

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

September 9, 2024

The September 9, 2024 Downtown Committee meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Tom Karcher, Chairperson. Downtown Committee members present were Tom Karcher, Marc Mays, Scott Moore, Zach Morral, and Kate Niederkohr. Graham Treadway and Nicole Morris were absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the August 12, 2024 Downtown Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Downtown Committee member, were approved as received.

It was reported that the recommendation by the Downtown Committee to the Safety Committee, Service Committee, and City Council to close the east/west alley in the 100 block of North Sandusky Avenue located along the west side, from North Sandusky Avenue west to the adjoining north/south alley, was presented to each body at their meetings held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. No objections were voiced by any of the bodies and the matter will be again presented to City Council at their September 16, 2024 meeting for a vote. Mr. Karcher stated that Mr. Aaron Korte raised a question about the maintenance of the area and it was explained that the Downtown Committee is just seeking approval for the alley closure at this point so the planning phase for this project can proceed. Mr. Karcher shared options for barriers that could be placed at both ends of the alley to stop vehicular traffic. Mr. Karcher will share this information with Mr. Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor, to obtain his input. Mr. Morral indicated that the Wyandot County Young Professionals and Rall Supply are interested in helping with the project. Mr. Morral noted that Mr. Kip Wentling, owner of Richardson's Flowers, 116 North Sandusky Avenue, is willing to allow a mural to be painted on the north side of his building along this alley but this side of the building will need to be painted prior to the mural being painted. Downtown Committee members discussed their preference for hanging the Edison lights and members agreed they prefer not to attach the lights to the buildings. Mr. Morral stated that he has seen stainless steel buckets with posts used to anchor Edison lights. Mr. Mike Hill, who owns the adjacent building to the north at 120 North Sandusky Avenue is willing to provide electricity for the Edison lights. An inquiry was made as to if the Parks Department has any extra picnic tables that could be placed in the alley? Steel patio sets were also discussed as a possible option for seating. It was noted that there will be a need for trash receptacles. The Safety Committee suggested the possibility of creating additional parking spaces on North Sandusky Avenue at the current alley entrance. Downtown Committee members were informed that Mr. Hill, who owns the building to the north, is going to be having brick work done on his building in the near future so the placement of furniture and trash receptacles will have to wait until this work is completed. The use of Downtown funds to proceed with the purchase of the barricades was discussed. An inquiry was made with Mayor McColly as to who donations for the project should be made to? Mayor McColly will inquire with Mrs. Nickie Coppler regarding this inquiry.

Mr. Mays reported that he has reached out to Mrs. Brittney Walton, Wyandot County Chamber of Commerce Director, regarding a new speaker system for the downtown and he will also be reaching out to companies to obtain more information on speaker systems.

Mr. Mays again reported on the replacement of the worn street signs in the downtown area indicating that he was informed that the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) street signs will have to stay green and white in color. Mr. Mays obtained a quote earlier this year of \$5,000.00 to replace the twenty-eight (28) street signs.

Mayor McColly stated that Armadillo Solar, located at 110 South Sandusky Avenue, has been instrumental in helping with local projects and they are considering forming a community foundation grant for projects in the future.

Mr. Morral suggested a new updated map of the City created by Community Creations be considered an option in the future.

Downtown Committee members agreed to move the next Downtown Committee meeting to Tuesday, October 15, 2024 due to the Columbus Day holiday, and move the Downtown Committee meeting in November to Tuesday, November 12, 2024 due to the Veterans Day holiday.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Tom Karcher, Chairperson