

Minutes of Perrysburg Service Committee

Meeting Held August 24, 2022

APPROVAL OF 07/27/2022 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Jan Materni. Committee members present were Jan Materni, Kevin Fuller, and Mark Weber. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, and Brian Thomas, City Engineer.

There being no objections, the minutes of the July 27, 2022 meeting were approved 3-0.

PERMISSION TO SUBMIT APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

Mr. Thomas explained that with the scoring, it is harder to get Public Utilities projects funded and is easier to get roadway projects. He further explained that the odds of getting a Utilities grant funded would probably not happen and that they are looking to get some resurfacing work done on Eckel Junction Road from 25 to the railroad tracks. It was last repaved in 2002. Mr. Thomas needs something from City Council that they have the permission to apply. Mr. Weber asked if it has to be that section. Mr. Thomas answered that scoring wise, they get more points if it is a heavily traveled road, rather than a residential area. There being no objections, the Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend this to City Council.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Hank Holland, 132 Cranden Drive, has lived there since 1977, when their home was in the Township. Mr. Holland stated that the City has only patched the streets and that they are falling apart. He added that they deserve to have their property looking good. Mr. Holland stated that the City is not putting in the base that they should, to keep it from deteriorating, since we live in an area that is a swamp. Mr. Holland recommended that new subdivisions in the City should be required to put in a good base, which would save the City money. Ms. Materni asked if there are standards that developers have to adhere to. Ms. Kabat stated there are standards which she believes are in their Ordinances. Ms. Materni stated streets that were built in the Township, do not have to adhere to City standards. Mr. Thomas stated that there is a City Ordinance for the minimum amount of asphalt and sub-base that has to be put in. Mr. Thomas has no objections to reviewing the standards. Mr. Fuller added that it would be nice to know the surrounding areas that could be annexed into the City and what their standards are, if they are up to the City's standards.

DOWNTOWN ADA IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

Kerry Wellstein, 145 West Second Street, is here to discuss the downtown ADA compliance issues. She has two questions. Her first question is has the firm that designed this plan executed a plan to that degree in a community similar to ours that they could visit and see. Her second question is, if the Mayor has visited any cities that have given him the inspiration to make this happen that they could go see firsthand. Ms. Wellstein is hoping that City Council really listens to the downtown business and property owners. Ms. Materni stated that there will be several more discussions and that this is just the beginning. Ms. Kabat stated that those questions have not been asked before, but they will look into that.

Deborah Born, 125 East Front Street, is here to support the downtown business owners. She would

like to know if the Department of Justice has been contacted and if there is a lawsuit filed. Ms. Born stated that the City cannot tell the business owners that they have to do something and that the complaint has to be complained to the Department of Justice. She suggested getting a portable ramp that they could put in and out of their businesses. Mr. Weber stated that this plan is not forcing any property owners to do anything.

Matt Skotynsky, 213 Louisiana Avenue, asked about the total cost of this project. Mr. Weber stated that there are two options. Mr. Skotynsky asked how many complaints there were. Ms. Kabat stated that she is not aware of all the complaints because they went to the Ability Center, but there are six or seven. Mr. Skotynsky stated that means that 0.02% of the population has complained about ADA. They are here to support the handicap and help them get into their businesses. He showed a portable ramp which would be an easy solution and that costs \$300.00 to \$700.00 each.

Ms. Materni stated that we are fixing issues within our right of way. Mr. Thomas took the Committee members through the options, so that everyone can better understand the two separate options. The second option costs more money, but it makes everything flow better and gives it a nicer look. Mr. Thomas addressed citizens' concerns about outdoor seating, some of which would be impacted. He noted that drainage will be addressed. Ms. Kabat stated that even though option two is more aesthetically pleasing, there are still hiccups because of doorways, so there are still railings and ramps in option two. Mr. Thomas stated that this is a concept to get feedback, positive and negative. He does not mind getting negative feedback, it is all good. Mr. Skotynsky asked how long the timeframe would be for construction and is thinking of the economic impact and that it could put people out of business. Mr. Thomas guessed from start to finish, at the most, it would be six months.

Emily Conley, 246 West Second Street, is not a business owner and spends a lot of time walking around downtown Perrysburg. She wanted to confirm that it has not been voted on and is just an idea. As a pedestrian, she sees a lot of issues with this, especially during farmers' markets.

John Naylor, 101/103/109/115 Louisiana Avenue, likes the proposal about portable ramps and would buy portable ramps for every one of his tenants if that helps solve the problem. He sees a problem with blocking the sidewalks during farmers market and sees downtown Perrysburg commercially being heavily damaged.

John Wellstein, 145 West Second Street and 116 Louisiana Avenue, thinks that our downtown is the jewel and that we have to get this right. He stated that six or seven complaints in the last five years is a very low number. This will hinder a lot of foot traffic and will make downtown less aesthetically pleasing. He is also strongly against anything that takes away any outside seating from the restaurants. It is their lifeline and everyone from Perrysburg loves it.

Patrick Lahey, 104 Louisiana Avenue, stated that they have people who come in now with disabilities and their biggest complaint is not the three inch step but walking a distance from parking. He wishes that would be the focus going forward. Outdoor seating, during patio season, is what pays his bills. Mr. Fuller stated that he appreciates the business owners and that they know their clients and customers well.

Dan DiSalle, 201 Louisiana Avenue, stated he missed the last meeting. He asked, with the DORA, if the restaurants even need a fenced in patio now.

Anthony Bilancini, 941 Cherry Street and partner at Swig, asked if this has anything to do with their doorways and if it is misdirected. Ms. Materni stated that it is a good starting place and gives us a point of what we do not want. Mr. Bilancini asked if people have trouble getting down the sidewalk now as it is. He stated that he will spend the money to make his building compliant.

Ms. Wellstein asked, as a business owner, that none of this is set in stone and is a discussion. Mr. Weber stated that this will not move forward without City Council approval and that we may even go to a Committee of the Whole. Ms. Materni stated that there is so much more research and we are not even close.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Materni, Chairperson
Service Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.