



Council Site Visit

Just a reminder that next Wednesday, June 25th, we will be meeting at 4:25 in the parking lot at City Hall to car pool to the Spicer Village project in Akron. I would anticipate a couple of hours to tour the project and see how the University of Akron, the City of Akron and private developers have partnered to restore some distressed neighborhoods around the Akron U campus. Phil Maynard, CEO of ASW Properties will be our host and tour guide. Phil is also the owner of the old motel property on Main Street in Kent so we're hoping this visit will lead to a similar redevelopment project at his Kent property. I've attached map-quest directions for those of you that will be joining us.



Information Items

1. City Employee Survey

I wanted to let you know that we're currently in the process of performing our bi-annual survey of City employees. I've provided a copy of the cover letter and survey form for your information. We use the survey data to get direct feedback from our employees on important organizational issues. Since this is our second survey we will be able to compare this year's results with the 2006 survey results to see where we may have made improvements or lost ground. Liz and I will use this data to shape City employee programs and services over the next year. Last time we had employees ask for direct deposit and I'm pleased to say that we were able to implement direct deposit last year. (attachment)



2. Traffic Engineering and Safety Meeting Minutes

I've attached the summary minutes prepared by Bill Lillich of the June 13th Traffic Engineering and Safety Committee. Items reviewed included city-wide bike lanes, the Phoenix project, Fairchild and Majors Lane, Fairchild and Stone Water, Spaulding Bridge, Summit Street plans, and long board skateboards. (attachment)



3. Heritage Festival Fireworks Change

This week Fire Chief Williams advised me that changes in Ohio fire law necessitated a change in the location for launching the fireworks for the Heritage Festival. Due to spectator safety issues, the Fire Chief has worked with the Heritage Festival Committee to relocate the fireworks launching from Tannery Park to Kramer Fields. It is uncertain if this change will have an impact on the fireworks display and viewing but the Chief and I thought it was important to let you know about the change in case you get questions from residents. (attachment)



Information Items (continued)

4. Neighbor Cities Financial Challenges

As we continue our review of financial options, I have copied recent news articles from other cities in our region for your information. As you can see we are all facing tough choices. (attachment)

5. Main Street Reports

I've attached the Main Street reports for January, February and March of 2008 for your review. Mary noted that she is finishing up the reports for April, May and June and she will distribute those in July. I have also included the Main Street events schedule for 2008 for your reference. (attachment)

In Closing

I want to thank Council for your support in renewing my contract. I am honored to serve you and the residents of Kent, and I sincerely appreciate all that you do for me, our staff and this community.

I suppose I'm biased but I think we make a great team. And I don't mean the warm fuzzy feeling and group hugs of yesterday's teams - I mean teamwork that gets things done today. With fewer people and greater expectations we can't just work harder, we have to work together.

It's where "doing more with less" means finding a way to make 1+1=5. That's the power of teamwork.

And yes, I think teamwork is still idealistic. It's about being a part of something bigger than yourself - and that's a powerful motivator. It enables individuals to contribute more than they ever thought possible - together.

Kent is on its way to becoming a great example of how one inspired person can make a difference - but all of us working together can transform a city.

I'm looking forward to working with you to do just that in the years to come.

Thanks again,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Reed". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped "D" and "R".