

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
WED., MAY 16, 2007**

This meeting of the Community Development Committee of Kent City Council was called to order by William Schultz, Chair, on Wed., May 16, 2007 at 7:15 p.m. Chair Schultz explained the only item on their agenda dealt with the Celebrate Kent! grants.

**PRESENT:** MR. BARGERSTOCK, MR. DELEONE, MR. FERRARA, MS. GAVRILOFF, MR. HAWKSLEY, MR. KUCHAR, MS. OSWITCH, MR. SCHULTZ, AND MR. WILSON

**ALSO PRESENT:** D. RULLER, CITY MANAGER; J. FENDER, MAYOR; J. SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR; M. WEDDLE, ECON. DEV. COORDINATOR; AND L. COPLEY, CLERK OF COUNCIL

**MOTION TO WAIVE COUNCIL'S FORTY-EIGHT HOUR RULE ON THE RECEIPT OF INFORMATION.**

Motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Gavriloff, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0-1, with Mr. Schultz abstaining.

**Mike Weddle, Economic Development Coordinator**, explained they received \$15,000 in grant requests for the Celebrate Kent! grant. Mr. Weddle said they expected more requests than money to allocate.

Mr. Weddle said the goal of the program is to provide opportunities to celebrate the quality of life enjoyed by the residents of Kent and share with the outside community the attributes that make Kent unique.

Mr. Weddle said the objectives are to attract Kent residents and from other communities to downtown activities. He said another objective is to promote the City's attributes to those outside of Kent. He said the final objective is to create additional commercial opportunities for downtown retail operations. He asked they keep those objectives in mind as they review the applications.

Mr. Weddle said they changed the program to make it a fairer process, and easier for the applicants. He said they also wished to include more of the community activities. He said the program was intended to attract people to the downtown. He said applicants must be a Kent company and/or agency. Mr. Weddle said the funding is intended to support verifiable program expenses, such as "hard costs" which include materials, advertisements, and printing. He said expressly prohibited for funding was administrative line items, such as salaries, general office supplies, and agency overhead. He said they will require a report at the end of the program year. He said all applicants must understand that this is a reimbursement project, adding they will not front the money and will pay on the reimbursement basis. He said there is a match. He said it is a 1:1 cash match, or a 2:1 in kind match.

Mr. Weddle said they had \$15,000 in requests, with \$10,000 budgeted. He said he was not suggesting they go over the budget. Mr. Weddle said when looking at all three applications, based on previous history, they decided to back into an allocation for the Folk Festival. He said they have a good relationship, and they have served the purposes of the economic development promotions grant program.

Mr. Weddle said with all three applications, he separated what he felt were eligible and ineligible expenses. He said that food and administrative related items were weeded out, as food was an issue in two of the three applications. Mr. Weddle said that all three applications had included administrative costs. He said of the eligible expenses, his first priority was to focus on promotions related activities. He said those activities directly related to promotions, specifically in the DICE and KentFest proposal, were funded at their requested level or close to their requested level. Chair Schultz pointed out that Mr. Weddle is *recommending*, not funding them, and Mr. Weddle agreed. He said he is recommending those items be considered first.

Mr. Weddle said of the operational line items, they were funded in whole or part, based on the funding

request and past program funding experience with previous grantees. He said that DICE and KentFest funding requirements were subtracted from the \$10,000 amount, leaving the balance for the Folk Festival.

Mr. Bargerstock said that one parties listed is an officer of an organization licensed in his agency. He asked if he is permitted to discuss the application. Mr. Silver asked if he would receive any economic benefit if the request is funded, and Mr. Bargerstock said he would not. Mr. Silver asked if he felt it could influence his vote, and Mr. Bargerstock said it would not influence his vote. He said he has no business contract with them, but one party is licensed with him.

Ms. Oswitch said she liked how Mr. Weddle broke out the information. She said that under the KSU Folk Festival, they list a City match of \$8000. Mr. Weddle said that is what they received the previous year. He noted they did request \$9000.

Mr. Fender said the requirements of the program were reviewed by Mr. Weddle, adding the biggest thing is the promotion of the downtown. He asked Mr. Weddle if he got feedback from restaurants and business who have attended the events, and any broad view of the attendance and the effect on sales. Mr. Weddle said it is tough for him to respond, and a touch question to ask of the applicants. He said that they could not apply this year, unless they described how they felt they impacted the City the previous year. He said they were required to file a report for the previous year, prior to being reimbursed or the consideration of this year's application. He said past applicants met those requirements.

Mr. Weddle said he cannot give them numbers as to how it was quantified. He said he cannot tell them what was the economic impact. He said those reports are on file.

Mr. Fender asked which of the three events extend throughout the entire year, and promote the City more. Mr. Weddle said they are all time specific. He said that DICE goes throughout the summer. He said they missed the first DICE event, which was the poetry reading on May 12. He said they also do ice sculpting, hold a cider fest, have the downtown cinema, and the ice cream social. He said these events extend through the summer.

Mr. Fender asked if the KentFest run is in Kent, and Mr. Weddle responded "Sort of". He said there is no exact starting or ending location. Mr. Fender asked if they are in Kent, if Kent must provide police protection, and Mr. Weddle said they do need that service. He said he is unsure if the City has agreed to do that at this time.

Mr. Wilson asked the date of the KentFest Run, and Mr. Weddle said he spoke with Mary Drongowski earlier in the day, and she said it would be July 7, which is a standing date for that activity. Mr. Wilson asked if they knew the date of the Heritage Festival's Run, and Mr. Weddle said that it was the same day, July 7.

Ms. Gavriloff asked if the clinic was beforehand, and asked if the KentFest run would be in town. She said the race is one issue, but her question was about the Sports Clinic. She asked if it was in town. Mr. Weddle said he was not sure. Ms. Oswitch said it is at the Nazarene Church the day of the race. Mr. Schultz said it is on Summit Street, near SR 261. Mr. Weddle said it is not in Kent, and Ms. Oswitch said it is in the City. Mr. Wilson disagreed, and said it was in Franklin Township.

Chair Schultz called for audience comments at this time.

**Carl Picelle:** Mr. Picelle said he is a business operator in downtown Kent. He said he did not come to the meeting to address this issue, but wanted to speak in favor of DICE and the KSU Folk Festival. Mr. Picelle said he can vouch for them and their impact on local small businesses. He said the Folk Festival brings people from all over to downtown Kent, adding there is always a favorable response to the festival. He said they tie in various businesses and organizations in the afternoon and the evening. He said it has a big impact on their business.

Mr. Picelle said that DICE is an organization they need watch. He said there are not that many people

who are willing to take on those types of projects. He said he is lucky that most of their operations are at the park across from his business, and his business does well. He said he wanted to speak in favor of DICE, adding they need to keep their eyes on that organization and help them grow.

**Bob (Name unclear):** The speaker explained he is associated with the KSU Folk Festival. He thanked Council for their past support of the festival. He said he is excited about where they are with the festival, adding they are hitting the critical mass with something that address the needs of Council. He said one need is to drive people to Kent.

He explained that they had some irrationally good weather, adding they had an amazing Folk Alley around town, where they involved restaurants, bars, churches, and coffee shops. He said that twenty-six venues had free music. He explained that outside of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Halloween, and Homecoming, he did not know when he has seen that many people on the downtown streets.

He explained they take their mission seriously of bringing people to Kent, and this year, they will have Roseann Cash as a performer for the festival. He said the City's funding allows them to promote the region as a destination. He explained it helps them underwrite the programs at Kent City Schools. He thanked them for their support.

**Doug Fuller, Kent resident/business owner:** Mr. Fuller said he had not planned to speak on this issue, but it is important. He said if they have not been to the Folk Festival, they need to do it, as it is an incredible night in downtown Kent. He said that DICE started as a small group and is growing. He said at one point, more than 400 people were sitting on the lawn of the Home Savings plaza watching a movie, adding it was unbelievable. He said to have that many families downtown is something that should be attended. He said there are other things that are not as well attended, but are of significant interest. He said they do tremendous work for the City, and he encouraged their funding.

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUNDING AS RECOMMENDED FOR THE CELEBRATE KENT! PROGRAM.**

Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. Bargerstock.

Mr. Ferrara said that DICE and the Folk Festival should be supported, and wished they had more money. He said one of the most underappreciated projects in Kent that brings economic activity to Kent is the Folk Festival. He said the banners across the bridge were great, as they peaked everyone's interest. He said he was happy to support them, and wished they could find more money.

Mr. Bargerstock agreed with Mr. Ferrara. He said one of the things he is more pleased about is that this has been a controversy for years, with respect to how they are funded. He said he is pleased that the Administration came up with a process and formula complying with Council's policies. He said they could not ask for a better way to handle it, and he is glad to see it has happened. He agreed with the work done by DICE and the Folk Festival, especially since everyone will be treated fairly.

Mr. Wilson said he would vote against the motion, as he had different feelings. He said the KentFest run is not being held in Kent, and the clinic is in Franklin Township. He suggested that the Franklin Township trustees could help them. Mr. Wilson said this puts them in direct competition with the Heritage Festival, and that is not a good thing.

Ms. Gavrilloff agreed with Mr. Wilson. She said when she heard that the Nazarene Church was not in the City limits, the proposal lost her support.

Ms. Oswitch said she would support the motion for different reasons. She said she is the wife of a runner, and has spent every weekend at a race for the past seventeen years. She said her husband will run the KentFest first, and then run the Heritage Festival. She said a number of people do the same thing. Ms. Oswitch said it is marathon time, and people come to Kent to run. She said she can give them a list of people coming to town. She said there are races everywhere.

Mr. Hawksley said he would support the motion, but agreed with some of the concerns. He said that Ms. Oswitch made a compelling argument.

Mr. Kuhar said as gasoline approaches \$4.00 per gallon, people are looking to their local community for entertainment. He said the programs are getting better every year. Mr. Kuhar said he is not pleased with the recommendation of \$500 to the KentFest, but it is a minimal amount of money. He said the programs are good for the downtown, and will continue to grow. He said he will support the motion.

At this time, Mr. Kuhar began to make a motion to amend the original motion, and Mr. Bargerstock asked that they call the vote. Mr. Schultz asked Mr. Kuhar to proceed, and *Mr. Bargerstock said he called the vote.*

The Clerk said they did not have a second to *Call the Question*. She said that calling for the vote is the same as calling the question, and must be seconded and voted upon.

**MOTION TO AMEND WITH THE REMOVAL OF FUNDS FOR THE KENTFEST.**

Motion made by Mr. Kuhar, seconded by Mr. Wilson.

The Clerk said it was an improper motion, as it significantly changed the intent of the original motion. Mr. Wilson suggested they fail this motion, so another can be made.

**MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION.**

Motion made by Mr. Bargerstock, seconded by Ms. Oswitch, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0-1, with Mr. Schultz abstaining.

The original motion failed by a hand vote of 6-2-1, with Mr. Bargerstock and Ms. Oswitch dissenting. Mr. Schultz abstained.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR DICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3000 AND FOR THE KSU FOLK FESTIVAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7000.**

Motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Gavrilloff.

Ms. Oswitch said she would not support the motion, She said it is a minimal amount, and they are losing out on a lot of people. She said it is a game they play annually, adding it is pathetic.

Mr. Bargerstock said that Council set a policy for the Administration, putting them through a torturous process annually. He said that instead of using the process presented, which was well-done by the Administration, certain Council member wish to divide the community again, destroy the goodwill of the community, and damage a program. He said he would not support the motion, adding it is one of the things that is wrong with Kent and will continue to be wrong. He said they would rather punish people than do what is good for the community. He said they are wrong.

Ms. Gavrilloff agreed with Ms. Oswitch and Mr. Bargerstock. She said the issue is that the clinic and events are not within the physical limits of Kent, and the purpose of this program is to support the activities in Kent.

Mr. Bargerstock said it is in the JEDD.

The motion carried by a hand vote of 6-2-1, with Ms. Oswitch and Mr. Bargerstock dissenting. Mr. Schultz abstained.

**MOTION TO REQUEST THE ADMINISTRATION CHECK FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO FULLY FUND BOTH EVENTS.**

Motion made by Mr. Hawksley, and died for want of a second.

*Mr. Bargerstock called for a point of order, adding this was not part of the agenda, and Mr. Schultz said it*

*was within the subject matter.*

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Chair Schultz adjourned this meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) **TO FUND DICE FOR \$3000 AND THE KSU FOLK FESTIVAL FOR \$7000 WITH THE CELEBRATE KENT! PROMOTIONS GRANT.**