



OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2015
6:30 p.m.
Village Green, 47 Hall Street

Attendance: Jon Bennehoof, Tom Counts, Frank Bertone, Jim Hrivnak, Brian Lorenz, Steve Lutz, and Megan Canavan.

I. AGE 21 FOR NICOTINE/TOBACCO

The Committee discussed the proposal to increase the age for purchasing tobacco products to age 21 within the City. The Committee reviewed statistics, including that tobacco is the leading killer in the U.S. with up to 500,000 deaths attributed to it a year. In the last 2 years 83 cities and seven states have increased the age to purchase tobacco products to 21. Ninety-five percent of smokers start prior to age 21. The Committee noted that both the Cities of Upper Arlington and Bexley have increased their purchasing age to 21 with strong pre-ambls, comprehensive definitions, focus on sales not purchases, and penalties that will encourage compliance. An opposing argument made against increasing the age from 18 to 21 is that individuals can go to war at age 18.

Jon Bennehoof commented that he has mixed feelings with the proposed legislation and can see both good and bad points to it. Brian Lorenz stated that he would like the City of Powell to be a leader in being a healthy community and believes that Powell made strides 12 years ago when the community initiated smoke-free restaurants.

II. TRAFFIC MITIGATION DISCUSSION

The Committee continued to discuss Doyle Clear's study. Tom Counts noted that the study was tied to the City's Comprehensive Plan. He raised the question of whether the study should wait for a Comprehensive Plan update or whether to proceed on a separate track.

Jon Bennehoof suggested that the City could take some actions quickly to show the community that the City is making efforts to improve congestion. He noted that eliminating turns on the Four Corners 24 hours a day, seven days a week would assist in traffic flows.

Jim Hrivnak said there are many issues involving traffic other than just streets. He noted railroad tracks, mailboxes, turning movements, tight intersections, etc.

Frank Bertone suggested education and fact gathering would be a good approach to identify opportunities to assist in addressing traffic problems.

Brian Lorenz commented there were a number of low-lying fruit items that the City could begin to look at. He stated there might be some things that Doyle Clear did not think of such as instituting parking limitations.

Tom Counts suggested looking at the ultimate solution, if there is one, and balance that with short-term solutions.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.