



**MINUTES**

**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Village Green Municipal Building  
Council Chambers  
47 Hall Street  
**December 1, 2020**  
**6:30 p.m.**

The Zoom meeting began at 6:31 p.m. Those present included:

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

**Staff/Others:** Frank Bertone & Jon C. Bennehoof, Councilmembers; Aaron Scott, Assistant City Engineer; Elise Schellin, Development Planner; Megan Canavan, Assistant City Manager; Stephen Hrytzik, Chief of Police; Karen J. Mitchell, City Clerk; and other interested parties.

Brian introduced and welcomed Jeffrey Tyler who recently joined the team as the Community Development Director.

**Today's Business**

- **CARES Act Funds Projects:** Andy explained that he would like to put some of the dollars freed up by the monies reimbursed to the City from the Cares Act funding to other needs within the City and proposes a list of items for consideration by the Committee for recommendation to Council.
  - a. **Wellness Feasibility Analysis:** In the past, the Committee has expressed support for this matter. The funds are now available to pay for this. The cost is approximately \$30,000.
  - b. **Broadband/CSX Extension:**
    - a. Andy explained that is an unused, unnecessary conduit placed underneath the railroad tracks just west of City Hall. Staff is looking at utilizing that for the purpose of hooking up to broadband for public safety and emergency management purposes. There is a potential for expansion from there to producing broadband throughout the downtown. CSX has been open to the conversation about it. Brian mentioned how important this is with so many working remotely as well as for the police to do their jobs efficiently. Heather wants to move forward. Don thinks it is a good idea. Dave is for it. Shawn and Melissa also agree.

**ACTION PLAN: Staff was directed to assemble the information/proposals and bring it back to the next meeting.**

- c. **Depot Street Upgrades/CSX property**
- d. **Keep Powell Moving Enhancements:** Andy and Megan reintroduced the Implementation section of the Keep Powell Moving Plan for consideration:
  - a. Northwest Quadrant Parking Area
  - b. Hall Street Reconstruction
  - c. Olentangy Street Improvements and Landscaping Plan
  - d. Martin Perry Drive Extension - Grace Drive Extension
  - e. Secondary Road Improvements
  - f. Ancillary projects that could be invested in right now, such as:
    - i. Connection from Depot Street to Adventure Park and the reconstruction of Depot Street.
    - ii. CSX agreement/project to enhance parking and pedestrian access along Depot Street.
    - iii. Security and safety issues along Depot Street.
    - iv. Wayfinding signage and gateway entrances.
  - g. 44 N. Liberty Parking Lot, as well as maintaining other City-owned properties.

Staff seeks direction on what the Committee is interested in pursuing as possible capital improvement projects. Heather liked focusing on Old Powell as a first priority and thinks it would partner well with what we are trying to accomplish with the businesses and the DORA. Dave felt this was overdue, liked the idea of pursuing the downtown items mentioned, and thinks it would be a great thing for downtown. Shawn agreed with Heather and thought specifically focusing on the northwest quadrant and Olentangy Street should be a

priority. He also pointed out that we should not take out parking along SR 750 without having new parking in place. Don concurred with Heather and Shawn's comments and is thrilled by the Keep Powell Moving Plan that he is just seeing for the first time. Brian also concurs with the group. He feels that the City is a landowner and it should be responsible to maintain its properties up to the same standard as we hold others. Brian views the Depot Street extension, the wayfinding signage standards, and parking around 44 N. Liberty as his primary projects. Melissa also agrees with the others that focusing on the downtown is good starting point.

Andy said that the next step would be to come up with the projects to be taken to the next level for design and how it would be funded. He would like to have this put into a plan of action in the early part of 2021. Brian added that this is to validate this roadmap so it can move from conceptual to legislation to a tangible project.

**ACTION PLAN: The Committee, being in unanimous concurrence, directed Staff to move forward with next steps.**

#### **Other Business**

Aaron mentioned that the stone option to repair the Vinwood path is not cost-effective and recommends dropping that option. They will continue to look at the path being replaced, but are looking at different options.

**Adjournment** - Having no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.