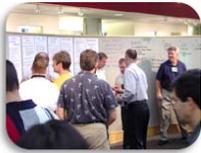


April 18, 2008



Strategic Planning Workshop

Based on our meeting this week up in Franklin Hall, it is my understanding that we're going to reconvene a strategic planning workshop next Wednesday to have further discussions on how we might continue our strategic planning efforts. Mr. Jim Bennett gave us a good overview of the typical planning process and I thought his advice was very helpful in terms of getting us thinking about what it is we want to accomplish and the options we can use to get there. I look forward to continuing these conversations on Wednesday.

Information Items

1. Downtown Redevelopment Coverage in Crain's Cleveland Business

The City of Kent received some positive news coverage in Crain's Cleveland Business magazine last week for our prospective downtown redevelopment project. The article speaks favorably of the City's efforts to revitalize downtown and while it makes some assumptions about the size and cost of the project that really are still undetermined at this point I understand that for newspaper purposes they look to include this sort of information even if it's premature. Overall, the article presents an optimistic perspective on what we're doing and where we're heading which I thought you'd appreciate if you hadn't already seen it. (attachment)

2. AMATS Transportation Public Meeting

In Council this week I mentioned that AMATS is hosting a public meeting to review and receive comments on the update of the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan. The issues to be discussed include public transportation, road maintenance, road widening, bicycling and pedestrian facilities. The Kent meeting will be held at 7 pm on April 24th at the Kent Free Library. I've attached a copy of the flyer for your information. (attachment)

3. ODOT District 4 Government Day

The Mayor and I received an invitation for Kent officials to come visit with the ODOT District 4 representatives to discuss any ODOT related topics of interest for our community. ODOT's "Government Day" is scheduled for Friday, April 25th, 2008 from 9 am to 11 am. I've attached the flyer and if any of you have any interest in talking with ODOT please let Gene or I know. (attachment)

4. Kent ACME Ribbon Cutting

I received notification this week that the Kent AMCE grocery store renovations are finishing up and they have planned an official ribbon cutting ceremony for May 1, 2008 starting at 5:30 with refreshments and 6 pm for the ribbon cutting. As a store customer I'm delighted with the improvements they've made and as the City Manager I'm grateful for their significant reinvestment in our JEDD. I've attached the notice for your information. (attachment)

Information Items (continued)

5. Who's Your Mama Earth Day Festival April 16 – April 20

Where can you see brand new films, solar and wind displays, a building with a geothermal well built into it, stilt walking dancers, and an F-250 pick-up truck that runs on french fry grease from Ray's Place? Where else but in downtown Kent. This weekend downtown Kent will be busy hosting the 2nd annual Who's Your Mama earth day festival. The event planners have done a great job setting up a full range of activities and I've attached the festival information so you don't miss any of it. (attachment).

6. 2007 Financial Audit

This week we officially kicked-off our 2007 financial audit process. The auditors are working with Barb's staff to go through all our records and activities of 2007 to make sure we're in full compliance with the highest standards in professional accounting and financial management. With that in mind, Barb has offered to introduce any of you to our auditors if you have an interest in learning more about the audit process and how our financial operations are evaluated. As you may recall, the City has received the highest audit rating possible for years but the process can be hard to follow so Barb wanted to offer her assistance if you had any questions as we get started.