



## **City of Powell Finance Committee**

### **MINUTES November 5, 2008**

Attendees: Tom Counts, Jim Hrivnak, Steve Lutz, Debra Miller, Dave Betz, Eric Fischer, Anna Steck (HDP Executive Director), Tom Coffey (HDP Board Member), George Kannapel (HDP Board Member) and Louise Kannapel (resident).

#### Call to Order

Mr. Counts started the meeting at 6:47.

#### Minutes

The minutes were not approved as only one of the two official finance committee members was present.

#### 2009 Budget Review

Mr. Lutz reminded the committee members that they had several questions that needed more details than Ms. Miller and he could provide. Therefore, Ms. Steck is here to respond to the questions relating to the contribution to HDP, Inc.

Ms. Steck handed out a memo dated November 5, 2008 which she went over with the committee. Mr. Counts stated that she had done a wonderful job the last two years. He wanted to find out more information and why the funds were necessary for 2009 and get additional information on their budget situation.

Ms. Steck discussed the HDP, Inc. budget process, which it is currently in the middle. Their budget cycle is taking a little longer this year due to (a) making sure that they are planning on getting their own "place" and (b) they are getting a new accounting system so they can make sure they file all the appropriate non-profit required reports. Mr. Lutz reminded the committee that they are a private organization so they don't have "public" required information.

Ms. Steck stated that the 2009 funding will assist them in delivering three new programs for the business downtown. Ms. Miller asked about these programs duplicating the services provided by other organizations such as Columbus State. Ms. Steck agreed and said the programs are not to duplicate but to bring those programs to the Powell area to make it more convenient to attend.

Mr. Hrivnak stated that Powell Festival was great and likes the programs that are bringing people downtown. Both Mr. Counts and Ms. Miller stated that a decision didn't need to be made tonight or even during the budget presentation. The decision could be made later after additional information is provided to answer some of the financial status questions.

Mr. Lutz stated that Mr. Betz was here to address the questions with regards to the ash borer chemical program versus replacing the trees. Mr. Betz started by discussing the assistance of the City's Arbor Advisory Committee and Rick Frantz, Urban Forester, in putting together some options and exploring the direction to recommend to the City. The treatment area is for the ash trees in the prominent and prevalent areas that are already reached substantial size. The City found the insect within the City in the Ashmoore subdivision.

Mr. Betz stated the recommended treatment is approximately \$20 per year per tree. While replacing and removing a tree is between \$1000 - \$1500 depending on the size. After some discussion, it appeared to something that we should try and monitor since there was a cost benefit.

Mr. Hrivnak asked about the Tree Replacement Program and the participation. Mr. Betz stated that participation was down but for the current year we have had 8 individuals apply and 2 home owner associations.

Mr. Lutz introduced Mr. Fischer's reason for being at the meeting – to answer questions on the council audio visual project and how the cost was allocated between equipment. Mr. Fischer pointed to the av cart that had multiple pieces of equipment. These pieces of equipment take a lot of wear and damage moving around like that. Changing to a rack mount and purchasing high quality wireless microphones was the biggest cost of the project. Ms. Ross (City Clerk) needs better quality to assist in transcribing and this would move the City from tape to DVR. The ceiling mounted video is similar to other councils and would project onto a screen instead of the wall. This allows for higher resolution.

The next project, Mr. Fischer discussed was the Asset Management Program. This program is to digitize the assets such as: storm utilities, etc. Currently, the details of these assets are stored in a paper notebook.

This is a mandate requirement by NPDES for storm systems. This system does not take pictures of the "storm grate" but gives the GPS coordinates with a field verification and detail data associated. This system is similar to the one being used currently by Dublin and Westerville. A question was asked if we could meet the NPDES permit without this and the answer was no. It is also similar to the tree program that is almost complete in the City.

#### Other Business

None.

#### Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.