

April 27, 2016



Franklin Township Joint Meeting

Please note that we will start our next Committee meeting with our annual joint meeting with the Franklin Township.

Health & Safety Committee

1. Community Health Assessment Findings

Jeff Neistadt has requested Committee time to share the findings of the most recent Community Health Assessment report for Kent. Jeff will discuss the results of resident surveys on their health condition, health care coverage, health care usage, chronic health problems, and healthy behaviors. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Receive the report. No action is necessary.

Council Action

No action is necessary.



Community Development Committee

2. 2016 Celebrate Kent Grant Awards

Tom Wilke has evaluated the 10 applications that he received for the 2016 Celebrate Kent Grant Awards and he has prepared his recommendation to allocate the \$15,000 in City funding for Council's approval. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The total grant requests came in at \$23,000 -- approximately \$8,000 more than budgeted. Tom was able to come up with an allocation plan that provided the applicants with partial funding and I would recommend Council's support for this year's funding proposal.

Council Action

Authorize the allocation of the \$15,000 in 2016 Celebrate Kent funds as presented.



Community Development Committee (continued)

3. Proposed MOU for New Public Art Project for Downtown Kent



Dan Morganti and Jim Bowling have asked for Committee time to share information on a proposed new public art project for downtown Kent. Through a partnership with Kent State University, the City, and Main Street Kent a new public art project has been proposed that would “wrap” a select number of City utility boxes with artistic renderings and poetry that has been written by children in Kent. The Wick Poetry Center has also come up with a way to install an inexpensive push button speaker to listen to the poem’s authors read their poetry. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Utility box art has been used successfully in other cities as a means to add character, personality and increase engagement with the arts – while also reducing graffiti. The City’s Architectural Review Board reviewed the proposed artwork for compliance with the downtown design guidelines. Jim Silver has reviewed the draft MOU between the City, Kent State and Main Street that will authorize the project to move forward and I recommend Council’s approval.

Council Action

Authorize the MOU between the City, Kent State and Main Street Kent for the proposed new utility box public art project.

4. Proposed MOU for Middlebury Road Bike Lane Improvement Project



Jim Bowling has asked for Committee time to review a proposed MOU between the City of Kent and the City of Tallmadge that if approved would enable a series of bike lane safety improvements (signage, striping, road repair) to be made between the end of the Portage Hike and Bike Trail in Kent and the start of the Freedom Trail in Tallmadge. Bicycle and pedestrian usage between these two trails have significantly increased and until an off-road trail connection can be made, the staff in the respective cities have evaluated options to better protect trail users in that portion of the road that includes two bridges, a relatively steep slope, and limited site distance. The cities have agreed on the proposed changes and the MOU outlines the respective city responsibilities to complete the project. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The prospect of an eventual off-road trail connection between the Freedom Trail and Portage Hike and Bike Trail is likely 4-5 years out, and in the interim I recommend Council’s support for the proposed traffic safety improvements and the MOU.

Council Action

Authorize the MOU for the Middlebury Road bike lane improvements.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

5. ODOT Participation Agreements Micro-Surface SR43 and SR261



Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to present ODOT’s request for the City to enter into a “project participation agreement” for a “micro-surfacing” project on SR 43 (from City southern border to SR 261) and SR 261 (from Summit Street to northern City border). Micro-surfacing is a road maintenance treatment that applies a thin surface overlay to the existing pavement in order to slow pavement raveling, oxidation, reduce potholes and “refresh” the condition of the roadway surface. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Jim notes that project participation agreement includes a 20% City match, estimated at \$18,860, which is included in Jim’s capital budget for 2018. I recommend Council’s approval.

Council Action

Authorize the staff to enter into the ODOT project participation agreement.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee



6. AMATS Planning Grants Opportunities

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time for Council's final consideration of the City's submission for AMATS "Connecting Communities Planning" grant funding. As previously discussed during the April Committee meeting, AMATS announced the availability of planning grants, up to \$50,000, that are intended to support planning analysis for transportation projects that enhance "community connections", leverage alternative transportation, and promote the principles of "complete streets." The planning grant funds would be distributed in 2016-17 for projects that would possibly be under construction in 3-5 years. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

You may recall, that Council left the project selection for grant submission up to the staff. Of the 3 projects originally presented, Jim and his staff recommend applying for 2 projects: 1) SR 261 Corridor "Road Diet"; and 2) SR59, Water, Summit, Lincoln Area Plan. These projects have been identified by the staff as having the best chances for funding and serve an important local project planning need. I support the staff recommendation and recommend Council's authorization to submit the grant applications as presented.

Council Actions

Authorize the AMATS grants applications as presented.

Finance Committee

7. Proposed City Capital Asset Policy

Dave Coffee has requested Committee time to present a new City Capital Asset policy for the administration of City capital items, e.g., vehicles, equipment, etc. Dave has proposed financial parameters and procedures for the appropriate booking, inventory, and management of City capital assets. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

Previous City audits have recommended the adoption of a Capital Assets policy and I recommend Council's support for the proposed new policy.

Council Action

Adopt the proposed City Capital Asset policy as presented.

8. City Administration Building Update

I have asked for Committee time to share an update on the status of the latest efforts related to the new City Administration building project.

Administration Recommendation

Receive the staff report.

Council Actions

No action necessary at this time.

Information Items

1. Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of March 2016. Overall the City income tax collections are up 5.69% (\$185,124) from March 2015. Kent State University's collections thru the end of March are up 2.82% (\$34,225). (attachment)

