by taking an extended walk, viewing the building of the bridge on Main Street and other objects of interest.

The musical entertainment at the home of Mr. P.J. Zent last Friday was well attended.

George I. White, real estate and insurance agent at Washington and Scott streets, Buffalo, advertises tax and title searches furnished, taxes paid & rents collected.

"The man who won't take a newspaper because he can borrow one has invented a machine with which he can cook his dinner by the smoke of his neighbor's chimney."

"Some men make you feel as though the warm sun had just broken through the clouds, while others make you feel as if a sudden east wind with its arms full of cold fog had caught you with too thin clothing on."

100 Years Ago Oct. 24, 1907

Pupils in the Eggertsville school entertained at a party in honor of their teacher, Mrs. Frank Fry. Chicken thieves are again operating in town.

75 Years Ago Oct. 27, 1932

Dedication of the new home of the George F. Lamm Post No. 622, American Legion, opens this evening with open house entertainment. Much has been heard about the new building, and reports from those who know say it surpasses their most sanguine expectations.

Williamsville Postmaster George L. Helfter announces the arrival of new 3-cent stamps, the Daniel Webster and the William Penn.

The monthly meeting of the Lindbergh branch of the Loyal Temperance Legion will be held at the home of Mrs. J. Gordon, 99 Burbank Drive, at 4 p.m. Thursday, November 3.

Blasdell triumphed over Amherst Central to the score of 27-6 on Saturday. Williamsville met Hamburg's team in a game where an old rivalry was again responsible for exceptional playing. The home boys played a truly remarkable game, ending in a 13-13 tie.

The H.S. Metz Coal Co. advertises wonderful beacon coke, with impurities removed. Offices at 110 Eagle Street, Williamsville, and 21 LaSalle Avenue, Buffalo.

50 Years Ago Oct. 24, 1957

Amherst may have a new 20-acre recreation area if plans are approved for the new Clearfield subdivision. It is expected that 378 homes would be built in the subdivision. The developer, August Galante of Kenmore, has agreed to deed to the town without charge a ten-acre site for playground purposes. He will sell the town the additional ten acres if approved for the same purpose.

Two new patrolmen were appointed to the Amherst Police Department by the Town Board at this Monday's meeting: Donald P. Kraus and Charles G. Klaffka.

The Clarence Center Brethren in Christ Church is making plans for a farewell service for Edith Miller on Sunday, November 3. Miss Miller, who lives on Mill Street, Williamsville, will be going to Africa to serve under the Foreign Missionary Board of the Church.

25 Years Ago Oct. 20, 1982

Six firefighters were injured in a spectacular fire early Monday morning at Gary Pools, 2303 Niagara Falls Boulevard.

Mina A. Chisholm, Joyce E. Fink and Marian Bass will be honored by the Community Advisory Council of the State University at Buffalo for outstanding contributions to their community and professions.