

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2016
CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Kent Butler, Chair
Jennifer Cochran, Vice-Chair
Peter Kotses, Member

Other Council Members: Chris Fahl
Patrick McGee
Michele Papai
Jeff Risner

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Wiehl
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley
Auditor

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Mural Project (presentation)
 - Butler – introduced artist, Jolena Hansbarger, who will be sharing a presentation on a mural project at ARTS-West – project proposal has support of the Athens Municipal Arts Commission (AMAC) – she also presented her proposal to the West Side Neighborhood Association, receiving input and feedback – she then retooled her design

 - Hansberger – this is a fully, privately-funded grant project – she will outline the design on the wall, and will then offer anyone to help paint it on Athens Beautification Day, April 17th – the mural is inspired by ARTS/West Barn Quilt, Astrology, Greek Mythology and Hokusai – to be painted on the wall leading to the ARTS-West parking lot – will be using warm colors and adding glow in the dark paint areas – with a clear protective coating, this mural should last up to 15 years

 - Fahl – appreciates such an interactive art piece

 - Papai – noted that this is a controversial wall, and asked how the process has changed

 - Carol Patterson, Chair, AMAC – indicated that initially there was some pushback from the neighbor across the street – that residence has subsequently been sold, however, it is still owner-occupied – noted that funding has been provided for graffiti-proof coating, plus a coating to preserve the colors from the sun

 - Butler – embraces support of art outside of an art complex

-Risner – asked, upon completion, who owns the artwork

-S-S Director – it will be incorporated into the agreement that the artwork becomes the property of the City since it is on City property

-Courtney Cassell, Mary Street – supports the mural

-Joan Kraynanski, Mound Street – concern of the West Side Neighborhood Association is that this mural is directly adjacent to an R-1 zone, and thought the art itself should be inspired by the neighborhood, and not just the artist's perceptions – suggested relocating the mural, possibly to Stimson Avenue, where the mural is decaying, or inside the entrance to ARTS-West, which would be inviting to the building – also, she suggested that ivy growing down over the wall would be appealing and would keep pedestrians from walking on top of the wall

-President – asked how this location was chosen

-Butler – recalls that this retaining wall was built as part of the Safe Routes to School grant, and he believes the Administration, being proactive and forward-thinking, acknowledged that this could be a percent for art location, and the wall would be ideal for a mural – data indicates that when murals are on walls, they are less prone to graffiti

-Patterson – confirmed that AMAC is recommending this mural project – is hopeful that City Council will approve, so the project can be ready for painting on Beautification Day

-Cochran – values the input of the residents, but can't see anything to take exception with regarding a public mural on public property – believes that such vibrant community art will make the neighborhood better and more attractive – applauds the opportunity to make it part of Athens Beautification Day

- Sidewalks (removing snow/ice)

-Butler – reminded residents that snow/ice must be removed from their sidewalks within 4 hours after snowfall has ended, or 4 hours after sunrise

-Papai – asked about arrangements for those who are physically unable to clear their sidewalks – asked if there is someone they can contact

-Mayor – can look into a waiver system – encouraged neighbors to lend a hand

-S-S Director – residents with extenuating circumstances should give her office a call

-Fahl – concerned that East State Street (business sidewalks) were still treacherous several days after the snow ended – it is not appropriate; this

is one of our major bus routes – bus stops are not accessible because sidewalks have not been cleared of snow

-Risner – City needs to explore ideas to protect our citizens

-Butler – agrees that options need to be explored – suggested considering ideas and returning to committee at a later date, after having researched this issue

-Mayor – is willing to explore ideas for residents with special needs, but onus is on the property owner, not the City, to remove the snow/ice from their sidewalks, both residential and business

-Papai – as a community we need to do better – City could step up enforcement

-Kotses – maybe the City could reach out to the Athens Village for ideas – their mission is to keep older residents in their homes

- Law Enforcement Trust Fund
 - Butler – APD requesting a \$5000 appropriation to enhance and aid in investigations – an additional request from APD Chief is that a reimbursement check in the amount of \$2560 be appropriated for professional training

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. APD Appropriations

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 8, 2016

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Chair
Chris Fahl, Vice-Chair
Patrick McGee, Member

Other Council Members: Kent Butler
Jennifer Cochran
Peter Kotses
Michele Papai

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley

Items Discussed:

- Prior Year Bills
 - S-S Director – (\$6000) incurred from November and December, 2015 – related to police and fire testing of candidates for employment – the billing was not consistent by the provider
- Appropriations
 - Mayor – (\$250,000) to TIF Fund for payments to County Auditor and City Schools
 - S-S Director – there has been a lengthy vacancy in the Code Enforcement office and additional funds may be needed to cover professional services being provided by Career Connections, and possibly some funding for the Citizen Serve software add-on for inspections scheduling
- Parking Garage
 - S-S Director – Phase I is wrapping up – final deck coating will not take place until after the students leave campus in May – expect a 3-week garage closure at that time – there will be a cost over-run – she has placed on hold a new rain screen for \$37,000, but is asking Council to authorize this expenditure to protect the garage from future degradation of the exposed west wall of the garage, from rain, snow, wind

- Papai – ceilings above the sidewalk adjacent to the alley and the floor above seem to still be in disrepair

- S-S Director – will check to be sure this is identified as still needing repair
– will check fund lines in the Parking Garage to cover the cost over-run

- Armory
 - Mayor – approximate cost of \$45,000 has been received to cover removal of asbestos and lead paint to make a safe environment for employees (building is still being used for public records storage)

 - S-S Director – Mayor has requested that City employees begin to remove random items being stored at the Armory, other than records storage

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Prior Year Bill
2. Appropriations
3. Parking Garage
4. Armory

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2016

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Chris Fahl, Chair
Kent Butler, Vice-Chair
Jeff Risner, Member
Patrick McGee, Member

Other Council Members: Jennifer Cochran
Peter Kotses
Michele Papai

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley

Items Discussed:

- Bed & Breakfast
 - Fahl – explained that this issue is only dealing with the Planning Commission’s recommendation, and does not include home sharing in residential zones

 - Papai – questioned B & B’s needing to be owner-occupied in a Business District, but feels strongly that in an R-3 zone B & B’s must be owner-occupied – R-1 and R-2 zones needs to be a much more extensive conversation

 - Risner – questioned whether a Bed & Breakfast permit is required

 - Mayor’s – a specific permit, other than a rental permit, would be required

 - Papai – a special license should be required, one that would be displayed at the B & B

 - Risner – they would also be required to pay the Transient Guest Tax – it should be inspected and governed as a business

 - Fahl – clarified that the permit should be required to state it is a Bed & Breakfast permit

 - Betty Hollow, Maplewood – questioned the following definitions:

ACC 17.03.01 – she would like the “Transient guests” definition to be a part of it, addressing the transitory nature of the operation by including the time limit of less than 30 consecutive days – ACC 23.10 has a much clearer definition – density is a huge issue in the R-3 zone, not only people, but parking – suggesting that removing apartment hotels, lodging houses, and boarding houses, and adding owner-occupied B & B’s is somehow a better situation is not necessarily true, the former were considered semi-permanent residents, not transitory – what people are objecting to in the R-3 zone is that you never know who is living in a B & B – asked if ACC 29.03 will be reconciled with ACC 23.10, one states occupancy of more than 6 months and the other, no more than 30 days

-Papai – important that no ACC references are contradictory

-Fahl – will speak with the Planner and decide whether or not the Planning Commission’s recommendation should be amended upon moving forward to clarify any Code discrepancies

- Revocable License (renewal-parking on Byard)
 - Fahl – this request is for the 10-year renewal for continued parking in the right-of-way at 15 Byard – it has been approved by Administrative Department Heads
 - Mayor – this parking is actually on an unused alley
- Historic Preservation
 - Fahl – Council support of the application for State historic tax credit for structures damaged by the fire on West Union Street was approved – original application to the State for 16 West Union was denied – the owner is requesting a resolution of support from Council for a reapplication
 - Guy Philips, owner – explained that this is a competitive process – he met guidelines for State Historic Preservation, scoring extremely high, however, this round had three times the number of applicants – he is enthusiastic to continue on with this process, and would appreciate Council’s support to garner extra points at the State level – added, this huge project could not have been done without the tremendous support of the City Council, Administration and Boards & Commissions
 - Mayor – thanked Mr. Philips for his interest in preserving our historic structures – it is important to the City as shown by recent projects like the Oxbow Bridge and the Armory
 - Philips – studies show that preservation is progress – it is the smart, economic thing to do, not to mention our cultural heritage – it’s very

expensive and he thanked the City for supporting these tax credits that are so helpful

-McGee – asked about a timeline for completion
-Philips – optimistic that it can be ready by fall quarter

- City Code (amendment)

-Fahl – Administration is recommending to add hover boards, scooters, etc. as vehicles prohibited on our uptown sidewalks – sidewalks are designed for the safety of our pedestrians – amendment language can either add to those vehicles already prohibited, or amend the language to read what is permitted – reviewing ADA language

-S-S Director – suggested changing the language on City signage to read only ADA approved devices are permitted on the sidewalk

-Risner – enforcement is a problem – asked if Richland Avenue is one of the streets included in the prohibited area – would like it to be since the bike lanes have been added

-S-S Director – not at this time, only in uptown areas – pedestrian density is not as great

-President – there is a high volume of automobiles on the street and some people do not feel safe in the bike lanes – again, pedestrian density using Richland sidewalks is light, unlike 20,000 students using the uptown sidewalks

-Fahl – would like to move forward with the designated uptown sidewalk areas – can then ask Police Chief to weigh in on adding Richland sidewalks

-Papai – will bring this issue forward at the next Transportation Bicycle & Pedestrian Sub-Committee

-Kotses – would not want to discourage bicycle usage on sidewalks outside of the uptown area even if there is a bike lane – some riders just don't feel comfortable mixing in with vehicular street traffic

-Mayor – believes sidewalk “density” is the key

-Fahl – will bring forward after further research from the Law Director

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Litter Citations
2. Revocable License
3. Historic Preservation Resolution

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 8, 2016

Members in Attendance: Michele Papai, Chair
Jennifer Cochran, Vice-Chair
Peter Kotses

Other Council Members: Kent Butler
Chris Fahl
Patrick McGee
Jeff Risner

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Bounty on the Bricks
 - Papai – this will be the 4th annual event – requested date is Saturday, August 13th, from 7-10 p.m. – benefits from this fundraiser go to the Southeastern Ohio Food Bank and Kitchen
 - Susan Urano, Executive Director of the Athens Foundation – introduced Katie Switzer, Director of the Southeastern Ohio Food Bank and Kitchen, to talk about the impact of this event on our community
 - Katie Switzer, Food and Nutrition Director for Hocking Athens Perry Community Action – the Food Bank services 10 counties – without big businesses and production facilities in our area, our pantry system really relies on community support – during the first two years of the event the funds were used for capacity building, and last year the funding went directly for food – this event is a game changer for our pantries
 - President – the Food Bank is an amazing facility and a very organized operation
 - Papai – street closure will be from 10:00 a.m. to midnight
 - Kotses – asked if valet bike parking could be arranged for the event
 - Urano – absolutely

- Papai – noted that the International King Midget event is also happening the same weekend
- International Street Fair
 - Krista McCallum Beatty, Ohio University Director of International Student & Faculty Services – appreciates the City’s support in exploring alternatives due to the impact of Number Fest – would like to stay with the date of Saturday, April 16, as originally requested – Ohio University Police Chief suggested moving the event a block closer to campus – Washington to President
 - Papai – asked about closing Union between College and Court – may be an issue with licensed vending
 - Beatty – students do not want their event to impact those vendors
 - S-S Director – can look at shifting the vendor location
 - Guy Philips – most vendors will be vending at Number Fest
 - Papai – street closure will be from 7a.m. to 6p.m.
- Cruise-In (schedule) & King Midget
 - Papai – Court Street closure from Washington to State on Friday, June 3, and from State to Union on August 12, to include King Midgets, and closing East Union Street from Court to College on September 23, from 5-9 p.m.
- Richland Avenue (close-out)
 - Papai – final billing on construction agreement
 - Mayor – will be under \$150,000
 - President – asked about the wetland area next to the car wash, and whether that project is final
 - S-S Director – appears to be remedying
 - Mayor – was over-excavated by 18 inches – that has been corrected
 - President – so, its final appearance is as is – there is standing water in it
 - S-S Director – it is retaining water as it should – was designed to be a dry retention pond, except when it needs to be holding water
 - Risner – is used to mediate flooding onto Richland

- Safe Routes to Schools
 - Papai – need to authorize grant proposal by March 1st – suggested sidewalks on the near East side to East Elementary where new sidewalk is needed to meet up with existing sidewalks – Elmwood between East State and Home; Hudson between East State to end; and Watt from East State to Ohio

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Bounty on the Bricks
2. International Street Fair
3. Cruise-Ins
4. Richland Avenue
5. Safe Routes