

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES 9-26-2023

Circleville City Strategic Planning Committee convened in City Council Chambers, 127 South Court St, Circleville, OH on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Members present: Chair Sheri Theis, Committee members Tom Duvall and Caryn Koch-Esterline, Clerks Melissa Burns and Linda Chancey. Others Council members present were Michelle Blanton. Invited guests present: Richie Verito, Chair, HRB, Jon Bialy, and Larry Logan.

Theis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Duvall motioned to approve the Strategic Planning minutes from February 28, 2023. Koch-Esterline seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1) Tree Commission update: The Tree commission and the City of Circleville were awarded a 1-million-dollar grant from the Nation Forest Service. This is a federal grant through the Inflation Reduction Act. The grant can be used over the next five years. The Tree Commission plans to use the grant for different community forestry projects such as: hire an arborist, tree inventory, plant trees, etc. They will meet to find out exactly what they can use the funds for. They also had a tree tag contest and 3 citizens won free trees to plant in the City.

2) Park Board Update:

Barthelmas Park: The Park now has two handicap accessible pickleball courts. The Park Board asked Administration to have a concept drawing drawn up for the proposed 21-acre expansion. The rough estimate for the expansion is 5-million-dollars. The Committee will ask Administration to come up with a proposal for the engineering and bring it to Council. The committee is exploring a possible Land and Water Conservation Grant and the Mayor is also pursuing some state capital funding.

Koch-Esterline asked if a survey needs to be done prior to the engineering for the public's input. Theis stated that would be up to the Park Board, Council only approves the funding.

Emerine Park: The Tree Commission planted some trees around the perimeter. The Service department has also done some cleanup over the summer. The Park Board plans to put in a basketball court and additional parking along the alley. The funding for the basketball court is a gift from the Emerine family, in exchange for park naming rights. The dedication ceremony will likely be held this fall. The lease for the park is \$20,000 a year, for five years, with the purchase option at the end of the lease for \$1.

Ted Lewis Park: Phase 2 is complete. Larry Logan spoke to ask for basketball courts to be added to the next phase. Several lights need to be fixed for the softball fields and peewee football. Mr. Logan would like to add more stuff for teenagers. Theis spoke on a previous survey that was conducted in 2015, and outlined what the community members wanted and why the Master Plan was adopted by Council. There was discussion that the survey was done years ago, and those opinions may have changed since then.

MOTION - ROLL CALL – VOTE

Duvall motioned that the Strategic Planning Committee initiates and creates a survey, to evaluate what the citizens of the City of Circleville want to do with phase 3, before any permanent changes are made to the Master Plan. Koch-Esterline seconded. (3-Yeas 0-Nays) Motion carried.

3) Historic Review Board:

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Theis spoke to Chair Richie Verito and the CLG project is on hold for now, but they may revisit it in a year or two. The Board is currently working on inventory of historic buildings in the city and considering design guidelines for the restoration of historic properties. The Board will continue to communicate with historic property owners and hear any Certificate of Appropriateness.

4) Vacant Building Enforcement:

The Zoning Inspector, Hannah Wynne started with 61 properties that had inactive water accounts or zero usage over the previous months. After reaching out to homeowners, she had 12 property owners fail to respond. She will be sending an Ordinance through to assess the violation fees to the property taxes.

5) Volunteer Appreciation Event Report:

The Ice Cream Social event was held in July to honor the volunteers who serve on various boards for the City. The Board would like to have this event every year and possibly include other volunteers.

New Business:

1) Everts Center Request:

Jon Bialy spoke on behalf of Everts Center and the impact of having a rec center in our community. Mr. Bialy is looking for a partnership with the City financially, to hire a Director/staff for a community rec center. This would allow Mr. Bialy to offer programs to the community at no cost. He requests \$100,000 from the City annually or possible tax abatements to offset the cost. He will work on gathering more information.

2) Ward Balancing:

Per the O.R.C., ward balancing should be done periodically. The Board does this after the census is done every 10 years. The next rebalancing if needed, would need to be done before the city elections in 2025. Duvall will get with Jim Stanley to confirm if the anticipated growth figures are okay to use now or if he would advise waiting for more concrete numbers.

Duvall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm. Koch-Esterline seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Melissa Burns, Council Clerk