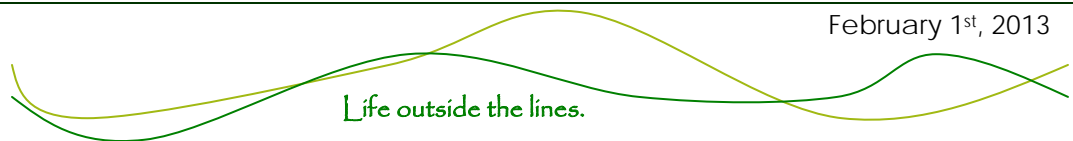


February 1st, 2013



Work Session

1. Sustainability Commission Recommendations on Fracking

The members of the City's Sustainability Commission have completed their review of the issues affecting fracking in Kent and they have prepared a series of recommendations for City Council to consider. A Work Session format is being used to receive the recommendations in order to encourage dialogue between the members of City Council and the Sustainability Commission. Council may schedule future Committee time to receive public input on fracking if desired. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Receive the Sustainability Commission recommendations and direct staff accordingly.

Council Action

Receive the Sustainability Commission recommendations and direct staff accordingly.

Community Development Committee

2. County Solid Waste Plan Update

Councilmember Wallach is the City Council representative to the Portage County Solid Waste District Board and she has requested Committee time to discuss the status of the 2012 Solid Waste Plan update. Following a year long public comment period, the updated Plan was submitted and approved by the EPA this summer. The Plan update is now ready for final adoption locally. Final adoption has been delayed due to proposed changes to the Plan received after EPA approval. Ms. Wallach would like an opportunity to advise Council of these issues. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

I recommend Council support the Plan Update as approved by the EPA.

Council Action

Support the updated County Solid Waste Plan as approved by the EPA.

Finance Committee

3. USDA Farmers' Market Grant Sub-Recipient Agreement

Bridget Susel has requested Committee time to request Council's approval to appropriate the grant funds (\$38,855) received from the USDA and authorize the staff to enter into an agreement with the Haymaker Farmers' Market to perform the activities covered by the grant. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

You may recall that the City submitted a USDA grant request in partnership with the Haymaker Farmers' Market to expand access to the farmers' market by low to moderate income families. The grant was approved and there are no match requirements from the City so I encourage Council's support for this item.

Council Action

Appropriate the grant funds received and authorize staff to enter into the grant agreement with the Haymaker Farmers' Market to execute the grant.





Kent Regional
Business Alliance

Finance Committee (continued)

4. 2013 Capital Re-Appropriation Amendments

Dave Coffee has been working with the department heads to review the 2012 capital carry-over items that need to be re-appropriated for work planned in 2013. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's authorization of the appropriations amendment.

Council Actions

Approve the appropriations amendment as presented.

5. Martinel Incubator Funding Assistance Request

Jack Crews, Executive Director of the Kent Regional Growth Corporation, has requested Committee time to review the work of his agency in 2012 and to request \$30,000 in financial assistance from City Council. The financial assistance is requested to support the day-to-day operational costs for managing the business incubator located on Martinel Drive. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Business incubation is considered by staff to be a critical feature in the City's economic development strategy to create new jobs by fostering emerging business opportunities that spin off from Kent State University or from local residents. The incubation facility on Martinel Drive has proven to be successful for new business generation (Alpha Micron) and Dan Smith and I think it is important to maintain that facility in our portfolio for business development purposes. In December 2011, Mr. Crews requested supplemental funding of \$35,000 for 2012, \$25,000 for 2013 and \$25,000 for 2014. Council authorized \$35,000 for 2012 but suggested that funding for 2013 and 2014 be re-evaluated each year. Dan and I recommend support of a \$25,000 contribution for 2013 using undesignated funds.

Council Action

Authorize the allocation of \$25,000 in undesignated funds to sustain the business incubator on Martinel Drive.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

6. PARTA Kent Central Gateway Right of Way License

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to seek Council's approval to authorize staff to enter into a license agreement with PARTA that would permit PARTA to install a transit facility directional sign in the City Right of Way along Haymaker Parkway. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The directional sign will benefit the public by indicating how to get to the new transit center, and PARTA will assume all costs for installing and maintaining the sign, so I recommend Council's support.

Council Action

Approve the Right of Way License Agreement for the installation of PARTA's directional sign as presented.



Information Items

1. Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of December 2012. Overall the City income tax collections are up 12.62% (\$1,351,532) from December 2011. Kent State University's collections thru the end of December are up 4.48% (\$190,294). (attachment)

2. Board of Zoning Appeals January 28th Meeting

Heather Phile from our Community Development has provided a copy of the agenda and staff report for the November Board of Zoning Appeals meeting. There are three items on the agenda: College Town Kent, Corner of E. Erie & S. Depeyster (Building C), building height and frontage variances; John & Joyce Nichols, 669-701 Akron Blvd, non-conforming uses variance; and Steven Kubofcik, 335 Park, lot size variances. (attachment)

3. Monthly Permit and Zoning Reports

Bridget Susel has enclosed copies of the monthly zoning and permit violations report for November and December 2012. The total number of permits issued thru the end of December was down 27% (315 permits) from last year and the corresponding revenues were down 60% (\$571,669). Code enforcement items for November and December will be available in February. (attachment)

4. February Planning Commission Meeting

Bridget Susel has enclosed copies of the Planning Commission agenda and staff report for the February 5th Planning Commission meeting. There is 1 item up for consideration: 1)Robert Heimann- Forest Lakes Development Co., SW Corner of Stone Water Dr & Fairchild Ave, conceptual plan. (attachment)

5. Leaf Season Summary Report

The staff have put together a year-end leaf season summary report that I have included for your information. (attachment)

6. Citizen Action Center Summary Report

The staff have put together a year-end summary report for questions submitted by residents through the Citizen Action Center that I have included for your information. (attachment)