

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

January 13, 2025

The January 13, 2025 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, Zach Morral, Nichole Morris, Kate Niederkohr, and Graham Treadway. Scott Moore was absent.

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

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

Mr. Mays reported that Mrs. Brittney Walton, Wyandot County Chamber of Commerce Director, wants to work with the Downtown Committee to obtain wired speakers for the downtown area. Mr. Mays will also request a quote for burying the wiring for the speakers in the conduit under the bricks in the downtown.

Mr. Morral reported that he has obtained a quote from Oney's Painting, Upper Sandusky, Ohio, to paint the exterior brick wall and metal stairs on the north side of the Richardson's Flowers building located at 116 North Sandusky Avenue, which is located to the south and adjoining the north/south alley that will be closed and transformed into a communal seating area with tables and chairs. The cost to paint the exterior wall is \$11,500.00 and the cost to paint the metal stairs is \$2,200.00. Mr. Morral will be checking with Mr. Kip Wentling, owner of Richardson's Flowers, to find out how much of this cost he is willing to cover. The painting of a mural on the Richardson's Flower building was again discussed and Mr. Treadway mentioned that a mural in honor the United States Semiquincentennial to occur in 2026 would be fitting. Mr. Mike Hill, Upper Fire Systems, 120 North Sandusky Avenue, who owns the building and business that abuts the alley to the north has informed Mr. Morral that the business doing the masonry work on his building won't be there until the spring of 2025.

Mrs. Niederkohr reported that she contacted Mr. Steve Heinlen, Carmar Gardens, regarding changing the colors of the flowers to be planted in the planters downtown as they are always pink, and she was informed that the flowers are ordered in October of the previous year so the flowers for 2025 have already been ordered but Mr. Heinlen will change up the order as much as possible. Mrs. Niederkohr noted that the City pays for the flowers and waters them throughout the summer and the Rotary plants the flowers. It was suggested that discussions be held in September 2025 for flowers for 2026.

Discussion was held regarding the request for advertising signs that were permitted and placed in the flower pots in the downtown area in December. It was suggested that there could be a charge for the placement of the advertising signs during the winter months to increase revenue for the Downtown Committee. Mr. Karcher, Mr. Mays, Mrs. Morris, and Mr. Treadway all indicated that they did not like the way the signs looked. It was noted that these advertising signs could be difficult to regulate and Mr. Karcher noted that the Downtown Committee needs to make a decision regarding the advertising signs since the idea is already out there. Mr. Morral suggested a downtown communal announcement board for businesses to place their advertisements. Possible locations for the communal announcement board were discussed including Amvets Park located at the northeast corner of the intersection of North Sandusky Avenue and East Walker Street or in the north/south alley to be closed and located between 116 and 120 North Sandusky Avenue. Mr. Morral will discuss this suggestion with the building owners of 116 and 120 North Sandusky Avenue to see if there are any objections to the placement of this board and possible attachment of the board to the Richardson's Flowers building. Mayor McColly inquired as to who would regulate what advertisement materials are permitted for an announcement board and noted he will check with Mr. Ben Buckland, Law Director, for his input.

Mayor McColly reported that another wayfinding sign has been ordered as there are currently five (5) businesses on a waiting list for placement on this sign. Discussion was held regarding the location of this sign. It was suggested that the sign be placed on the northeast corner of the intersection of North Sandusky Avenue and East Walker Street, near Amvets Park. Mayor McColly suggested the next wayfinding sign be placed on South Sandusky Avenue, further south than the existing wayfinding sign located at the intersection of Sandusky Avenue and Wyandot Avenue.

Mr. Treadway expressed that he likes the idea of orange and black flags being placed in the downtown area and he indicated that the Young Professionals would be willing to pay for the flags. Mr. Mays will obtain a quote for the orange and black flags to present to the Young Professionals. Mr. Keith Niederkohr, Parks Department, and Mr. Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor, will be consulted about hanging the flags.

Mayor McColly reported that Mrs. Jan Stoneburner has contacted him regarding the Star Theatre's annual membership drive and indicated that she would like to do something similar to what was done in May 2024 where the Star Alley was closed on Thursday evenings and various activities took place. Mrs. Stoneburner will be coming to a future meeting to address this year's annual membership drive.

Mayor McColly also reported that the City's fireworks are usually held on Friday evenings, close to the 4th of July holiday and in conjunction with Wyanstock, but this year the 4th of July falls on Friday and the individual(s) to set off the fireworks are not available to set off the City's fireworks on the 4th of July. Thursday, July 3, 2025 has been selected as the date for the fireworks and Mayor McColly indicated that alternate locations are being considered including Harrison Smith Park. Mayor McColly noted that this would also be the date for the Wyandot County Chambers of Commerce's 1st Thursday event, and other events are also being considered in conjunction with 1st Thursdays and the fireworks. Mrs. Brittney Walton will be attending an upcoming Downtown Committee meeting to further discuss plans for this date.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Tom Karcher, Chairperson