



Unauthorized Items

1. Ohio Cooperative Boating Facility Grant

John Idone, Director of Parks and Recreation, has requested Council's authorization to submit a grant application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources under the Cooperative Boating Facility program. John reports that the grant is a 100% reimbursable and he is requesting \$250,000 for river access improvements at Riverbend Park and around the Kent Dam. This is the same funding source that John tried unsuccessfully last year to use to fund the whitewater park. This year John is scaling back the application to just those elements of the whitewater park that he believes are most relevant to the grant funding priorities. The grant application is due April 1st which is why he is requesting Council's consideration as an unauthorized item (draft # 09-38).

Administration Recommendation

The proposed project would begin to implement some of the whitewater park concepts that Council supported and as a 100% reimbursable grant I would encourage Council's authorization to submit the grant application.

Council Action

Adopt a resolution authorizing an Ohio Cooperative Boating Facility Grant application.

Information Items

1. NOPEC Gas Electric Pricing Update

Gene Roberts has provided an update from NOPEC regarding the agreement reached between First Energy and NOPEC for electric rates. You may recall that First Energy and NOPEC have been at odds over rate setting and this notice appears to indicate a resolution. (attachment)

2. Planning Commission Meeting Agenda

Gary Locke has included a copy of the agenda for the March 17, 2009 Planning Commission Business meeting. The Commission will be considering a conditional zoning certificate and site plan for Lincoln Commons Senior Village. At the conclusion of that meeting Gary has scheduled the final joint meeting between the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Environmental Commission. The focus of the joint meeting will be Rooming/Boarding Houses and rental properties. (attachments)

3. Civil Service Commission Meeting

I have included a copy of the Agenda of the items considered at last week's Civil Service Commission meeting for your information. (attachment)

4. Health Board Meeting Agenda and Minutes

John Ferlito has provided copies of the minutes for the February 17, 2009 Health Board Meeting. That packet includes a copy of the statistical report for the first two months of the year. (attachment)

Information Items (continued)

6. Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda

Gary Locke has included a copy of the agenda for the March 16, 2009 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting and the corresponding staff report. There are three items up for consideration: 207 Linden Street, parking and set back variances; Lincoln Commons Senior Village, open space and sign variance; Whitehall East Townhomes, 7 different variances. (attachments)

7. Letter to Portage County re: Crain Avenue Bridge

Jim Bowling has provided a copy of the letter sent to the Portage County Engineer requesting the County's signature to the Memorandum of Understanding for their contribution to the bridge project. Since we discussed this in Committee I wanted to include a copy of the letter for your information. (attachment)

8. Reimbursement Letter to Railroad for Crain Avenue Bridge Damage

Gene Roberts has provided a copy of the letter sent to the CSX Railroad Division Engineer seeking reimbursement for the costs (\$68,504) incurred by the City between November 20, 2008 and December 14th 2008 as a result of the train derailment. I wanted to include a copy of the letter for your information. (attachment)

9. Letter From Mayor Don Plusquellic re: Stimulus Funding

Jim Bowling provided Council with a detailed update on the staff efforts to work through AMATS to secure stimulus funding for the Crain Avenue bridge. Jim noted that with limited funds it is a very competitive process. The Technical Advisory Committee twice voted in favor of allocating \$3 million to Kent/Portage County for the Crain Avenue bridge but with the Policy Committee meeting scheduled for March 18th the Mayor of Akron, in a letter dated March 10th, is urging the Policy members to not support the Technical Committee recommendation. Jim, Gene and I will continue to advocate supporting the Technical Committee recommendation with our colleagues in the region but I wanted to share a copy of the Mayor's letter with you for your information. (attachment)