



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 4:00 PM

Council Chambers

4717 Main Avenue

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Committee Chair Haines.

Roll Call

Members Present: Committee Chair/Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines, Committee Vice-Chair/Ward 4 Councilor Octavia Harris, Committee Member/Council President John Roskovics **Absent:** none **Officers Present:** City Manager Jim Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey

Sunshine Law Certification

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

City Manager's Report

City Manager Timonere is meeting with staff members from Petmin this week for an update on the project. He has also been working with the investors of the Riverbend Hotel. The Castle Block project is moving along nicely, and the Carlisle building project will soon begin. The City is assisting the Lift Bridge Community Association and the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association with their winter activities.

The Lift Bridge Community Association (LBCA) requested permission to place a historical memorial at Point Park on Walnut Boulevard. Because of Ashtabula Harbor's Underground Railroad history, an application to become part of the "Network to Freedom" was made to the National Park Service. The application process cannot proceed without the City of Ashtabula's permission.

Motion: Committee Member Roskovics moved to approve a request to support the LBCA; Committee Vice-Chair Harris seconded.

Discussion:

VOTE

Yeas: Committee Chair Jane Haines,
Committee Vice-Chair Octavia
Harris, Committee member John
Roskovics

Nays: None

This request will be presented to the full Council membership at the next Regular Council meeting.

Parks & Recreation Committee Report

September & October 2021 meeting minutes

The minutes are attached. However, the City Manager noted some discrepancies. The archway sign will not begin until next spring. A remote control tractor was borrowed for recent hill-clearing projects but a purchase is not planned. The weeds at Kaden Park were cleared by City employees, though initially, the City was asked to leave them. Committee member Roskovics feels other parks should be considered for a basketball court and not Nappi Field. A playground at Smith Field is not recommended because power lines restrict the height of the equipment.

New Business

Wayfinding Discussion

Committee Chair Haines had a recent trip to Conneaut and noticed directional signs placed on curb corners, pointing in the direction of general items such as business districts, museums, or parks, and would like to see something similar to help promote the City of Ashtabula. Committee member Roskovics noted Conneaut is experiencing increased tourism just like Ashtabula. Committee Vice-Chair Harris approves of researching the idea further. While working for the Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce, the City Manager was part of a sign project financed through grants the Lift Bridge Community Association (LBCA) applied for and received. The signs were not business-specific, similar to Conneaut. He suggested answering these questions:

1. Are we having a problem directing people to areas within the City?
2. What areas/items do we want to identify?
3. Where do we want the signs placed?
4. How do we approach a signage project?

Committee Chair Haines identified the City's main business districts as being Bridge Street, Main Avenue, Lake Avenue, and Route 20 (Prospect Road). She believes five or six key spots for signage would be an ideal sales tool for encouraging people to take notice. The City Manager said funding through grants is possible and will check available sources. The Committee members plan to research the topic further.

Unfinished Business

The Committee was updated about:

1. Lakefront residential zoning legislation - the original version was revised and will soon be presented to City Solicitor Cooper for review. City Manager Timonere suggested having a town hall meeting once the new legislation is prepared.
2. Food truck legislation - The current Codified Ordinances cover food trucks in Chapter 759 Temporary Stores. City Manager Timonere recommends revising the chapter to not include food trucks and create a separate chapter for food trucks that will benefit the City and the food truck owners.
3. A moratorium on discount retail stores - Council to discuss with City Solicitor Cooper.
4. The parks and homelessness situation - The different agencies have done outreach in the parks and gained relevant information. City Manager Timonere scheduled a meeting with them and others next week. There are many misconceptions about people's backgrounds and circumstances. The goals of the group are to assist those in need with finding housing

and keep problems out of the parks or other areas. The Committee members would like increased communication from the group of agencies and resources to gain a better understanding of the situation.

Next Meeting

November 9, 2021 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. by Committee Chair Haines.

Submitted Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey
by:
