

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
WED., MAY 13, 2009**

This Work Session of Kent City Council was called to order on Wed., May 13, 2009, by John Fender, Mayor & President of Council at 7:02 p.m.

PRESENT: MR. AMRHEIN, MR. DELEONE, MR. FERRARA, MR. HAWKSLEY, MR. KUHAR, MS. SHAFFER, MR. TURNER, MS. WALLACH, AND MR. WILSON (left at 7:17 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: J. FENDER; MAYOR; D. RULLER, CITY MANAGER; J. SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR; G. LOCKE, DIR. OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; B. SUSEL, GRANTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR; W. LILLICH, SAFETY DIRECTOR; AND L. COPLEY, CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mayor Fender explained they would be conducting interviews for vacancies on the various boards and commissions. He explained that appointments would be made at the Regular Council meeting on May 20, 2009.

Richard A. Duncan, applicant for Board of Building Appeals: Mr. Duncan said he is a resident of Aurora, and owns property at 441 Spaulding. He said he read in the newsletter where members of the Board of Building Appeals do not need to be Kent residents. Mr. Duncan explained he graduated from Kent State with a Master's for City planning. He said he saw this as a way to help out the residents of Kent. Mr. Duncan said he reviewed a copy of the standards, powers, and duties of the Board, and is familiar with those types of issues. He said he was the plaintiff in four Ohio Supreme Court cases, adding that one case, Duncan vs. Middlefield established variance laws. He said he is familiar with applying the facts to the standards. Mr. Duncan said it is important to give the correct opinion, as appeals are costly.

There were no questions for Mr. Duncan at this time.

Marie Andrie, applicant for Board of Health was not present.

Mary Louise Grigg, applicant for Assessment Equalization Board: Ms. Grigg said she has no experience, but saw the need for volunteers in the Bulletin. Ms. Grigg said that since 10 people were needed, she felt it must not be a popular board. Ms. Grigg said she has owned eight different income properties for forty years. She said she was interested in the City.

There were no questions for Ms. Grigg at this time.

Robert Bossar, applicant for Civil Service Commission: Mr. Bossar said he had thirty-three years experience in Civil Service, and has helped right civil service laws. He said he represented his employers, University of Akron, and the Ohio Department of Transportation, at civil service board hearings. He said he has sat on various committees, and has participated in the hiring of people, giving raises, removing people, and doing discipline. He said he is used to making difficult decisions, and previously served on the Civil Service Board from 1994 through 1996. He said he had to leave because of a conflict of interest. He said he is now retired, and looks forward to helping in any way possible.

Nancy Hansford, applicant for Civil Service Commission: Ms. Hansford said they have her resume. She explained she has worked in the private and public sector her entire life, and has been employed both as an hourly worker and a salaried administrator. She said the Ohio Revised Code gives direction to this commission, and it helps to have experience and empathy. Ms. Hansford said she served on the Charter Review Commission, and that made her realize how important all boards are in Kent. She said that the Civil Service Commission is not a policy board, but instead, one that must follow the law. Ms. Hansford said she has the time and interest. She said the appointment would be public service, not a job, and she

would like the opportunity to serve.

There were no questions for Ms. Hansford at this time.

Mayor Fender announced that **William Tarver**, applicant for Civil Service Commission, was unable to attend.

Brian Gray, applicant for P.A.R.T.A: Mr. Gray said he has been a resident for most of his life, adding he is a homeowner living in Ward 5. He said he is a strong candidate for public transportation, adding it is the way for the future, especially in Portage County with the rural communities. He said he would like to make Kent a better place.

Mr. Hawksley asked what he knew about the proposed multi modal center, and Mr. Gray said it was a good idea, adding he would like to be part of it.

Ms. Wallach asked Mr. Gray if he has used the bus system, and he said he has used the system in Kent, Portage County, Columbus, and Cleveland.

There were no further questions for Mr. Gray at this time.

Mayor Fender announced that **Theodore Newman**, applicant for Sustainability Commission, was unable to attend.

Tami Talalas Roberts, applicant for Sustainability Commission: Ms. Roberts said she had been a resident of Kent since 2007. She said she read the advertisement, adding she was interested in serving, and wanted to help. Ms. Roberts said she has the experience to help the Board and the City, Kent has a lot of opportunity, with community involvement.

Ms. Shaffer asked Ms. Roberts if she was familiar with the Sustainability Goals, and Ms. Roberts said she was familiar. Ms. Shaffer asked what project she would be interested in seeing move forward, and Ms. Roberts said they definitely need to encourage programs that encourage the community to be self sustaining. She said they are trying to be more efficient in her house, and are working at the community garden, to sustain their food supply. She said they need to start with households and work toward larger goals. She said they need to make people more aware.

Beth Schoonever, applicant for Sustainability Commission was not present.

Mayor Fender explained the next item on the agenda was the Neighborhood Enhancement presentation. **Dave Ruller, City Manager**, said **Gary Locke, Community Development Director**, would be leading this presentation, adding it has been under discussion for a number of years. He said the timing is appropriate, adding there is a sense of urgency to restore and revitalize their neighborhoods. He said that Mr. Locke wants a multi-pronged look, and has talked to other cities. He said this is nothing new, adding it may be time to revisit the topic.

Mr. Locke said they had a presentation by a gentleman from Cincinnati a few months earlier, adding he showed some of the projects they were doing. He said they looked loosely at the Cincinnati model, adding that Cincinnati had instituted a fairly strong neighborhood program. He said some components were well known.

Mr. Locke said that Cleveland has a strong neighborhood orientation, adding they do a lot of block grant funding through their neighborhoods. He said these types of programs are fairly common, and they can find a number of them on the internet, which is a cheap way to travel with little expense. He said they are trying to look at the basic components of the programs, adding that all of the programs have some basic elements and basic commonalities.

Mr. Locke said they have been dealing with some of the issues affect neighborhoods, and they wanted to “paint a big picture” of information they will be discussing in the coming months. He said as they go through these discussions, it is important to think back to this super structure. He said they can point at code enforcement and/or licensing, but cannot just look at one or two issues. He said they need to look from a broad base. Mr. Locke said the information in the City Manager’s packet goes into the issues in more detail. He said he just wanted to touch on some of the issues at this time.

Mr. Locke said the Neighborhood Enhancement Program is a comprehensive, multifaceted program which engages residents, property owners, the City and Kent State University, to work together to improve their neighborhoods. He said they would like to eliminate the mind set of “I” and “Me,” and push on the “We” and “Us.” He said they must work together. Mr. Locke said it seems like a simplistic analysis, but is something they have to do together, rather than separately.

Mr. Locke said in October 2006, the Health and Safety Committee identified concerns regarding the neighborhoods. He said the Administration was asked to follow up on noise, solid waste management, neighborhood councils, parking, code enforcement, and health and safety issues related to housing licenses. He said he was sure there were discussions prior to that, but these were the most recent history.

Mr. Locke said in February 2007, the Administration provided information about a Neighborhood Enrichment Strategy. He said he wanted to point out that no strategy or policy alone is adequate to address the issues. Mr. Locke said a broad range of strategies are necessary to begin the process of resolving the issue. He said he was not trying to be Pollyannish, adding that it takes a lot of work. He said it is important to reemphasize what they have discussed for two years.

Mr. Locke said in June 2007, the Administration presented the concept of short term strategies related to Code enforcement, such as the International Property Maintenance Code. He said in October 2007, they made a presentation, and after that, they were asked to put together policies and procedures, returning to Committee in September 2008. He said there have been no further discussions, adding they need to return to Committee, for some decisions. He said they also discussed ticketing and a comprehensive rental license. He said this is not new information.

Mr. Locke said this program is needed to stabilize the neighborhoods. He said they know they have neighborhoods throughout the City that are seeing deterioration, including their building condition, and the general nature of the neighborhood. He said this impacts the property values, and that is the need to stabilize the neighborhoods and property values. He said they also need to engage and empower the residents to take a more active role in their neighborhoods. He said the neighborhoods tend to ask the City to write letters, adding the whole point is to find a way to empower people to look differently at their neighborhoods. He said that people need to get to know each other, and need to develop a mutual respect. He said he always looks back to “those days,” when he was a child, and it is much different now.

Mr. Locke said they want Kent to be a more attractive place to live and work. He said when they talk to businesses about coming to Kent, or staying in Kent, they hear people are interested in the quality of life. He said that neighborhoods reflect the quality of life in Kent, and depending on the neighborhood, it probably is an unfair judgment of Kent if they drive through a poorly maintained neighborhood. He said if people see it that may be their first impression.

Mr. Locke displayed pictures of various neighborhoods, with a variety of problems. He said they have spent a lot of time in the last few months, discussing garbage and trash, adding it is an elementary issue. He said some of the homes have inadequate trash disposal, unsafe conditions, trash, and litter.

On one picture, Mr. Ferlito pointed out that it was his notice on the door, ordering clean up. He commented that it was cleaned up in two hours.

Mr. Locke said there are seven basic components to the Neighborhood Enhancement Program. He said one component deals with increased enforcement, to help maintain liveable conditions in the neighborhoods, preserving the structural and external integrity of the programs. He emphasized they are

already doing some of these components.

Mr. Locke said that Troy Loomis has been their Code Enforcement Officer for about one year, and spends a lot of time dealing with the code issues. He said with the conversion from a part time job, they have seen increased code enforcement activity.

Mr. Locke said they are working on the zoning code, have presented the Property Maintenance Code, and have discussed trash pickup. He said that whether they are dealing with code enforcement or other issues, they need more effective ways of enforcement. He said his department can write a lot of letters, with the only alternative being that they go to Court. He said the Law Department cannot handle hundreds of cases. Mr. Locke said they need to find ways to deal with these issues, without going to court. He said they may be coming back to the Committee, with more creative ways that do not involve the courts, with respect to enforcement. Mr. Locke said that some cases have been in the court process for two years, adding they do not get results. He said if they are going to try and be productive, they need to find better ways of doing the enforcement.

Mr. Locke said that crime prevention and enforcement ties into code enforcement. He said the residents need to feel safe and secure, otherwise the desire to live in those areas will be diminished. Mr. Locke said the Police Department is doing as much as they can, but are stretched to the limit. He said events like those that accorded a few weeks earlier are a burden with additional costs. He said they have to remember that working with the Police Department will potentially help the neighborhoods. He said they have to people to be more aware and respectful of their surroundings.

Mr. Locke said they must empower and engage the residents. He said the residents need to develop ownership interest in their neighborhoods, and they need to invest their time and talents to improve their neighborhoods. He said they need to promote better neighbor to neighbor relationships, as this helps to develop a stronger sense of respect for each other. He said that people tend to look at the city for help. He said they need to work through neighborhood groups. Mr. Locke said it is not easy to tell people to be more involved, adding he did not think the neighborhoods are going to want to hear that thought. He said they need to convince people to take a more active role, adding that one applicant earlier in the evening spoke of things they do in their own household. He said this process is not easy, but it is not impossible.

Mr. Locke said that **Bridge Susel** would speak about the neighborhood groups. Ms. Susel said they need to create a forum to allow neighborhood groups to define the geographic boundaries of their group. She said they can discuss this internally, but the neighborhoods have to define those parameters, so the city knows who is included. She said they need to identify the primary needs, as every neighborhood is different.

Ms. Susel said she was asked to take a part time position in Akron that worked with four different neighborhoods, with different needs. She said it is important to articulate the goals of the neighborhoods, adding they need both short and long term goals. She said there is a tendency to focus on long term goals, losing sight of the short term goals. Ms. Susel said they need to give small rewards to keep people engaged.

Ms. Susel said this is an opportunity for the City to gather information about the issues and concerns of the neighborhoods throughout Kent. She said they can hear through hear say, but need to talk to the people. She said this would allow them to present information about initiatives and programs being discussed by the City. She said they have found a lack of communication.

Ms. Susel said this would allow the City to work with the stakeholders to foster a greater understanding of their roles and responsibilities. She said getting everyone to the table, communicating on what can be done is key. She said it is a sense of reality and understanding.

Mr. Locke said they just went through the process about snow removal, which evolved from discussions to recommendations. He said that most of the people involved were not involved in City government previously. He said that was a good example of how to evolve the ideas, get the residents involved, so they can do something productive.

Ms. Susel said the next element deals with neighborhood mini grants. She said they were not talking about substantial sums of money, adding it could be \$1,000 to \$5,000. She said they can make some money available so they can fix up the neighborhoods, and dress things up. Ms. Susel said that sometimes they need flowers and vegetation to “spiff up” the neighborhood. She said one way to encourage this is to make money available, and to work with them, identifying the small scale projects. She said this establishes a bond between the City and the residents by providing assistance to those groups who demonstrate a desire and effort to effectuate positive changes. She said it will help them gain support for capital improvement programs. She said if they open the channels of communication, it is a better way to get their input, so it is not a standoff situation.

Mr. Kuhar asked if it would be feasible to put together a labor pool of low income workers to work with the neighborhoods, adding this could create jobs in the City. Mr. Locke said it could be done. He said a few weeks earlier, some Council members met with the Manager, and wanted to see jobs created, advancing the idea of green building techniques. He said Ms. Susel told him that Family & Community Services has been working on this, and had applied for a grant the previous year. He said they reapplied this year, and the City wrote a letter of support. He said that he was unsure they would get funded, but based on their discussions, there was some interest with helping with some CDBG funding. He said the problem with paint brush programs deals with lead paint. He said they cannot send people to paint houses because of the need to do lead abatement. Mr. Kuhar said they have talented people lacking work to survive, adding they could accomplish a lot, like fixing porches that have their bottoms kicked out.

Mr. Locke said that energy conservation grants are available through the State, adding a lot of them fall into economic development stimulus monies. He said they are looking at some of those programs, to try and put something together. He said they have the interest, and are willing to partner with Family & Community Services who are prepared to hire the people, being the employer, so the City does not need to take the responsibility.

Ms. Wallach asked if they could use those grants for block party cookouts. She said she hosted a cookout in September with students and residents, so they could get to know each other, and footed the bill herself. She said she hosted a pizza party on Sherman Street the previous week to thank them. Ms. Susel said there are some limitations on those types of purposes. She said it depended on the main source of funding, adding the funding is more conducive to do neighborhood beautification, such as trash cans.

Mr. Ruller said Ms. Susel is speaking about grants. He said they have discussed combining some federal and/or state dollars for the “nuts and bolts,” and Council could set the parameters on how to spend the City money. He said they are creating opportunities for interaction, which is appropriate and timely. He said he would not want to rule it out. Ms. Susel said when she did her neighborhood work, they often used City monies for clean up, and would have pot luck dinners.

Mr. Hawksley said Louisville is working with Kentucky Fried Chicken to fill potholes, and they are stamped with the KFC logo. He said corporate and/or businesses could partner with the neighborhoods. He said they need to find other partners.

Mr. Kuhar said he spoke with Judge Plough about the snowplowing problems, and said the Judge would be more than happy to direct young adults to the City at no cost. Law Director Silver said that program already was in place.

Mr. Fender asked what the City would do, and if this is ongoing. Mr. Locke said he is trying to identify the pieces and parts, adding that some is generational, while other items are short term and can be done now to address the physical issues. He said another issue deals with the schools and education. Mr. Amrhein said there is a small group of Seniors that go out and work in the neighborhoods.

Mr. Locke said that communication and organization is important, adding that open lines of communication are critical for the development of the Neighborhood Enhancement Program and all of its elements. He said they need to set priorities, adding they then have to sell it to the residents. He said there is no perfect

storm in terms of doing this, adding everyone needs to be kept in the loop and at the table, contributing to the communication.

Mr. Locke said that they need to educate people, and need to get residents in a proactive mind set. He said they need to think about their civic responsibilities, and should start with their young people. He said they need to talk to those in college, and advise them they are apart of a community when attending Kent State. He said they want them to be contributing members, and need to get everyone involved. He said this could be done through neighborhood groups, and they could also do neighborhood watch programs, if the Police do not have the time. He said that some programs were cut back in recent years, because of funding.

Mr. Locke said the final item deals with rental property licensing, as they need to provide a more comprehensive system for tracking, regulation, and enforcement of codes on all or some rental properties so as to facilitate better internal and external living conditions. He said they cannot turn their back on rental housing issues, adding that not all are bad, and there are some bad owner/occupied properties. He said the rental property licensing goes beyond what the Health Department does currently. He said they do not license every unit in Kent, and the program may not let them inspect every rental. He said they are going to make some tough decisions, but they have the ability to improve the housing conditions. He said this is something they may wish to discuss further.

Ms. Wallach asked if this included apartment buildings, and Mr. Locke said all rental properties would be licensed in some manner.

Mr. Kuhar said he had phone calls from some landlord associations while in Florida. He said they felt the licensing would not be bad, if every business was licensed, but they did not want to be singled out. He said they felt that single family and two-family licensing would be evasive if it included interior inspections.

Mr. Locke said he heard some of that also. He said he did not want it perceived as a burden. He said they need to look at the rental properties and the condition they are in. He said the conditions have nothing to do with the value, as rentals are appraised based on the ability to generate income. He said for most of them, the whole point of how their property is valued depends on how it is maintained, adding that is not the case with rental properties. He said a property could be valued at \$130,000 but sell for \$230,000. He said there is no incentive to maintain them.

Mr. Kuhar said he would agree with Mr. Locke on the multiple occupancy homes, but would disagree on the single and two-family homes. He said a lot of rental properties have gone for about 30% less, adding if they are within two blocks of the University, that is the way they should be appraised.

Ms. Wallach said she knows she is going to be questioned, and asked if duplexes and triplexes would be licensed as the whole property or individual units, and Mr. Locke said they have not researched that at this time. He said they need to look at various fee structures and the staffing demands. He said they need to come up with estimates on monies generated. He said he did not see any of the monies staying in the City's pocket, adding they need to cover enforcement costs. He said the left over monies would be put into neighborhood programs, so it is being used in productive way. He said this could be a funding source, with little or no strings. He said there are a number of different ways to go, but he is not seeing the same level of inspections on smaller rentals. He said he could see single and two-family units being reviewed, externally, for property maintenance issues. He said he sees the Health Department doing their same level of inspection, with the Community Development Department covering the balance. He said he was not sure if it would take more than existing staff, adding there are different ways it can be done and he would be glad to review it further.

Mr. Locke said he had a few recommendations. He suggested they put the Property Maintenance Code back in committee. He said they need to either adopt it, adopt it with revisions, or turn it down. He said they need to get off dead center.

Ms. Shaffer asked if this would cover the "scaffolding house," and Mr. Locke said it would, as well as

another big building in Kent. He said they have cited the "Scaffolding house," and then they have to get it in court. He said that a judge may not be as offended as the City, so they must roll the dice and see what happens.

Mr. Hawksley asked if there are different administrative processes, and Mr. Locke said they have outlined some different things when they discussed the policy and procedures. He said they would like to have a compliance contract, giving the owner so many days to comply, and have mediation with the property owner. He said they would sign a contract, agreeing to fix it in a reasonable period of time, and the contract would allow the City to move forward, advancing enforcement, avoiding pretrials.

Mr. Kuhar said the Ohio Revised Code has provisions for tenants, regarding health and safety issues. He suggested an awareness program, so renters could be made aware that they have recourse through the municipal court. Mr. Locke agreed, and asked if a tenant should have to go through that process. Mr. Kuhar said it is a rent deposit, and the landlord would not get the money without the problems being fixed. He said that when the money stops, the action usually starts. Mr. Locke said when the license stops, that will also get their attention. He said anything is possible, adding it is not nailed down. He said they have to discuss whether or not they go inside a property. He said the Property Maintenance Code covers interior items, adding that is one issue to be discussed.

Mr. Locke said another item is to evaluate and consider the creation of a comprehensive rental licensing program. He said this needs to be placed in committee for discussion.

Mr. Locke said they are asking for authorization to formulate or propose a neighborhood group program and operational structure. He said that Ms. Susel already has the experience, adding they would have her take the lead, returning with the structure and the operations.

Mr. Hawksley asked if they had any funds to offer some small mini grants, and Mr. Locke said he was unsure this year, adding they could look at CDBG monies. He suggested they could amend their CDBG funding, as this is the first year in nine years where they have received additional CDBG monies.

Ms. Wallach said she would like to see one or two part time employees hired to oversee the problem neighborhoods. She said they found it successful to walk and talk to the students, adding that the students were very compliant and grateful to be considered. She said she was unsure if they could finance this through CDBG funds or put on a levy, adding it is similar to an RA at the dorm. Ms. Wallach said that Landon Hancock suggested they talk to the University of Akron, who had people doing conflict management.

Mr. Locke said they do not have enough CDBG monies. He said they cover about 1/3 of Ms. Susel's salary with CDBG monies. He said if they get more money, the Administrative component would also increase.

Mr. Ruller said he has had some informal discussions, adding that other cities have partnered with universities for neighborhood liaisons. He said there is an equal desire by the University to have positive relations. He said Kent State has responded favorably to the concept. Ms. Wallach said she would like to see that progress, and be in place by the Fall.

Ms. Shaffer agreed with Ms. Wallach, adding that a lot of the students are transient, and it is difficult to develop that history. She said someone needs to be responsible for communication. Ms. Shaffer said they have talked about developing materials, and questioned whose job it would be to distribute that information. She said they could be motivated as Council members, adding it would be a two-way communication.

Mr. Turner said he would urge them to look at the stakeholders. He said the property owners should be included with the students, as they have a stake. He said they could have a situation where the student population starts to see themselves as involved, and as a vested part of the neighborhood. He said it would be an important aspect to engage them, as well as the property owners.

Ms. Susel said one neighborhood group she worked with had student housing, and they had trouble getting them to the meetings. She said the Student Council representatives encouraged people to attend, and they did see a great change in the noise and litter. She said it is a hard group to gather and keep engaged, and they usually can go through the University. She said they asked people in the neighborhood, and that made a huge difference.

Ms. Wallach said the neighborhood liaison would be a nice buffer. She said noise violations are trivial to the police, and a liaison could deal with it, generating an immediate resolution.

Ms. Shaffer said she and Mr. Ruller recently judged a public relations contest. She said the students had an organization like this within their structure, as a way to increase student recognition of themselves as residents and to make those connections. She said each neighborhood is different, with specific needs, and communication is really important.

Mr. Kuhar said there was an information Town/Gown meeting at the Student Center, where he suggested a foot patrol to get the police acquainted with the student population. He said a lieutenant suggested a meeting to tell the students what they can or cannot do. He said he thought he saw a foot patrol in the University Drive/Lincoln Street area, and asked if that was the case. He said that the events of previous weekends have quieted down.

Mr. Ruller said that the Police Chief and Safety Director made a presentation about the reinstatement of the Community Policing program around the first weekend of May. He said that they were to start with foot patrols and bike patrols in the neighborhoods.

William Lillich, Safety Director: Mr. Lillich said they are still planning community policing, adding he would be interested in the facilitator role as that may be of some significance. He said it would be important that the primary function would be to assist in facilitating the contact between the police and the residents, not replacing it. He said they have already dedicated about \$50,000 for neighborhood policing over the next few years.

Mr. Turner said that one thing he heard, when they walked the neighborhoods, is whether the students can discuss constitutional law when the police give orders to disperse. He said he tried to explain that when the police give an order, it must be obeyed, with debate at a later time. He said one issue for them deals with the education piece. He said he would like to see a close relationship between the police and the students, adding the students need to know the police job and how they are to react. He said they need up close and personal interaction, not a buffer. He said if the students do not agree, they need to know what they are required to do. Mr. Turner said they previously discussed an academy, adding he supported it as it would be an educational piece. He said he is unsure it would have averted the issue on College Avenue. Mr. Turner said when the students get an understanding of a Police function, and how they are charged with maintaining order, there would be less of a challenge. He said they need to assign responsibility, adding that it would reduce the fuse that occurs. He said he is interested in what they can do to get the City's police department, student population, and administrators together. He said they need to sit down in conversation with the stakeholders. Mr. Turner said they cannot continue having those types of incidents occurring in the City, adding that the residents will not accept it and the students do not want to accept it. He questioned how they ensure the mechanisms are in place.

Mr. Ruller said that mechanism is in place already, adding he met earlier in the day with the Dean of students and administrative officials. He said the Student Council is also invited. Mr. Ruller said that they had a very engaged group two years earlier that have graduated. He said that people change, as does the level of interest in the student body. Mr. Ruller said they meet the first and second Wednesdays of the month, and over time, the students have dwindled off. He said it can still be a valuable process, adding the structure is there, waiting for the fuel. He said he is unsure what it takes. Mr. Ruller said once they have an incident like they had, it helps create the sense of urgency.

Mayor Fender said they have been doing this for fifteen to twenty years, and have met, going back to Carol Cartwright. He said the student police patrol goes back a number of years. He said that they have

done a lot of work, but when something crops up, it is perceived as a crisis, with the talking points returning.

Mr. Turner said he felt the issue would be to maintain the institutional memory. He said if all of the elements are in place, the question is how to maintain an engagement. He said they need to remind stakeholders in the student areas and those who sign leases as to their responsibilities and the liabilities to be incurred. Mr. Lillich said it is a much bigger issue. He said their staffing was down, adding that the participation from the neighborhood tends to go up, in response to the urgency described by the City Manager. He said as the concern and/or panic wanes, so does the interest. He said they see the same things with traffic issues. He said they may have neighborhood meetings, and by the third meeting, maybe three people are in attendance. He said it is hard to keep going as the interest fails. Mr. Lillich said the safety forces are dedicated to this, adding the answers do not come from the Safety Department. He said they are much broader, which is what Mr. Locke is trying to do.

Mr. Hawksley said he wished to make a motion, and Mayor Fender said motions are not made at a work session. Mr. Ruller said they would move to the next steps, if the Council was comfortable.

Mr. Kuhar said that given what the Mayor brought up about the transient population, and what Mr. Turner mentioned about what is expected of a student in those areas, there may be a need to revisit a citizen's oversight committee. He said if people did not like what was occurring, there would be someone they could speak with about the issue. He said it would be a nonofficial organization, rather than the FBI. Mr. Lillich asked what type of issue he was getting at, and Mr. Kuhar said that Mr. Turner mentioned someone's rights being violated. Mr. Turner said he did not say that, adding he was not bringing that up and that is not where he was. He said he was relating that when those things happen, he was instructing those with issues what process is to be followed. Mr. Turner said that people need to understand what to do when given an order by the Police Department, dealing with their opinions later.

Mayor Fender asked they not wait until there is a crisis to go walking. He said some of them have done this for a long time, adding it is a problem that is going to be with them. He said they can diminish it, but it will still be in Kent. He said it is the way some students live, as compared to how they expect them to live. He said the University and the City can do anything they can, but small groups cause the conflict, and then the Council points fingers as to who is the blame.

Mr. DeLeone noted that a lot of them are not students.

Hearing no further business before this Council, Mayor John Fender adjourned this meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

