

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

March 10, 2025

The March 10, 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, Scott Moore, Zach Morral, Kate Niederkohr, and Graham Treadway. Nicole Morris was absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Marty Reber; Ron Marvin; Brittney Walton, Wyandot County Chamber of Commerce Director; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the February 10, 2025 Downtown Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Downtown Committee member, were approved as received.

Marty Reber and Ron Marvin, representing the local committee of the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (AMERICA250-OH) in commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States, shared plans for the events to take place in 2026 between the months of April and August. Mr. Marvin noted that there are two main themes for the celebration being veterans and students.

Brittney Walton, Wyandot County Chamber of Commerce, addressed the Downtown Committee indicating that she would like to see additional lighting (Edison string lights) in the downtown. Mrs. Walton would like to see the lights hung over the sidewalks and she noted they would need to be strung from lamp post to building to lamp post, etc. as they cannot be strung from lamp post to lamp post due to the trees. Mrs. Walton requested the Downtown Committee look at the downtown area and help devise a plan so the lights can be hung without drilling into the buildings. Mrs. Niederkohr suggested arches spanning across the street be considered.

Mrs. Walton also addressed the Downtown Committee regarding plans for the fireworks to be held on Thursday, July 3, 2025 in Harrison Smith Park to be held in conjunction with the 1st Thursday event in July beginning in the downtown area with food trucks. It was noted that the fireworks will be fired from the east end of Harrison Smith Park, near the volleyball courts. Mrs. Walton indicated that she would like to see East Wyandot Avenue in front of Harrison Smith Park closed and prohibit vehicle traffic from the park and she will ask the Sheriff's Department to provide a shuttle service with their golf carts for those individuals unable to walk the distance between their car and the park and back. Mrs. Walton noted that the Police and Fire Departments are on board with the events being planned.

Mrs. Niederkohr reported that there will be a tour of the swimming pool in Harrison Smith Park on Wednesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. to show the need for the passage of the ½% income tax increase to be voted on by Upper Sandusky residents at the May 6, 2025 primary election. Mrs. Niederkohr stated that there will be upcoming public meetings with the Police Chief and Fire Chief to explain the needs of those departments that would also benefit from the ½% income tax increase.

Discussion was again held regarding the orange and black flags, representing the Upper Sandusky Schools colors, to be hung in the downtown area along with the US Flags and Ohio Flags. The Young Professionals and/or the Younger Professionals are willing to donate \$500.00 towards the purchase of these flags. Mr. Mays will work on the design and order the flags. The possibility of obtaining flags commemorating the United States Semiquincentennial to take place in 2026 that could be hung in the downtown area, perhaps in place of the orange and black flags, was discussed.

Mr. Morral reported that the masonry work on the building owned by Mr. Mike Hill, Upper Fire Systems, 120 North Sandusky Avenue, will be completed this week or next week. Mr. Morral noted that Mr. Kip Wentling, owner of Richardson's Flowers, 116 North Sandusky Avenue, has expressed concerns with the closure of the alley between his business and Mr. Hill's as there have been issues with people using the alley inappropriately and disturbing his tenants who enter and exit their apartments from the stairs located in the alley. Downtown

Committee members indicated that plans for the alley may circumvent these issues as the alley will be lit and there will be a trash can available in the alley for the disposal of trash. Mr. Morral also shared Mr. Wentling's concerns of parking noting that he has issues with parking behind his building even though there are signs posted. It was noted that Mr. Wentling is willing to contribute \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 towards the painting of the exterior wall of his building along the alley with the total cost to be \$11,500.00 plus \$2,200.00 to paint the metal stairs. Mr. Morral inquired as to if the City could blacktop this alley and following discussion of various options of the alley surface Mr. Karcher suggested the alley be cleaned up and sealed. A mural on the exterior wall of the Richardson's Flowers building, adjacent to the alley, was again discussed and a mural in honor the United States Semiquincentennial was again suggested.

Mayor McColly reported that the old Shotzy's building located at 130 North Sandusky Avenue, which was destroyed by a fire, will be demolished next week.

Mayor McColly stated that there are businesses in the downtown that are setting up homemade signs in front of parking spaces including some with a 15 minute time limit for parking. Downtown Committee members indicated that this practice cannot be allowed to continue. Mayor McColly noted that he is not opposed to vehicles in the downtown stopping in the right hand lanes with their emergency flashers on to allow the driver to pick up or drop off at businesses, similar to delivery vehicles.

Mr. Mays reported that he continues to work with Mrs. Brittney Walton on speakers proposed for placement in the downtown area. Mr. Mays noted that the company they have been corresponding with from Tiffin, Ohio has asked for maps of the downtown area.

It was reported that Mrs. Stoneburner attended the March 3, 2025 Safety Committee meeting regarding plans for the annual "Rally in the Alley" events on the first four Thursday evenings in May (May 1, 8, 15, and 22) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. including the closure of the north/south alley between West Wyandot Avenue and West Johnson Street and the closure of the east/west alley between South Sandusky Avenue and South Seventh Street for the events, and this request was approved by the Safety Committee.

Mrs. Jan Stoneburner also requested a waiver from the food truck regulations to allow a Chick-fil-A food truck to set up in front of the courthouse and across the street from the Premier Bank parking lot from 11:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2025 as part of the Rally in the Alley event. This request was also approved by the Safety Committee, however due to an amendment to the City's Food Truck regulations pursuant Section 727.03(d) of Ordinance No. 233-13, as adopted by City Council on July 1, 2024, this decision is now at the discretion of the Downtown Committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Niederkohr, seconded by Mr. Moore, to approve a waiver of the food truck regulations and allow a Chick-fil-A food truck to set up in front of the courthouse and across the street from the Premier Bank parking lot from 11:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2025. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Tom Karcher, Chairperson