



MINUTES

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Village Green Municipal Building

47 Hall Street

December 7, 2010

6:30 pm

Committee Chair Jim Hrivnak called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Other members present included Sara Marie Brenner. Art Schultz and Dick Fusch were absent. Others present included Councilman Brian Lorenz, City Manager Steve Lutz, Director of Development David Betz, and Public Information Officer Jeff Robinson.

During the meeting, the following agenda items were discussed:

I. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Mr. Betz indicated that the minutes from the November meeting were not yet completed and apologized for their absence.

II. Possible Ash Tree Removal Grant

Mr. Betz handed out information pertaining to a possible grant opportunity related to the removal of Ash trees and replanting of non-EAB hosting trees. He said there are over 500 ash street trees or public trees, and that the removal of the ash trees over time, if the City cannot pay to treat them, is recommended by the Arbor Advisory Committee. The grant is a matching grant, and if City Public Service Department personnel are utilized for the removal, their pay and benefits count toward the City match. Also, the Falcon Ridge Homeowner's Association is working with the City to provide the match for the new tree plantings, all to happen within their subdivision. The Committee thought the grant application was a good idea, with a Resolution on Council's agenda tonight.

III. CVS Annexation and Zoning

Staff has indicated that they have discussed concerns that have been brought up by many people about the LED sign, and the attorney is going to check back with CVS with regard to their proposed sign. As of now, CVS is still interested in pursuing approval of this sign. The Committee discussed options to review with the attorney when Staff has a chance to discuss this again with him. The Committee will recommend that the Ordinance gets tabled again at tonight's Council meeting.

IV. Powell Business Incubator Update

Mr. Betz gave an update on the construction and reviewed the construction timeline with the Committee. It appears as though construction is on time so far.

V. Downtown Parking

Mr. Hrivnak then wanted to discuss possibilities for additional downtown parking and wanted to discuss ways of promoting what we already have. Mr. Hrivnak asked what the City has done to promote what we have existing. Jeff Robinson showed everyone the Downtown Parking Brochure that we have begun to hand out to downtown businesses to give to their customers. We have also put this map up on our web site and in our weekly e-newsletter. Mr. Hrivnak also wondered if more can be done at Jeni's to see if they can put a sign on their door indicating where more parking is available. Mr. Betz indicated the sign already up on the west elevation, however we can ask Jeni's or the building owner for another sign on the Olentangy Street side of the building. Ms. Brenner is concerned about the lack of lighting at the 44 North Liberty St. parking lot, and the lack of consistent sidewalk just north of there. Staff indicated that they will see how to improve both. Other temporary solutions were discussed such as a public valet service, and A-Frame signs to help identify parking locations. It was then discussed that the greater long term solution would be a permanent parking lot in the northeast quadrant. Staff indicated that discussions have been held with property owners in this area with regard to sharing parking areas after closing hours of their shops and providing a permanent parking lot. Discussions will continue with them.

VI. Adjournment (Next Meeting: January 5, 2011)

There being no further time for any other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.