

2024 DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL RETREAT (PART II)
APRIL 5, 2024 – 8:30 AM
DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION
4900 TUTTLE CROSSING BLVD.

Mayor Amorose Groomes called the Friday, April 5, 2024 Council Retreat – Part II to order at 8:55 a.m.

Members Present: Vice Mayor Alutto, Mayor Amorose Groomes, Ms. De Rosa, Ms. Fox, Mr. Keeler, Ms. Kramb and Mr. Reiner.

Staff Present: Ms. O'Callaghan, Mr. Hartmann, Mr. Gracia, Mr. Stiffler, Ms. Rauch, Mr. Earman, Mr. Will, Ms. Willis, Ms. Weisenauer, Ms. Blake.

Others Present: Chris Bigham, Baker Tilly, Matt Kallner, Kelly Keyes, and Abe Jacob, Kallner & Associates.

Adjourn to Executive Session

Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to adjourn to executive session for the purposes of considering the purchase of property for public purposes.

Vice Mayor Alutto seconded.

Vote on the motion: Mr. Keeler, yes; Ms. De Rosa, yes; Vice Mayor Alutto, yes; Ms. Fox, yes; Ms. Kramb, yes; Mr. Reiner, yes; Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes.

The meeting reconvened into open session at 11:26 a.m.

Potential Performing Arts Center

Mr. Stiffler provided an overview of the pro forma for a potential performing arts center. Discussion was held regarding the impact of daily operations on the operating budget and how capital maintenance could potentially impact the Capital Improvements Program. Mr. Stiffler also summarized the construction cost estimates and how that would impact the City's Debt Policy. He explained that the City's Debt Policy is a proxy for the AAA rating that the City strives for and has achieved. Ms. O'Callaghan explained that at the time the Feasibility Study was done in November, the announcement had not been made about the new Columbus Symphony performance center. She stated that she reached out to Duncan Webb to see how the recent announcement would impact the study. He said the impact would be largely in fundraising. He is not concerned about target audience and performances as this is a larger venue than he studied for Dublin. Mr. Keeler shared a summary of discussions he has had recently regarding the announced center.

Mr. Keeler recommended Council "back-burner" a performing arts center as the timing to pursue it is not good. Consensus of Council was to not pursue this project at this time. It is an aspirational goal that should resurface at a better time. It was also mentioned that Council's interest in a project such as this should be discussed with potential developers of Metro Center. Council is supportive of someone taking this project and making it an enterprise. Council members agreed that they will learn a great deal from watching this development in Columbus unfold.

Ohio Legislative Environment

Mr. Kallner, Mr. Jacob and Ms. Keyes provided an overview of the current legislative agenda, the priorities for Dublin and action plans. Mr. Kallner shared the challenges of the current political landscape. Council consensus was to ask the City Manager to do an RFP (Request for Proposals) for lobbyist services since it has not been done in number of years.

Council Planning Calendar

Council expressed an interest to realign goal setting with evaluations of Council's employees. Discussion was held regarding the best time to hold the annual retreat so staff could begin the year with new goals in mind. Council consensus was to hold the annual goal-setting retreat in November each year. This would allow the City Manager time to incorporate Council's new goals with the goals that are set for staff at the beginning of the year and would also align with her staff evaluations.

Council consensus was to hold the evaluations for the City Manager and Clerk in February each year.

Discussion was held about the amount of time that would pass between the 2024 retreat and the November 2025 retreat. Council consensus was to hold a retreat in November of this year (2024) as a check-in on goals. Council consensus was to allow the Clerk to begin preparations for the retreat 6-8 months out each year (location and facilitator if needed).

Adult-Use of Recreational Marijuana

Mr. Hartmann provided an update regarding the recreational marijuana issue that went into effect December 7, 2023. He stated some communities have felt pressured to take action in the form of a moratorium until the State has adopted rules or any new legislation is actually made into law. He provided options to Council. Council consensus was to direct legal staff to bring forward legislation regarding adult use marijuana and also amending the definition of "smoking" in Dublin's Code to provide more clarity and ensure that vaping devices are included.

Council 2024 Goals

Staff provided updates on the status of 2023 Council goals as follows:

- Goal 1: Become the Most Connected Community in the U.S. Mr. Brown provided the update that the construction of Altafiber's network will take place in four phases with Phase 1 beginning as anticipated in April 2024. It is anticipated that the first release of services to customers will occur in the fourth quarter of 2024.
- Goal 2: Realize the Metro Center Revitalization Vision. Ms. Rauch stated that three unique scenarios will be presented to Council at the May work session. These options explore an alternate urban design framework based on feedback that has been received. Council will select a preferred scenario, which will define a final project approach. The project team will finalize the plan and present to Council in September 2024. Discussion was held regarding public input sessions and stakeholder meetings.
- Goal 3: Strengthen the Stewardship and Vitality of our Historic Dublin Core. Ms. Rauch provided an update on the work that has been done on this goal, including:
 - Historic District Code and Guidelines – updated in 2021 and amended in 2023;
 - Commercial façade program – Partnership with Dublin CIC;
 - Historic Dublin Business Association – Supports business growth; and
 - Staff Stewardship and Support – Monthly office hours and Economic Development Administrator recently hired with focus on Historic District.

Staff recommended that this goal be considered completed.

- Goal 4: Develop Dublin's "Destination of Choice" Next Generation Community Events. Mr. Earman listed the work that has been done toward this goal. He provided an update on the Holiday Market proposals (five have been received) and a selection committee will meet to evaluate the responses. An RFP was issued for firms to develop an events and management roadmap and four responses were received. The consultant that is selected will look at all current events. Council requested that when costs are evaluated that they are fully loaded costs (including staffing). Council consensus to vitalize Riverside Crossing Park with smaller activity such as art, food trucks, etc.

Council consensus was that Goal #3 was completed. Discussion was held regarding adding another goal. The City Manager suggested the following language:

Begin implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan with a focus on cultivating an environment that embodies both recreation and economic vibrancy.

She stated she will provide draft language prior to Council approving their goals.

Mr. Reiner expressed a desire to add a fifth goal, which would work to keep Dublin green. He explained that he would like to look at replacement trees, landscape maintenance and adherence to policies regarding our greenways. Council consensus was that this topic may not be a goal as the work would be ongoing, but to refer this topic to the Community Development Committee for further work and discussion.

Vice Mayor Alutto moved to refer the discussion of greenways, what assessments have been done and adherence of the greenways policies to the Community Development Committee. Mr. Reiner seconded.

Vote on the motion: Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes; Mr. Reiner, yes; Mr. Keeler, yes; Vice Mayor Alutto, yes; Ms. Fox, yes; Ms. Kramb, yes; Ms. De Rosa, yes.

Mayor Amorose Groomes thanked everyone for the time and discussion.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.



Presiding Officer – Mayor



Clerk of Council