

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WED., FEB. 21, 2007**

This meeting of the Community Development Committee was called to order at 7:05 p.m . on Wed., Feb. 21, 2007 by Vice Chair Oswitch, Ms. Oswitch said the only item on the agenda dealt with the Celebrate Kent! Program.

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

ALSO PRESENT: W. LILLICH, ACTING CITY MANAGER; J. SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR; M. WEDDLE, ECON. DEV. COOR.; AND L. ZORC, ACTING CLERK OF COUNCIL

ABSENT: J. FENDER, MAYOR
D. RULLER, CITY MANAGER
L. COPLEY, CLERK OF COUNCIL

William Lillich, Acting City Manager, introduced **Mike Weddle, Economic Development Coordinator**, at this time.

Mr. Weddle gave a presentation for Celebrate Kent!, explaining that this is a reworked promotions grant program. He said one change is that there is now a single page application. He said that the current budget of \$10,000 is probably not enough to fund this program in the long run.

Ms. Gavriloff asked how much of the funds were allocated for the Folk Festival, and Mr. Weddle said that had expired and they would have to apply again.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Weddle if \$10,000 is not enough now, would he be returning for more funds later.

Mr. Weddle said they have already received an application from the Kent Stage.

Mr. Bargerstock asked if there was a method or established guidelines for identifying who is an appropriate applicant, and Mr. Weddle said there were none, adding that the non profit status is the main criterion.

Mr. Bargerstock asked Mr. Weddle if he was concerned with overlapping applicants who may apply under the umbrella of different organizations, and Mr. Weddle said there was no policy in place at this time.

Mr. Hawksley asked if they ever thought about asking for matching funds, which would encourage groups to do fund-raising instead of expecting the City to provide the funds.

There were no audience comments at this time

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CELEBRATE KENT! GRANT PROGRAM.

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

MOTION TO AMEND TO INCLUDE A REQUIREMENT FOR MATCHING FUNDS.

Motion made by Mr. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Hawksley.

Mr. Schultz said there should be a balance of matching funds and in-kind services.

The amendment carried by a voice vote of 8-0-1, with Ms. Oswitch abstaining.

The motion, as amended, carried by a voice vote of 8-0-1, with Ms. Oswitch abstaining.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Vice Chair Oswitch adjourned this meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Elizabeth Zorc, Acting Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1) TO AUTHORIZE THE CELEBRATE KENT! PROGRAM, WITH A REQUIREMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS.**