

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
POLICY AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE
WED., JAN. 24, 2007**

This meeting of the Policy and Procedures Committee of Kent City Council was called to order by Mike DeLeone, Vice Chair, on Wed., Jan. 24, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. DeLeone explained the purpose of this public hearing was to interview citizens for various positions on the City's boards and commissions. He further explained they would vote on these appointments at their February 7, 2007 regular Council meeting.

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

ALSO PRESENT: J. FENDER, MAYOR; D. RULLER, CITY MANAGER; J. SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR; AND L. COPLEY, CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mr. DeLeone explained that **Charlie Thomas**, an incumbent, applied for the vacancy on the Parking Action Committee, and was unable to attend this interview.

Mr. DeLeone explained that **Howard Boyle, Arlyne Habeb, Fred Zawilinski, and Amy Arnold** all applied for the Housing Advisory Council, and had previously notified the Clerk they were unable to attend this meeting.

Doug Wagener and Paulette Kordinak, the other two applicants for the Housing Advisory Council, were not present nor did they notify the Clerk they were unable to attend this meeting.

Mr. DeLeone explained that **Sean Kaine** applied for the Planning Commission, and was unable to attend this meeting.

Mr. DeLeone introduced **Gordon Keller**, an incumbent, who was reapplying for the Planning Commission.

Mr. Keller explained he lived in Kent for approximately forty years. He said it was five years since he was first appointed by Council, adding he found it hard to believe that five years had passed. Mr. Keller said the experience has been good, adding they have a very effective Planning Commission who works hard, listens carefully and respectfully to those coming before them. He said that one of his fellow commissioners told him it takes five years to figure out the process. Mr. Keller said he believed in public service, and has reached the stage in his life where he is able to give something back to a community that has been good for he and his family. He said Kent was a great town to work in and raise a family.

Ms. Gavrilloff said it seems that the Planning Commission struggles with the Zoning Code and what is permitted, and asked his thoughts. She said that since she has served on Council, she has been waiting for the proposed Unified Development Code. She asked if there were any areas for improvement.

Mr. Keller said they did work on the Unified Development Code, and that work was interrupted about twenty-four months earlier. He said they have not returned to it. He said there are many times when the commissioners need to make a judgment on the best interest of the neighborhood, public order, or safety, without a lot of room for the exercise of judgment. He said they make legal counsel nervous when they interpose personal judgments for what is permitted. Mr. Keller said they do need to work on the Unified Development Code, and he felt they need to find a way for planning to be more proactive. Mr. Keller said the Planning Commission is not a planning body, but tends to be more reactive, adding that is how it is defined in the Charter.

Mr. DeLeone explained that **Henry Halem** applied for the vacancy on the Cable Television Commission.

Mr. Halem explained that like Dr. Keller, he has lived in Kent for nearly forty years and has worked at Kent State University for approximately twenty-nine years. He said he has time, and is interested in Kent. Mr. Halem said he loves Kent, and works at the Kent Historical Society as well. He said he is a fairly well

accomplished artist.

Mr. Halem said the other part of his brain embraces technology, and he is interested in seeing relationships between the cable service offered and the community's relationship to the cable system. He said he is interested in how technology works, and what the cable company can do for Kent, as a city. He said questioned whether Kent has asked the cable company for its fair share of what is generated from the constituents. Mr. Halem said he would like to work with government in some way, shape or form, and thought the Cable Commission would be an interesting aspect. He said he cannot say he has any technological experience, other than paying his bill monthly. He said he would like to carry that further.

At this time, there were no questions for Mr. Halem

Mr. DeLeone introduced **David Smeltzer** who also applied for the Cable Television Commission.

Mr. Smeltzer said he was a fairly new professor at Kent State, and was in his second year of teaching television productions. He explained that he was born and raised in Youngstown, and his parents live in Deerfield.

Mr. Smeltzer said in California, where he lived previously, he was a professional video producer, and for this last eight years, he taught. He said while teaching at the high school, they developed a close relationship with the cable provider and the city. He said they taped all meetings of Council, and had remote control cameras. He said that his advanced class would go to the community access facility, adding they had two full time staff members supporting the process.

Mr. Smeltzer said the University has a lot of capability and equipment that is not utilized. He said he envisions partnership, adding they could find more resources of funds available to shore up the infrastructure to allow community access. He said the League of Women's Voters in Alameda California had a candidate forum. He said they videotaped all of the candidates and put them on video access. He said the community access channel was a driving force. Mr. Smeltzer said that is what he saw as a possibility in Kent.

Mr. Schultz asked Mr. Silver if that was the role of the Cable Television Commission, and Mr. Silver said he would have to review their role, but expected that process could be worked into the description.

Jackie Loomis was introduced by Mr. DeLeone at this time. Mr. DeLeone said she was applying for the Cable Television Commission.

Ms. Loomis said most around the table know her. She explained that she was born and raised in Kent, had just retired and was anxious to become more involved. She said the Cable Television Commission sounded interesting because of the anticipated competition. She said she would like to see the competition, and is anxious to see that it is handled fairly. Ms. Loomis explained she presently serves on the Civil Service Commission, and previously served on Council.

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

Mr. DeLeone introduced **Gerald Budrevich**, an applicant for the Board of Building Appeals electrician's position.

Mr. Budrevich explained he is co-owner of Anything Electric, and has served on the board since its inception. He said his term ran out in July, and with Mr. Huber's departure, his renewal notice was misplaced.

Mr. Budrevich said he is a long time Kent electrical licensed contractor, and sits on the Silver Lake Board of Zoning Appeals. He said the Board of Building Appeals is not a busy board, but he was happy to help previously and would like to continue. He said he thought this was his last term, in accordance with the Charter.

Mr. Budrevich said they try to be fair in their judgments, adding that the group has been fair, and bear

safety in mind. He said they have a diverse review, and have received water easements and handicapped ramps. He said they have been a fair board, and he would like to continue to serve.

Mr. Kuhar asked if he would be permitted to serve, although he is not a resident, and Mr. Silver said that was correct.

Mr. DeLeone explained that **Janet Rusanowsky** applied for the Board of Building Appeals for the architect's vacancy, but was unable to attend this interview.

Mr. DeLeone introduced **Oleta Anderson**, an applicant for the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Ms. Anderson explained she has served two terms on the Board of Zoning Appeals, and previously served as Chair. She said she also has been involved with the Keep Kent Beautiful Board, the Dam Restoration Commission, the Storm Water Management Committee, and the Bicentennial Plan. She said she has attended nearly all Kent City Council meetings. Ms. Anderson said she felt that she can contribute, which is why she reapplied.

There were no questions for Ms. Anderson.

Mr. DeLeone introduced **Rich Fender**, an applicant for the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Fender explained that he has dealt with zoning issues previously in Kent, adding one had to do with a particular business in the south end of Kent. He said it was an abandoned dry cleaners, and one issue dealt with the Exterior Maintenance Code. He said he spoke with the Law Director and others in the city government, and the property has been boarded up as the result of his efforts. He said he also worked with the Safety Director on the development of a bio terrorism guidance policy. He said he was previously involved with the preservation of canal lands, and the State law recently changed. He said the State, in their management of all canal lands, must take into account the historical, ecological, and recreational value. He said those changes take effect on March 28.

Mr. Kuhar told Mr. Fender he seems to be environmentally tuned and asked if Mr. Fender could be objective if he served on the Board of Zoning Appeals. He asked if the law would take precedence over Mr. Fender's personal preferences, such as environmental issues, and Mr. Fender said he would follow the Code, as that is the job of the Board of Zoning Appeals. He said that would be his first concern. Mr. Kuhar asked if there was an environmental issue, if Mr. Fender would follow the Code before the environmental issue, and Mr. Fender said he would, adding that is the responsibility of the Board. He said it is Council's responsibility to change the Code and the Board of Zoning Appeals' responsibility to follow the Code. He said any change would usurp that authority.

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

Mr. Bargerstock asked how many people were needed for the Housing Advisory Council, as the number of vacancies were not listed. The Clerk said she posed that question to the Acting Community Development Director who said there was no set number, as long as it was a manageable group.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Vice DeLeone adjourned this meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1) INTERVIEWS WERE HELD FOR VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS/COMMISSIONS; NO ACTION.**