



## MINUTES

### DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Village Green Municipal Building  
Council Chambers  
47 Hall Street  
August 4, 2020  
6:30 p.m.

The virtual meeting began at 6:35 p.m. Those present included:

**Committee Members:** Brian Lorenz, Chairman; Heather Karr & Melissa Riggins, Councilmembers; Andrew White, City Manager; Elise Schellin, Development Planner; David Lester & Donald J. DePalma, Citizen Representatives; Shawn Boysko, P&Z Representative.

**Staff/Others:** Jon C. Bennehoof, Councilman; Chris Huber, City Engineer; Aaron Scott, Assistant City Engineer; Megan Canavan, Communications Director; Karen J. Mitchell, City Clerk; Dr. Ali Khaksar, Armita Plaza; Rick Karr, Liberty Township Fiscal Officer; Gene Hollins, Law Director (arrived at 7:24 pm) and other interested parties.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of July 7, 2020 were approved as written.

#### Today's Business

- **Dr. Ali Khaksar, Armita Plaza, Requesting Patio in ROW.** Ms. Schellin explained that when the Engineering Department was doing their punch out list for Armita Plaza, they realized some of the patios were encroaching into the public right-of-way along Olentangy Street. Staff seeks advice from the Committee of the two available options: (1) require Dr. Khaksar to return it to what was originally approved, or (2) create conditions on right-of-way use via a resolution, such as was done at 5 S. Liberty, to allow the patio to remain as is. Some fencing may be required if there are plans to add dining on the patio. Mr. Huber stated that the encroachments were minor, less than 2 feet in the worst spot, and does not negatively impact Olentangy Street or the public walk in any way. Olentangy Street will be repaved in 2022 and the City needs to have right-of-way clearance. This will help accommodate that with ODOT having right-of-way clearance when that project comes in a few years. Dr. Khaksar explained the encroachment is a result of trying to comply with ADA standards by adding an additional 2 feet as well as moving some steps due to it otherwise being on the sanitary sewer manhole. Dr. Khaksar asked about whether or not Novella could continue to plan on opening in September. They felt they could open early if they had that outdoor patio space. Councilman Lorenz told Dr. Khaksar to have the owners apply for whatever permits they may need to get that in the process.

**ACTION PLAN:** Staff will work with Dr. Khaksar and the architect toward some of the outstanding issues and come back to Development Committee next month to report on it, followed by Council with legislation with conditions.

- **Intergovernmental Fuel Sharing Agreement.** Mr. White recognized the collaboration with the Township in putting this proposal together. Chief Hrytzik and Mr. Karr have been working together to partner in an effort to save money by sharing the cost of fuel. The set up costs would be shared between the two entities. It still needs legal review, but it is a good project and Mr. White recommends moving forward. Mr. Karr added that in addition to saving the City money, it gives the Township the opportunity to offset some of the software maintenance costs. The Township gets the fuel at wholesale pricing and there would be no sur-charge for City vehicles. It is prorated at the average price the Township gets for the gas each month.
- **DORA Events & Covid-19.** Mr. White recommended trying to get away from the start and stop approach and come up with a routine that is safe, beneficial to the downtown, and moves the DORA forward on a consistent basis through at least the remainder of 2020, as well as post-Covid. The Administration and Staff have had many meetings with health officials and the state due to all the moving parts due of the pandemic. Ultimately, it is felt that the City should approach DORA as a tool and not an event, with expanded days to help control and disperse crowds, and allow social distancing with limited City resources (i.e. police, public service). Ms. Canavan

mentioned that several stakeholders were listening into the meeting, John Gabriel, Mark Tennenbaum, Dustin Sun, and Elton Sargent. The stakeholders wish to have the DORA on a regular basis so they know what to expect and can plan accordingly. It was recommended to have a regular weekly occurrence beginning the week of August 13, then each Thursday through Sunday. Councilwoman Karr asked about liability and Mr. Hollins added that the biggest issue regarding liability is causation, and that risk is fairly small. The City has also been coordinating closely with the Health Department to be in compliance with their guidelines.

**ACTION PLAN: The consensus was to do the DORA every week, Wednesday to Sunday, beginning August 13, 2020.**

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