



Community Development Committee

1. Main Street Kent

With the 2009 budget preparation process nearly upon us, the staff needs guidance from Council regarding what level of funding to allocate for the City contribution to Main Street. As you know, we had an agreement to loan Mary Gilbert to Main Street to serve as executive director for the first two years of operation. That two year period will expire at that end of this year and we should reflect Mary's position in the 2009 budget back in her position as sustainability planner in Community Development. However, the Main Street organization has requested Council's consideration to extend Mary's term with them for one more year. We have set up time in Committee next week to discuss Main Street's request. Tracy Wallach has also invited a speaker to join us as we discuss this matter further.

Administrative Recommendation

It has admittedly been a hardship for Community Development to maintain the same level of planning services in Mary's absence but if you look at how much business activity and new investment that has happened in downtown Kent in the last 2 years through the work of Main Street, I believe it has been well worth the City's investment. I am anxious to get Mary back on our Community Development staff but when I look at all the downtown projects that we have in the pipeline for 2009 I think we would be better served to allow her one more year to help us finish what we started with the downtown redevelopment projects.

Council Action

Discuss the level of City support for Main Street and direct staff accordingly.

Work Session Items

1. Joint Courthouse Public Safety Center

Bill Lillich has been working for over a year with a team of representatives from the County, the Courts, City Police, Kent State Police, and an architect to explore the cost savings possible through a joint safety center. Given the deteriorated state of the City's current Police building the staff have been working hard to find a way to program the building's replacement in the capital plan. Recognizing the City's financial limitations, we sought out partners for the project and both the County Courts and Kent State University have expressed serious interest. We have spent the last 6 months going through the space planning exercises necessary to calculate the footprint and costs of a joint building. Based on that data, it appears that we can save as much as \$1.5 million by pursuing a joint project. Staff will outline the project further in Committee next week.

Administrative Recommendation

Council has approved the replacement of the Police Building in the capital plan and given the significant savings possible through a joint venture I would encourage Council's support for moving forward with the joint facility project.

Council Action

Review the proposal and provide staff direction for next steps.



Work Session Items (continued)

2. Pending List Update

Coming out of summer and returning to our weekly meeting schedule, the staff thought it was a good time to review the status of the pending list items with Council. There are items that have been completed and there may be older items that Council may no longer think are appropriate so we'll go through the list at the next Committee meeting.

Administrative Recommendation

Review and modify the pending list items.

Council Action

Review and modify the pending list as appropriate.

Information Items

1. Main Street Wine and Art Festival

Main Street has rescheduled their 2nd annual Wine and Art Festival for Friday, October 3rd from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturday, October 4th from 1 p.m. - 9 p.m. The event will be held at the Home Savings Bank Plaza.

2. Regional Income Tax Agency Analysis

Earlier this year staff presented Council with a proposal to transition from City income tax operations to the services of the Regional Income Tax Agency. Council asked for more information and Barb Rissland has provided a staff evaluation comparing the City of Kent income tax operations with the Regional Income Tax Agency. Barb's report includes a thorough review of the background of the Regional Income Tax Agency and the benefits that she believes can be gained both in customer service and in financial collections. Barb believes that making this change can save/generate as much as \$250,000 a year so we are hoping to schedule Committee time in October to go through the report with Council in greater detail. We're sending the report early so that you have ample time to review it. (attachment)

3. Consolidated Plan Annual Public Hearing

Gary Locke is requesting Council's authorization to hold a public hearing on October 15th for the Consolidated Plan Annual Performance Report as required by the terms of the Community Development Block Grant. (attachment)

4. Traffic Engineering & Safety Committee Minutes

Bill Lillich has provided a summary report from the August 28th Traffic Committee meeting. Items discussed included KSU wayfinding signs, bus stop relocation on S. Water Street, Fairchild Avenue/Franklin Mills intersection, Fairchild Avenue/Majors Lane, Summit Street improvements, street lighting improvements on University Drive, radar locations and the County's plans to replace the Middlebury Road bridge.

5. County Middlebury Road Bridge Project

Jim Bowling reports that the County Engineer has notified him that the County plans to have a bridge contractor mobilize in October for the County bridge repair work on Middlebury Road. The County will start posting detour signs the week of October 13th and then they plan **to close Middlebury Road to traffic from October 20, 2008 through April 20, 2009**. I've attached a memo from Jim Bowling that provides additional information. (attached)

6. Area Q Phase 4 – Storm Sewer Construction Project

This week Phase 4 of the Sub Area Q Storm Sewer project got underway and in case any issues come up I've attached contact information for the project provided by the Engineering Division for your reference. (attached)