

Circleville Committee of Whole convened in City Hall Council Chambers 127 South Court St. Circleville, Ohio on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 6:00 pm. The following members were present: Barry Keller, Council President; Michelle Blanton, At Large; Katie Logan Hedges, At Large; Tom Duvall, At Large; Jeff Hallinin, First Ward; Cary Koch- Esterline, Second Ward; Todd Brady, Third Ward Sheri Theis, Fourth Ward. Clerks Linda Chancey and Brandi Spencer. Guests included Mark Bidwell, City Auditor and Tomi Dorris, Safety Director.

Roll call

Brady motioned to approve the minutes for 4/19/2022, and Hallinin seconded. Motion carried.

Keller stated the purpose of the Committee of Whole meeting is a request by Uptown Circleville from Design Cmte Richard Gerhardt – for South Court St - Main St Revitalization Projects and Richard Rhoades President request-funding for an Executive Director.

Design Cmte Richard Gerhardt

Richard Gerhardt asked Council to join in a partnership in a significant improvement in the Uptown areas. Council members were given a project description packet with concept designs. When Gerhardt attended a City Council last fall to present these projects on Court And Main Street, he was invited back for a presentation. These projects will...

1. Increase community pride.
2. Make the downtown more attractive and aesthetically pleasing,
3. Support our local merchants,
4. Provide an attractive environment for increased activities in the downtown.

This is the follow up of our meeting last fall when we presented ideas for revitalization of Court And Main Streets. The plans are scaled down and enhanced from last fall. “scaled down from the standpoint that we are doing only 2 of 4 corners (thus eliminating any conflicts and dealings with the State of Ohio and enhanced from the standpoint that in addition to the corners where we originally discussed the circle sculpture picture bench, we have now obtained the original Nelsonville Bricks street pavers for a large 1810 design in the crosswalk and have added a two faced 11-foot -high town clock. We are asking to join with us by making necessary installations of the above.”

“The projects will have three components plus the enhanced two south corners.

- a. Circle sculpture and picture bench an iconic place to take pictures
- b. Nelsonville pavers 1810 Brick Historic Marker to show how our roots run deep
- c. Town clock for nostalgic touch and local pride to replace a symbol reminiscent of time to 50 years ago.
- d. Enhanced and enlarged corners to show case all the above and create an illusion of an entrance to the downtown facing City Hall and Courthouse.

The enhanced corners do not change the existing traffic lanes, loss of any parking spaces or turning radius to Main Street.”

There are Main Street project sponsors and interested groups involved such as Pickaway Bar Association donations, students, Pickaway Ross Career And Technology Center, PCCF donated funds to purchase the town clock, and many volunteers that have contributed ideas. With all improvements there are costs involved to make this happen but will beautify the Uptown areas where memories are created. We asked City Council to partner in this project that we believe will be a win-win for all.

Koch-Esterline asked about curb cuts. Gerhardt explained the drawing shows not quite a parking place the last allowed parking space spot that will be filled with curb cutouts. We asked Jim Stanley Service Director and John Ankrom for more information about how to create space in that area.

Keller explained that he talked with the service director, and he said there will need to be street work done and storm sewer work before curbs corners can be completed, this is all Service Dept crew related. The city work is the design part before work is completed for corner changes and installation work for the clock and sculpture.

Hallinin asked about the bump- outs on North Court Street are you doing those too? Gerhardt stated we would like to but the State Of Ohio will need to be involved in that process.

Blanton asked what do you need from Council in-kind or money? Gerhardt explained at this point of time, we need help with the installation, which should be done by the city to make sure the projects are stable. Blanton asked a design question on the sculpture; will it be on both sides? Gerhardt stated Yes, the sculpture will be on both sides to see the design.

Theis asked the City Auditor about using funds through street levy street improvements. Bidwell stated "Yes, those funds could be utilized, out of the levy funds for curbs and streets."

Koch- Esterline motioned to forward the projects to the next Service Cmte meeting for further discussion, seconded by Theis seconded. All Yeas. Motion carried.

Discussion -Executive Director funding - Richard Rhoades President

Richard Rhoades explained the need for an Executive Director for the revitalization plans and future projects such as street flower planters and 3 on 3 basketball tournaments and to let business owners know we are here. We are starting Phase two which required an Executive Director per Heritage Ohio. In the strategic plan we have a Board Of Directors which includes twelve directors. I gave you all sample job descriptions. This is a work from home position, this person would be out and about visiting businesses, and no membership dues are planned. There is expected revenue in the coming years with all the events going on downtown. We are reviewing \$65,000 to \$75,000 with benefits, but we are asking the city for \$30,000 on a yearly basis. The director will implement the strategic plan with communication with all entities in the city. we want to be the conduit with everyone, plus. help cmte chairs with plans, implement training by Heritage Ohio programs with the online seminar and listening to the business owners solving small problems. UpTown need a matrix for volunteers' hours and planners to give value to the city.

Keller asked, did you talk with the county yet? Rhoades said the county asked that we talk with the city first.

Duvall asked is the funding for the director position for years two, three or five or on a continuing basis. Rhoades stated I prefer a continuing basis, but if we continue with the many events then maybe we may not need your funding or city's support anymore, also the person needs to be a grant writer.

Hedges asked, is there a combination of directors' such as the Chambers and UpTown? Rhoades stated we would provide the support staff and, but our mission is different. This conversation has been ongoing for a year now with other directors and will continue when the Chamber Director gave her notice.

Brady stated good ideas and common interest, but we need a Recreation Director for our parks and the fairgrounds could use a director. If we could use the collaboration between the entities between all of them. there is room to fund a director, and P3 has a good director too. Rhoades stated we need everyone to row in the same direction.

Duvall asked from conversations with Heritage Ohio what is the potential for grants and how often? Rhoades stated we are an affiliate with Heritage Ohio now, but we might have the possibility for grants that are awarded.

Koch-Esterline motioned to refer the funding to the Finance Cmte for the further discussion, seconded by Theis. Motion carried.

Brady motioned for adjournment at 6:53 pm. Hallinin seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Linda Chancey, Clerk