

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

1. Project Labor Agreements

Staff have requested Committee time to update Council on the research performed in the review of Project Labor Agreements for consideration in future City capital projects. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Discuss project labor agreements and advise staff accordingly.

Council Action

Discuss project labor agreements and direct staff accordingly.



Land Use Committee

2. Edwards Project Rezoning Request

Gary Locke has requested Committee time to review the zoning amendment request submitted by the Edwards Communities Development Company for their proposed student housing project located on the east side of South Lincoln Street between Summit Street and School Street. After holding a public hearing, the Planning Commission voted 3-1 against the proposed amendment to change the zoning classification from R-3 High Density to R-4 Multifamily Residential. City Council has 60 days from the date of the Planning Commission vote (12/7/10) to set a time for a public hearing and consider this item. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Receive the staff report and direct staff accordingly.

Council Action

Receive the staff report and direct staff accordingly.



3. Fair Housing Update

Bridget Susel has been working with Jim Silver to update the language in the Fair Housing Section of the City Code. Bridget reports it has been over 30 years since the last update to the Section of the Code and to that end she has prepared the necessary revisions for Council consideration. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Review the revised Section of the Fair Housing Code and adopt the updates as presented.

Council Actions

Review the revised Section of the Fair Housing Code and adopt the updates.





Finance Committee

4. City-PARTA Operating Agreement, Lease, and Financing

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to review the draft agreements between the City of Kent and PARTA for the new multi-modal facility. The Operating Agreement outlines the components of the new facility and assigns the organizational responsibilities related to the maintenance and operation of the independent and shared space planned for the new facility. The Agreement also defines the terms of the City's lease for the public parking decks and indicates the financial arrangement for handling parking revenues and costs on an annual basis. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

Jim and I have been working closely with PARTA to develop terms for this critical project agreement that we believe are fair and appropriate for all parties involved in the project and I would request Council's support.

Council Actions

Approve the terms of the draft Agreement and authorize staff to proceed with finalizing the document for signature.

Information Items

1. Community Liaison Update

I wanted to let you know that the City and University staff met on January 12, 2011 to discuss the efforts of our Community Liaison position following the completion of the first semester. Comments at the meeting indicated that everyone was pleased with the progress of the Liaison to improve communications in the neighborhoods. Besides the door-to-door contact, Neal distributed newsletters in the neighborhood that highlighted those issues that seem to re-occur as problem spots, e.g., noise, trash, etc. I think we're off to a good start and we all agreed that as we enter the second semester we need to start planning for how to manage the annual spring party season. To that end, Neal is working on the final details for a new party registration program that has been used in other university cities with some success. We hope to be able to present that new program to Council in the next couple of months. (attachment)

2. January Planning Commission Meeting Agenda and Staff Report

Gary Locke has enclosed copies of the Planning Commission agenda and staff report for the January 18th Planning Commission meeting. The agenda includes two items: 1) Zoning Code Amendments that the staff have proposed for approval. Public meetings were held on November 29, 2010 and December 2, 2010 for public comment on the proposed language changes; 2) Jennifer Thomas Day Care, 318 Cherry Street, non-compliance with conditional approval of a home occupation. (attachment)

3. Board of Zoning Appeals January 24th Meeting

Heather Phile from our Community Development has provided a copy of the staff report for the January Board of Zoning Appeals meeting scheduled for January 24th, 2011. There is one item on the agenda: Kent Parks & Rec River Bend Park, set back variances. (attachment)

4. Health Board Meeting Minutes and Department Statistics

John Ferlito has provided copies of the health board agenda (for the January 18th meeting) and the year-end statistical report for 2010. For the year, Health Department revenues are up 4% (\$9,191) and permits are up 7% in 2010 from 2009. (attachment)

Information Items

5. Main Street Monthly Reports

Mary Gilbert has shared copies of the monthly Main Street Kent reports for October, November and December 2010. If you read through the reports you'll see a couple of new business investments and expansions, as well as a listing of the community events sponsored by Main Street during the fourth quarter of 2010. (attachment)

6. Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of December 2010. December marked the 6th straight month of income tax rebounding over 2009 figures. Overall the City income tax collections ended the year down only .28% (\$29,183) below the year end figures for 2009. In this economy, that's a testament to the Kent business activity that we are witnessing. Kent State University's collections thru the end of December are up 4.32% (\$176,677). (attachment)

7. Civil Service Commission

I have included a copy of the Civil Service Commission's Activity Report for 2010. This report breaks down the various activities that the Commission was engaged in during the last year. (attachment)

8. 2010 Quarterly Council Activity Reports

For your information I've included a copy of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarter City Council Activity Reports for 2010. In addition, I've provided a brief cumulative analysis of 2010 that illustrates the primary strategic focus areas for Council and staff time in Committee. (attachment)