



**Open Space & Visual Environment Commission
Tuesday, September 28, 2010, 5:00 p.m.
City Hall Conference Room #1
85 South Main Street, Oberlin, Ohio**

Members Present: Scott Medwid, Aaron Mucciolo, Wes Burgess

Members Absent: Carol Spiros

Others Present: Jeff Baumann, Staff Support; Sheri Haury, Staff Support; Kate Pilacky, Council Liaison; David Sokoll; David Sonner; Glenn Gall

Others Absent: None

Vice-Chair Burgess called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

Resignation of Carol Spiros as Commission Chair

Burgess stated that Carol Spiros was stepping down as Chair of the commission. Medwid moved to accept her resignation, seconded by Mucciolo. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair

Mucciolo moved to nominate Burgess as Chair. Motion carried unanimously. Mucciolo moved to nominate Medwid as Vice-Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

OSVEC Membership

Three applications have been received to fill the vacancy on the Open Space Commission. One of the applicants, David Sokoll, was present. He stated that he was interested in getting involved with Oberlin politics. Burgess stated that another applicant, Eddie Miller, has a very hectic schedule and would miss the November and December meetings. Pilacky stated she was on the committee for interviewing applicants. She will try to get the ball rolling and hopefully there will be a new member for the October meeting.

Approval of Minutes – June 22, 2010

Mucciolo moved to approve the June 22, 2010 minutes as presented. Medwid seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Weed Control Ordinance Update

Burgess stated that we have been discussing this for quite some time. We need to make a decision about this topic. Baumann replied that the ball was in his court. He did not have time to work with anyone on this. The Planning Commission was last to look at it. He said that we could remove it from the agenda and bring it back when he was ready. The Planning Commission was still waiting for examples from other cities. Some of the cities that they looked at were very complex. A city in Minnesota and Michigan had some good examples. He met with Dennis Cuthbertson and Dennis Grieve and they looked at the invasive species lists that were available from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, ODNR and some other sources. They compiled a list of noxious species. It sounded to him that the Planning Commission would like to see a registry. Mucciolo felt that council should pick the language and Planning Commission should have some input on the specific language. He would like to attend a Planning Commission meeting when this will be discussed to give the commission's point of view. Baumann stated that it is difficult to define noxious. What may be noxious to one person may not be to another. They tried to select species that were commonly understood to be problematic. The list would be with the Public Standards and not in the ordinance so that it could be updated without going through a policy procedure. Pilacky added that the City should provide some education and encourage people to get rid of the invasive species. Baumann stated that the Planning Commission would like a permitting system to allow for naturalized landscapes. Residents would register and it would be on file with the City.

After review and discussion, a motion was made by Mucciolo and seconded by Medwid for the following recommendation:

"The Open Space & Visual Environment Commission recommends that City Council adopt a natural landscape ordinance that provides for natural and naturalized landscapes with certain controls that they see fit. Council should continue to look at this and adopt by the next growing season. Considerations should include: control of invasive species, set back distances and permit structures."

The motion passed 3-0.

Proposal to Extend the Bikepath

Burgess stated that in the past the commission has discussed this and looked at maps about ways to extend the bikepath. He proposed that the commission have a walking meeting to discuss this and look at locations for a bikepath extension. Mucciolo felt that discussing a bikepath extension should be part of a broader discussion about making the town bike friendly. Baumann stated that the results from the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan community survey suggest that the bikepath is the most used park feature in the park system. The results of the survey could be found at www.oberlinparksandrecplan.com. Burgess added that he would like to see a sidewalk going to Walmart or to have the bikepath extended that direction. This was a safety issue.

Motion by Medwid to plan a field feasibility study. Seconded by Mucciolo. Motion carried. The date and time to be determined.

2011 Budget Request

The commission discussed budget requests for 2011. They are requesting \$500 for parks brochures; \$250 for Open Space type information; and \$750 for training events. Motion by Mucciolo, seconded by Medwid. Motion carried unanimously.

There was still some money left in the 2010 budget. A few of the members would like to attend the Farmland Preservation Summit in Columbus on November 19, 2010. The registration fee is \$40 per person.

4,000 More Bikes

Burgess stated that he is inviting the president of 4,000 More Bikes from the Oberlin Bike Coop to the October or November meeting to discuss their program and their vision.

Oberlin City Parks Pamphlets

Burgess would like the commission to take pictures of the parks and prepare a brochure to place in downtown businesses. The parks need to be promoted. Medwid suggested that we have a citywide contest. The pictures and captions could be placed at Fava, Kendal, and the schools. A committee could be formed to judge the photos and captions. Burgess asked the commission members to think of ideas to present at the next meeting.

Arbor Day Strategic Plan for Tree Plantings


Burgess stated that he would like to come up with a long-term plan to plant trees. It should include the most aesthetically pleasing locations. He asked the commission to come up with locations to hold future Arbor Day celebrations and what we would like to plant. He would like to make this a long-term plan that will keep going even after these commission members are long gone.

Other Business

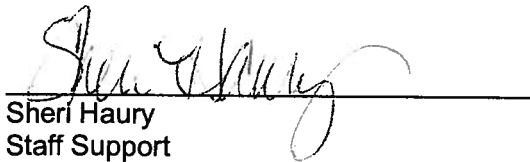
None

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Motion by Medwid; seconded by Mucciolo.



Wesley Burgess, Chair
Open Space and Visual Environment Commission



Sheri Haury
Staff Support

Approved: 10/26/10