

The meeting began at 7:30 pm and started out with introductions. The following people were in attendance: Councilman and Mayor Dan Wiencek, Council members George Kaitsa, Art Schultz and Don Grubbs, City Manager Steve Lutz, Development Director David Betz, Development Planner Shawn Leininger, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathleen Quirk-Keyser, and residents Cindy Capizzi, Tom Crnko, and John Perez.

Mayor Wiencek started the meeting by stating that the Downtown Revitalization Plan has recently been presented to Council but is not really a document that will be adopted right away. Rather, it is the intention of Council to begin implementation of some of the recommendations within this document through this committee, and it would be a good idea to discuss the role of this committee tonight. He indicated that it is very important to get some organizational issues put together prior to going too fast with some of the land use and development proposals within the plan. He indicated that his first priority is to put together the organizational aspects of the recommendations.

Mayor Wiencek then went on to provide some recommendations that he has thought about and that lead to a lengthy discussion with regard to the number of alternatives that there are to structure and organization as recommended in the Plan. Don Grubbs mentioned that the Ohio Revised Code has within it a structured organization called a Community Improvement Corporation that includes a number of stakeholders within the community and has City interests within it, and is accountable through auditing by the State Auditor's Office. There are also a number of financing mechanisms available as allowed by the ORC (CRA, TIF, SID, etc.)

Art Schultz indicated that it is also important to update our existing zoning regulations to allow for the types of redevelopment we want to make happen downtown. There is also an important factor in restructuring the Historic District Commission and maybe make it a part of this whole downtown organizational restructuring.

George Kaitsa indicated that the Downtown Revitalization Plan is an ambitious plan and the recommendations within it could cost a lot of money. However, it is a very important plan and we should provide the mechanisms necessary to implement as much as Council considers worthy. He indicated he likes the recommendations within the northeast quadrant that provide the extension of Scioto Street to Grace Drive and opening that area up and providing connection to Powell Center.

Another important item that was discussed was the study of the four corners intersection to see if it is desired to install left turn lanes east and west bound. Although decided in 1996 not to install the turn lanes, it is not too late yet especially if the streetscape is continued to the east from the four corners to Grace Drive.

It was decided that the whole committee will get together again after the Olentangy schools spring break. It was also decided to make two sub-committees: Organizational/Finance and Development/Zoning/Design. Staff is to put together an informational packet for both committees that will present information that is necessary for each to get started. Staff suggested that we consult with the organization that coordinates the Ohio Main Street Program, Heritage Ohio/Downtown Ohio Inc. Once Staff is able to touch base with them and see if they can provide assistance, then future meetings will be scheduled.

The meeting ended at 9:30 pm.