



June 26, 2009

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!

Public Works Department

- Resident Concern Addressed: At the last City Council meeting, Mr. Meade spoke about his concern regarding maintenance of City property adjacent to his on East Hamilton. Apparently, the previous homeowner had an agreement with City staff that the resident would mow the City lot, as if it was his own and the City would control brush, etc. Over time, this unwritten agreement was forgotten and not known to successors at the City. Mr. Meade requested that the brush be cleared near the utility pole to eliminate a blind spot and that he be reimbursed for his expense for his mowing of this lot since he purchased the home and to be compensated in the future for mowing this area. Of course, the City cannot do this absent a prior agreement. Accordingly, this parcel has been added to the City's list of properties mowed by the Buildings and Grounds Division and the overgrown brush adjacent to the road has been cleared.

Police Department/Recreation Division

- Resident Concern Addressed: Also at the last City Council meeting, Mrs. Eisom of Edison Street spoke regarding concern that the Police Department had visited her home to tell her family that they could not place a portable basketball hoop on the curb lawn and play basketball in the street. A few days after the City Council meeting, staff met with Mrs. Eisom and one of her neighbors. They understood the City concern regarding the safety of children playing in the street because of the cut through traffic on Edison. They also expressed an interest in seeing a basketball court be developed closer to home (possibly at Depot Park) and asked that the City address their concern that sometimes there is inappropriate behavior by teens at Park Street Park that deters families from wanting younger children to play there. Staff explained that the idea of a closer basketball court may be addressed through the upcoming Parks and Recreation planning effort. We also agreed to explore a "Park Watch" program to increase adult monitoring of Park Street Park. As there are a number of the portable basketball hoops along streets in Oberlin, we will be reviewing a consistent way to address the portable basketball hoops.

Human Resources Department

- Join the City of Oberlin Walking Team: Several weeks ago, Health Commissioner Ken Pearce reported to the City Council about a program called “Lorain County Walks.” This program is an ongoing lifestyle fitness program designed to help residents be active and healthy. Increasing physical activity is one of the recommendations from the Surgeon General's report on physical fitness. Health experts recommend walking around 10,000 steps a day (about 5 miles), on most days, for cardiovascular health. The Lorain County Walks program encourages residents to use a pedometer to track the number of steps each day. The steps may then be logged into the Lorain County Walks website for comparison with others and to be eligible for prizes. The City of Oberlin now has a team of walkers and you can join our team, and track your progress and the team's walking on the website. Please contact Sharon Pearson for more details.
- Walking Routes to Be Developed: Also as part of the “Lorain County Walks” initiative, the Lorain County General Health District is interested in developing walking routes in Oberlin to encourage people to increase walking. This will also promote alternatives to using a car for short trips within Oberlin. A meeting of representatives from various organizations, institutions and the City will take place in mid-July to work on this effort.