



## City of Powell Capital Improvements Committee

MINUTES  
Oct. 13, 2009

### Present

Ed Bischoff, Garth Bishop (Olentangy Valley News), George Black, Sara Marie Brenner, Bob Carpenter, Steven Carter, Luke Castellanos, Councilman Rich Cline, Tom Coffey, Mayor Tom Counts, Jason DiCapio, Terri Goldring, Don Grubbs, Mickey Hawk, Councilman Jim Hrivnak, Tom Jedlinsky, Chris Kelly, Powell Finance Specialist Teri Kennedy, City Manager Steve Lutz, Joe Moscato, Anthony Paolo, Eric Prall, Monica Reineke, Powell Public Information Officer Jeff Robinson and Frank Semetko

### Call to Order

Mayor Counts brought the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

### Introductions and Welcome

Mayor Counts welcomed everyone and thanked them for their willingness to serve on the committee. He then asked committee members a question – “Why are we here in Powell?” – and encouraged them to think about why they’ve chosen to live here. He reviewed some of the results of the City’s 2008 Community Attitudes Survey in an effort to show why some Powell residents chose to live here. He then asked each committee member to introduce himself or herself and briefly explain why they chose to join the Capital Improvements Committee. Some of the answers given were:

“I’m interested in doing whatever I can do to help the community.”

“I want to make our community stronger.”

“I moved here because this is a great community and I want to keep it that way.”

“Our Homeowners Association wanted to be represented.”

“I live and own a business here.”

“I’ve seen the results of a lack of planning, so I support this committee.”

“I want to be part of the planning process and give back.”

“I’ve spent my career working with cities on capital improvements projects.”

“I love this town and it’s nice to be able to serve and work to keep it that way.”

“I wanted to see what I could contribute.”

“I care about our city and our downtown.”

Mayor Counts then asked the group to share the first thing that came to mind when he said "capital improvements" and "funding capital improvements." Answers from committee members included:

"Roads and the maintenance of roads."

"Income tax and grants."

"The Four Corners intersection."

"Sidewalks and bike paths."

"Murphy Parkway."

"NOT income tax."

"Maintain existing infrastructure."

"Escalating costs."

"Extra income from new businesses."

"County and state funding."

"Helping the traffic flow."

"East-west corridors."

"We are taxed enough."

"A ballot issue for capital improvements."

"The bullet must be bit, and we can get only so much money from grants."

"Must be most palatable to the public."

"Promote diversification of the tax base."

"A tax credit for residents."

"Improve the flow of traffic."

"Bonds and TIFs."

"Partner with Liberty Township for joint funding."

"Ease of access."

"Have businesses take a bigger role."

"Quiet railroad crossings."

"Attract new businesses."

"No free lunch."

"There are too many projects to list and too little money to pay for them."

### Purpose of Committee

Mr. Cline reviewed the purpose of the committee with members, and said that having money set aside in the City budget for capital improvements is akin to homeowners setting money aside for home maintenance projects. He said the idea of capital improvements projects is to send the message that "You're entering an area where people care about where they live." He then asked how such projects could be funded, and reviewed the methods discussed previously by City Council's Finance Committee. He said a property tax adjustment and income tax adjustment each has its own merits and demerits, though a property tax competes with the school district. He said the tax burden in Powell is lower than the tax burden in "sister communities," and the finance committee decided to recommend a change in the income tax structure to City Council. He said the Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) was formed in an effort to get feedback on that recommendation and whether it is a reasonable approach from the residents' standpoint. Mr. Cline said he hoped CIC members would offer a "reality check" on the recommendation so City Council would know if it would be supported by the community and whether the timing is right. Mr. Cline said the individual capital improvements projects are less important than the needs they represent; that is, it would be imprudent to forecast what specific projects will need completed in the year 2020, but it would also be imprudent to say there won't be something that needs done at that time.

What Are Capital Improvements?

Mr. Lutz reviewed a list of capital improvements priorities with CIC members, categorizing them as “needs,” “wants” and “must haves.” He asked committee members to look over the list and add to it before their next meeting. He said the City wants to make sure the list reflects the wants and needs of its citizens.

Committee members briefly discussed the list, as well as ways that capital improvements have been funded in the past. Discussion of the list will resume at the committee’s next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.