



April 9, 2010

TO: Council President
City Councilmembers
Council Appointees

FROM: Eric Norenberg

SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Following are updates on various topics for your information. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy

- City Projects Apparently not Funded by State Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program: Last fall, the City applied for Energy Efficiency Block Grant to accomplish three projects. First, the City would have added more solar panels to the Fire Station Project that is underway. Next, the project would have installed 16 StarGen solar concentrators from GreenField Solar at the Water Environment Protection Facility (wastewater treatment plant). Lastly, the grant would have funded a refrigerator replacement program for lower income residents who have older, inefficient refrigerators. On March 24, the State of Ohio released a list of projects that were funded by the EEBG program and the Oberlin proposal was not on the list. We have not received official notification and staff has been seeking feedback. We have asked for information about the status of our proposal, if there are alternatives to receive funding in the future and how to prepare a better proposal next time. We do not yet have any of that feedback to share with you, but thought the Council should know the status of the application. You may read more about the successful projects at: <http://recovery.ohio.gov/news/2010/03/#032310>.
- Wind Energy Presenter Comes to Oberlin: City Council and staff are invited to hear a presentation by Charles Newcomb (OC '87) on distributed wind energy. Mr. Newcomb did wind energy research for a decade at the Department of Energy, worked as a wind turbine manufacturer, and presently is a developer and owner of distributed energy. Newcomb will trace wind energy's modern history from 1970s California wind farms to today's large, off-shore installations. He will discuss the intersection of policy, technology, and the market that will provide a unique glimpse into one of the most dynamic and high-growth sectors of the energy world. NexGen Energy Partners, where Newcomb serves as Chief Technology Officer, is among the companies bringing wind energy to Ohio. Newcomb will describe how distributive wind energy models work and could bring wind energy to Oberlin. The presentation, "Wind: Our and Its Future," will be in Hallock Auditorium on April 15, from 4:30-5:30 PM.

City Manager's Office

- Staff to Document Standards for Designated No Parking Areas and Associated Signage: During the agenda setting meeting on Thursday, the City Manager, Fire Chief and Public Works Director shared information about current practices regarding "no parking" areas on dead end streets (with and without cul de sacs). There are 23 such streets that were surveyed recently. Of those, 14 streets have no parking signs already in place, seven are not signed and two are partially signed.

While staff have not been following a specific written policy, signs are placed in accordance with the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices in situations that dictate that no parking restrictions will promote traffic safety, safe and efficient public works operations and prompt emergency response. We understand there are gaps and inconsistencies in the community. That is why the General Maintenance Division has been working to replace existing signs and to install additional signs and why the signs were initially installed on Fairway Drive. Installation of additional signs is on hold pending internal review and presentation to City Council.

Recognizing that signage is a citywide matter and it would be important for the Council to have street/signage data for the rest of the City, it was agreed that staff would gather more data, prepare a draft set of standards and procedures that address the various situations found in Oberlin, and prepare signage recommendations that utilize the minimum appropriate number of signs. Accordingly, there will *not* be an action item related to this matter on April 19. However, there will be an update from the City Manager.

In the mean time, attached are copies of all correspondence I have received or sent on this matter. The new "No Parking This Side of Street" and "No Parking in Cul de Sac" signs on Fairway Drive will be removed temporarily, pending review. A letter was sent to Fairway Drive residents informing them of the review and the temporary removal (attached).