



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Council Chambers

4230 Lake Avenue

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation Committee was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Committee Chair DiGiacomo.

Roll Call

Members Present: **Chair:** Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo, **Vice Chair:** Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, **Member:** Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

Absent: None.

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Ashley Bell

Parks & Recreation Board Members Present: None.

Visitor: Amanda L. Tirotta, Executibe Director Civic Development Corporation of Ashtabula County

Sunshine Law Certification

A quorum was established as defined by the Ashtabula City Council Rules of Order. The meeting met the requirements of the Ohio Sunshine Laws Open Meetings Act.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

Special Guest Presentation

Amanda Tirotta stated Civic Development Corporation (CDC) of Ashtabula County will launch their 14th Capital Campaign. The campaign will launch in 2025 and the theme is "Embrace". The theme was derived from a community assessment survey. The community seeks to embrace more family, fun, growth, and the future. Their corporation is collaborating with the Park Place non-profit. Together, the organizations are creating the "Pocket Park" on Main Avenue. The organization is fundraising \$75,000 for the redevelopment of downtown Ashtabula. Improvements include street-scaping, facade improvements, and the Pocket Park. The Pocket Park focuses on family programming, picnic space, as well as a space for local food trucks. The corporation is also partnering with the Ashtabula County YMCA. The CDC will award the YMCA \$55,000 upon a successful Capital Campaign. The money may be used for new fitness equipment and amenities. The YMCA would like to improve their family engagement. The CDC is also partnering with the village of Jefferson and working with their Parks and Recreation Department. Their goal is to create a state of the art inclusive playground. The total for the CDC's projects is 1.5 million dollars. All projects are projected to be completed within a 5-year cycle. The CDC is also partnering with the Ashtabula Art Center for an expansion project. The Ashtabula Area City Schools (AACS) is creating an outdoor Learning Lab. The Learning Lab will be an outdoor classroom that will be accessible to

the entire community. Safety protocols will be in place. Conneaut Township Park is adding Pickle Ball Courts. The CDC is also partnering with Geneva Little League. New drainage is needed at Carraher Field Complex. The complex is also in need of other essential work. Major donor funding has started. Currently, the organization has received 24% of the funding needed. The Public Campaign will begin after January 1. You may specify what project you would like to donate to. More information is available on the corporation's website.

**Amanda L. Tirotta, Executive Director Civic Development Corporation of Ashtabula County
2025 Campaign and Projects**

City Manager's Report

City Manager Timonere stated the city's priority is the Appalachian Community Grant. Meetings will be scheduled with the downtown building owners and merchants soon. The sub recipient grant from East Gate has not been received. The LandBank is in the process of securing a consultant that will assist with the facade program. The Walnut Beach Inclusion Park is almost complete. A grant of \$500,000 was awarded for the park. Capp Steel Erectors donated all the excavating needed for the project. Planning will begin soon for the handicap accessible parking at Walnut Beach.

Parks & Recreation Committee Report

No report.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting

December 17, 2024

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m. by Committee Chair DiGiacomo.