

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held

January 24, 2022

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## CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fox called the Monday, January 24, 2022 Regular Meeting of Dublin City Council to order at 5:16 p.m.

## ROLL CALL

Present were Ms. Alutto, Ms. Amorose Groomes, Vice Mayor De Rosa, Mayor Fox, Mr. Keeler and Mr. Reiner. Ms. Kramb arrived just after roll call.

Staff members present were Mr. McDaniel, Ms. Readler, Ms. O'Callaghan, Mr. Ranc, Mr. Earman, Mr. Stiffler, Mr. Rogers, Ms. LeRoy, Ms. Rauch, Ms. Weisenauer, and Chief Paez.

Also present: David Guion and Ava Morgan, Dublin Arts Council; Kristy Campbell, Chief Operations Officer, Rev1 Ventures; Ian Montgomery, Fado Pub and Kitchen; Jamie Green and Logan Stang, Planning Next; and Audrey Ryu, Dublin Jerome High School Student.

## ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Fox moved to adjourn to executive session for the purposes of:

- Personnel Matters: Considering the employment of a public employee
- Considering the purchase of property for a public purpose
- Conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action
- To consider confidential information related to a request for economic development assistance that involves public infrastructure improvements that are directly related to an economic development project, and which executive session is necessary to protect the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project
- Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.

Ms. Alutto seconded.

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

Mayor Fox reconvened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Fox invited Mr. Keeler to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- Dublin Jerome Division I State Champion – Audrey Ryu

Mayor Fox recognized Miss Ryu and invited her to come forward. Mayor Fox read the proclamation celebrating Miss Ryu's achievement as the Division I State Champion in Golf. Miss Ryu thanked Council for the Proclamation. She also thanked her parents, teammates and Coach. She stated that she has learned that putting in the hard work and accepting help and criticism with help you get where you want to be.

Ms. Amorose Groomes offered her congratulations to Miss Ryu and commented on her focus and confidence in the State Championship.

- Dublin Arts Council Announcement

Mayor Fox invited Mr. Guion to come forward to make an announcement on behalf of Dublin Arts Council. Mr. Earman asked to make a few introductory comments. He stated that at the June 28, 2021 meeting, Council directed staff to restart the AIPP process and allocated \$22,500 to begin the commissioning of this new artwork. This



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amount was intended to be above and beyond the \$150,000 full commission cost for this project. The \$150,000 for this project is currently allocated in the Hotel Motel Fund which has a total of \$300,000 currently designated for AIPP projects. At the second meeting in February, this particular project along with other items will be brought forward in the next supplemental appropriation ordinance for first reading. Upon approval of this appropriation at the second reading, staff will bring forward a Resolution to enter into contract with the artist for Council consideration and approval. He stated that the presentation at this meeting (January 24) is for the purpose of announcing the artist selection and the process by which the artist was selected. Mr. Guion shared a presentation outlining the artist selection process. He acknowledged and thanked the Selection Committee members for their hardwork. The three artwork finalists were from the following artists: Ilan Averbuch, Adam Kuby and StudioKCA. The unanimous recommendation from the committee was Ilan Averbuch and *The Boat in the Field* concept. Mr. Averbuch's concept is for a landmark sculpture that is 25 feet tall, 18 feet wide and 15 feet deep. It is two symbolic intertwined images representing stability and trascience, rootedness and a journey to the unknown. The artwork will also include an accessible container and logbook on-site with an online component as a catalyst for promoting rich dialogue, sharing imagination and ideas. Mr. Guion briefly reviewed the other two finalists' concepts. Council thanked Mr. Guion for the announcement. Ms. Amorose Groomes appreciated the tie from the artwork to the namesake of the Reserve. Red Trabue wrote about hunting, fishing, and the state of our natural environment.

A comment received online was read as follows:

James Schrock, 6396 Phoenix Park Drive, Dublin wrote:

*I am writing to you in regards to the Dublin Art's Council's public arts proposal. My wife and I have lived near the ML Red Trabue Nature Preseve since 1991 and owned property backing up to the Preserve on Phoenix Park Drive, in Lowell Trace, since 1997 We walk the park just about every day of the week and have helped plant it, so we are intimately familiar with it's character.*

*This park, first and foremost, is a Nature Preserve with no portion more so than the prairie, woods and wetlands surrounding Karrer Pond. We saw the ML Red Trabue Nature Preserve would be the next location for a public art installation and listened to the public webcast of the three finalists on Friday, January 21, 2022. As it seems the decision to put an installation in the park has already been made, we were dismayed that all of the proposals were for installations directly in the most natural area surrounding Karrer Pond. We understand that a finalist is to be presented to Council on Monday, January 24, 2022 and we request that as part of Council's review, steps be taken to protect the prairie/wetlands portion of the park near Karrer Pond and limit installations to other areas of the park that have already been developed, where man-made structures will not detract from the natural beauty of the area. Thank you.*

Vice Mayor De Rosa asked for Mr. Earman and Mr. Guion's response to Mr. Schrock's comment. Mr. Earman stated that any disruption would be minimal and extra precautions will be taken when working in the area. Mr. Guion added that this is a well-traveled area and very public due to the existing path going into the area. Vice Mayor De Rosa clarified that there will not be a new path created; the existing path is the path shown in the presentation. Mr. Guion responded affirmatively. Mr. Reiner commented that this will be a tough project to build due to the weight of the limestone suspended in the air. In response to Mr. Reiner's question regarding maintenance, Mr. Guion stated that these are very durable materials to withstand Ohio winters. Ms. Amorose Groomes asked where they would be sourcing the limestone. Mr. Guion stated that he is not certain at this time.



**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

There was no request to remove any of the consent agenda items.

- Minutes of the January 10, 2022 Council Meeting
- Notice to Legislative Authority regarding the Transfer of a D5 and D6 Liquor Permits from Axe Throwing LLC & Patio, dba Throw Nation, 6649 Dublin Center Drive, Dublin, Ohio 43017 to Throw Nation Columbus LLC, 6649 Dublin Center Drive, Dublin, Ohio 43017.

Mayor Fox moved to approve the consent agenda items.

Ms. Alutto seconded.

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

**FIRST READING/PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCES**

**Ordinance 01-22**

**Amending a Portion of the Dublin Corporate Area Plan within the City of Dublin’s Community Plan to Refine the Recommendations regarding the Metro Center Area**

Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinance.

Ms. Rauch stated that this Ordinance is a request for review and approval of the recommendations and redevelopment concepts for the Metro Center area (MUR-1) within the Dublin Corporate Area Plan (DCAP). The DCAP was approved in 2018 and recommends a repositioning of the legacy office sites. The DCAP focuses on creating a walkable, mixed use environment and establishing a strategy to refresh the Frantz Road streetscape. Staff and the consultant team shared an initial assessment related to stormwater management, utilities, office and commercial character, vacancy rates, land utilization and connectivity and how each of these factors influence the vision for the area. Following the assessment discussion, the consultant team presented a series of benchmark examples of legacy office areas that have undergone redevelopment, and how the takeaways from those examples help inform the direction for the future vision of Metro Center. Staff and the consultant team shared a set of principles to define the key design and character attributes for the focus area, which include four pillars: development, mobility, site improvements and regulatory process.

Mr. Greene shared a presentation regarding the visioning process. The visioning process was guided by a Metro Center Visioning Advisory Committee. This Committee affirmed the essential district principles. Staff and the consultant presented several potential themes to identify the Metro Center area to act as the central guide and purpose for future development. Each of the themes reinforced the recommendations of DCAP while exploring new projects, programs, and policies organized around a cohesive purpose. The themes are:

- Sustainability/Resiliency
- Lifestyle/Entertainment
- Cultivation/Exploration

Each theme identified an opportunity for a catalytic project along the Frantz Road frontage to establish precedent for future redevelopment of the Metro Center area.

Overall, each theme incorporates the same essential principles including:

- *Increased density and intensity of development*
- *Variety of new diverse housing types for the City*
- *Amenities (restaurant and retail) complementing the district*
- *Consolidate surface parking for redevelopment opportunities*
- *Open space areas and/or greenways connecting the district*
- *Pedestrian connections, sidewalks, trails, and alternative transportation that link to the citywide system*



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The Committee landed on the theme of Cultivation. This theme encompasses embracing business growth while fostering cultural and technological initiatives for the next generation. The Cultivation Principles inspire a sense of exploration into new possibilities through:

1. *Flexible/adaptable workspaces promoting business incubation, sustaining, and expansion;*
2. *Sustainable initiatives, systems, and processes focused on reducing environmental impacts;*
3. *Workforce and alternative housing options to diversify the City's current stock; and,*
4. *Mobility and technology programs that remain at the forefront of innovation.*

A series of graphics and two development concepts, infill development and redevelopment, were shared to begin visualizing the principles within the area. Staff and the consultant team then reviewed a summary of the proposed revisions to the DCAP document based on the visioning process before discussing the concepts and revisions with the committee. The Advisory Committee expressed support for the two development concepts identifying opportunities to encourage a central greenway connection through the district and balancing surface with structured parking to support new uses. Proposed DCAP revisions were also affirmed by the Advisory Committee including varying building heights between four to six stories along Frantz Road. Several other minor revisions were identified including removing a residential density limit, clarifying building heights along Frantz Road, and encouraging the redesign of the stormwater ponds. Mr. Greene provided visual concept drawings to illustrate. The draft redevelopment concepts illustrate potential ways in which the recommendations can be applied. These represent one of many iterations for redeveloping Metro Center and are supported with aspirational images, conceptual renderings, and character graphics. Two redevelopment concepts were developed for Metro Center, offering alternative approaches for realizing the vision. Both concepts are initiated with a catalytic project along Frantz Road given the unique opportunity with current property owners. Mr. Greene invited Mr. Stang to speak about the recommended amendments to the DCAP.

Mr. Stang stated that a majority of the 2018 DCAP recommendations, principles and vision are still relevant today. Based on these conversations with the Advisory Committee, revisions have been identified for the DCAP to align with the vision for the Metro Center area. Mr. Stang reviewed the following recommendations that can be found in the proposed amended DCAP document:

- Land Use Recommendations
  - Clarification of intended uses and development style for Metro/Blazer Sub-district
  - Aligning building height with development concept for Metro Center vision: encourage increase density along Frantz Road frontage, support appropriate building massing for Frantz Road corridor, provide transition between neighboring districts and existing neighborhoods, and promote variation in building height and massing
  - Proposed building height of 4-6 stories within Metro Center, extending north towards SR-161.
- Development Concepts
  - Overview of previous scenario concepts (infill and redevelopment) and purpose for visioning process
  - Summary of the assessment conducted for Metro Center along with supporting graphics, data and narrative
  - Proposed vision for Metro Center
  - Introduction to Frantz Road redevelopment at catalyst project
  - Outline for potential long-term development concepts of Metro Center, and
  - Clarification of stormwater design intent.
- Frantz Road Corrdior/Implementation



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- Emphasis of activating public realm along the corridor through gathering spaces, open space etc.
- Integrate revised corridor cross sections displaying the variation in building height and vision for Metro Center
- Introduction of new action recommendations supporting the implementation of the Metro Center Vision: Update zoning code, stormwater design manual and other city regulations, and prioritize development along the Frantz Road corridor.

Mr. Reiner stated that the mission of this project was really to augment the success of our businesses. There is currently an 85-90% occupancy rate. The purpose is to try to accomplish future success for our stakeholder/businesses. He thanked the business owners who participated in the visioning process. He stated that the goal is the future success of Dublin in these "pods" that will be evaluated for redevelopment.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Amorose Groomes thanked everyone for the work on this. She stated that housing along the interstate was extensively discussed, but there is no mention of it in the document. She would like to see it included to provide clarity to the development community. She stated that housing adjacent to an interstate is not a positive for the community. She would like to see language added to the document as it was the consensus of the committee. The second concern she shared was uncertainty as to whether the vision was captured. She recalled discussing green building in the Committee meetings. If we are going to be committed to green building then it needs to be clearly stated and not just alluded to in the document. If we are not going to be committed to green building then it should not be mentioned at all in the document. She then spoke to the size of the document. It could create difficulty for the development community to have to read over 60 pages for this one small area. If we continue to document each area of the DCAP in the same way, they might have 600 pages to read to find out where they might want to put their building. She would like to see this condensed in a concise way to make it more marketable.

Ms. Kramb stated that she also felt it was very lengthy. Her suggestion was to remove some of the background and focus on where we are now. This document will be taken very literally, so clarity will be very important. She has concerns on allowing six stories across the street from two story apartment buildings. She is also concerned that if the document states that six stories is allowed, then the developer will ask for six stories. There may not be clear enough language that it needs to be varied height and not a wall of six story buildings.

Mr. Reiner stated that there was a good deal of discussion about that and he agreed that it is not the intention to have a wall of six story buildings.

Ms. Alutto agreed that she also was concerned about the six story buildings and not enough variation in height. She also agreed that it should be condensed by leaving out the background.

Vice Mayor De Rosa asked what was meant by "alternative housing." Ms. Rauch stated that there is currently no housing there, so the Committee was exploring having housing for workforce/office users and what those options might look like.

Mr. Keeler stated that "housing alternatives" means something different than "alternative housing," and clarified that offering different types of housing options is probably what was meant. Ms. Rauch stated that the document does state a variety of housing types. Vice Mayor De Rosa stated that if there is an opportunity to think of the future of work, then we need to talk about the future of living too. She stated that the future of living and working go together. She read that by 2035, 30-40% of all cars will be electric, so rather than thinking about parking, maybe think about green parking or electric charging, etc. She likes the idea of variation of building height and agrees that it does need to be clarified. She suggested that Council may want to talk about what mixed-use looks like for the future.

Ms. Kramb suggested that the rendering should be changed because it is sending a contradictory message. We say we don't want it to look like Bridge Park, but the renderings look like Bridge Park.



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Mayor Fox stated that she agrees the conciseness of the document is very important. She stated that it is important to use images to illustrate what it is you want. The description can be vague and difficult to visualize without images. She liked the themes in the document, but did not feel there was enough description around how those themes are to be accomplished and what the expectations are to accomplish them. In Planning and Zoning Commission, there was discussion about how this piece fits with everything around it. There were no neighbor representatives in the Committee. It would be nice to have a conversation with the neighbors as a partnership in this redevelopment.

Ms. Rauch stated that the conciseness can be achieved. She stated that all of these pages do not address Metro Center. Once this amendment is approved, the Code and guidelines would be created which would help clarify what happens within MUR-1 and specifically this area (Metro Center). Specific requirements and guidance to developers can be added as the Code and guidelines are developed. She stated that language can be added to address the concerns she was hearing from Council about building height to be clear that six stories is not a given and that variation is required. Ms. Amorose Groomes stated that she would suggest using height and not stories because depending upon the building and floor to ceiling height of each story, the number of stories could be misleading. She also added that no two buildings should be the same height.

Mr. Reiner stated that this can be tricky because high ceilings is what makes density livable.

Mr. McDaniel thanked Council for their feedback. He asked the consultants if there is anything from the feedback that is conflicting or anything that needs clarification. Ms. Rauch stated that she received the clarification needed. Mr. McDaniel asked how long the code drafting would take. Ms. Rauch stated that a draft of code has already been started. If someone had a project that they wanted to bring forward, then staff would clarify the requirements of the area. Mr. McDaniel stated that there are property owners that have been very patient with this process and he wanted to give clarity to the timeframe that these property owners might be looking at.

Mr. Reiner stated that it will be important to redesign the retention basins to make them interesting and pleasing to live around.

Mayor Fox stated that in order to get the special uniqueness, you must describe it. As we look at the Frantz Road streetscape, it will be important to get buy-in from the neighbors.

Mr. Keeler stated that the Committee had a detailed conversation about timeline.

Second reading/public hearing is scheduled for the February 14, 2022 Council meeting.

## **INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING/VOTE – RESOLUTIONS**

### **Resolution 01-22**

#### **Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Rev1 Ventures**

Ms. Alutto introduced the Resolution.

Ms. O'Callaghan stated that the agreement represents a continuation of services with a focus on new business, technology, and job creation. In exchange, the City provides matching funds for the State of Ohio's Third Frontier grant program. Rev1 is designated as the lead agency in the Central Ohio Region responsible for the administration of the grant program. City Council has budgeted \$200,000 in the City's 2022 Operating Budget as its local match. The agreement is consistent with past agreements and provides for the continuation of services to include the following:

- Assess the potential and legitimacy of start-up companies/ideas.
- Market and communicate to promote services and funding.
- Provide assistance to compete for funding/capital.
- Identify high potential entrepreneur candidates within the community.
- Provide access to entrepreneurial training and mentoring.
- Provide and support training programs at the DEC and in Dublin.
- Generate deal flow and provide tenant referrals to the DEC.



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She invited Kristy Campbell, Chief Operating Officer for Rev1 to come forward. Ms. Campbell thanked Council for their on-going support for Rev1. The impact of the work that Rev1 does everyday reaches far beyond Dublin. They recently achieved an impressive milestone, which is funding their 130<sup>th</sup> unique company. They have deployed \$68 million in venture capital just through their funding. Those 130 companies Rev1 invested in have gone on to generate a \$3.2 billion impact on the central Ohio region. In March of 2020, Rev1 partnered with the State to try to start creating pathways for talent into entrepreneurial companies. Rev1 launched an intern and fellows program and have placed 200 interns in start-up companies and they are excited about its growth over the last two years. The City of Dublin is one of 45 public and private partners that support the work that Rev1 does everyday.

Mr. Keeler suggested Rev1 Ventures having a space within Metro Center. Ms. Campbell stated that they would be open to having a presence in Dublin. She spoke about her experience working in tech start-ups and how the plan at the Metro Center area fosters the continued growth of Rev1's work and she would welcome being a part of it.

Vice Mayor De Rosa congratulated her on the great work Rev1 has accomplished. She asked Ms. Campbell about the future of entrepreneurialism and the future of work and what Rev1 will be focusing on in addition to the apprenticeship program. Ms. Campbell shared that changes in workforce have shown that throughout the pandemic, even if people don't want to be in a physical work space 100% of the time, they still want to be there some of the time to collaborate and onboard new talent.

Mayor Fox stated that Dublin invested \$2.95 million and has received \$239 million back through the work of Rev1. Dublin is proud to be able to partner with Rev1 Ventures and giving a little seed money to a start-up can create a ripple effect. She thanked Rev1 for their hard work. Ms. Campbell stated that the American City Business Journal will be publishing a supplement in the coming days detailing the work of Rev1 and like companies across the state.

There were no public comments.

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

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mayor Fox moved to waive the Council Rules of Order to hear the Fado Pub and Kitchen's alcohol waiver request first.

Ms. Alutto seconded.

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

- FADO Alcohol Request

Ms. LeRoy stated that Ian Montgomery was present for Fado. Staff is excited that Fado will be able to have their street party this year for St. Patricks Day weekend. This is a waiver request for alcohol to be served in the street for the festivities. There was no public comment.

Mayor Fox moved to grant the alcohol waiver request.

Mr. Reiner seconded.

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

- Designating the Clerk of Council for Required Public Records/Open Meetings Training

Mayor Fox moved to designate the Clerk of Council to complete the required Public Records/Open Meetings training on behalf of Council.

Ms. Alutto seconded.



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

- Temporary Sign Regulations

Ms. Rauch stated that in April 2021, Council approved amendments to the Code specifically regarding temporary signs. The item staff brought forward for discussion was the non-residential for sale/for lease temporary sign. Staff has been contacted by commercial real estate brokers and business owners regarding concerns over the sign revisions. Ms. Rauch highlighted the provision comparison as originally stated and then as revised. She noted the difference in sign sizes as well as duration of the signs. She stated that there is an online tool, but the physical sign, per the comments received, is still critical. She stated that staff completed some benchmarking to explore any other opportunities and how other communities regulate temporary signs. Staff found that, specifically looking at duration, the majority of communities mirror what Dublin's code said previously and was not set on a specific number of days. She noted that when staff met with the commercial business owners and brokers, they discussed what they perceived to be potential outcomes of the discussion; they are:

- Reconsideration of the adopted code requirements;
- Reduced sign size/height with less restrictive duration; and
- Consistent sign design.

Ms. Rauch asked for Council's direction on the reconsideration of the adopted code request and if they desired to do so, under what specific standards. She added that this topic began in the Community Development Committee and suggested it could return there for further discussion.

Public Comments were as follows:

Michael Copella, 200 Civic Center, Columbus, Ohio, stated that he manages CBRE locally. He stated CBRE is the largest real estate provider on the globe. He shared his concern for public access to what is available on the market. The public does not have access to available databases for commercial properties. He stated that people look for properties in three ways: online search, contact a broker, or drive around and see what is available. He stated that phone calls from signs does drive a good deal of business. He shared that the time it takes to fill a vacancy doesn't work with the 90 day duration restriction. Small business owners are affected because there is a cost associated with taking these signs up and down. Marketing property is more difficult in the City of Dublin under the current terms, so it could affect larger businesses looking for space. He shared concerns regarding sign size and the requirements of what is on the sign according to the State. He stated he would be happy to work with the committee to come up with other alternatives.

Paul Krimm, 2088 Fairfax Road, Columbus, Ohio, reiterated a few of Mr. Copella's comments. He added that an effectively run office building typically doesn't have all of the tenants' leases running on the same schedule, so there is usually vacancy. He understands that the aesthetic was concerning. He stated that he too, has an interest in making sure his signs are aesthetically pleasing. He stated he agrees with Mr. Copella's statements.

Matt Starr, 6640 Riverside Drive, Dublin, Ohio, stated that he brings the perspective of a Dublin resident, developer and business owner. He stated his agreement with the other speakers, but he wanted to add that he understands that many of the signs around the community seem permanent. He is okay with most of the adopted code amendment for the most part. He understands that property along the interstate would want larger signs. He asked about the material of signs and that the materials note that plywood would not be allowed, but almost all signs are made of plywood. He asked what the intended material should be. Ms. Rauch stated that the code doesn't stipulate what it has to be, but the concern was the way that plywood weathers over time. It was intended to require a material that is longer lasting.



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Ms. Kramb stated that economic development does have an online tool. How do the properties get into this tool and is there a cost to that tool? Ms. Rauch stated, to her understanding, the tool is available to anyone and there is no cost to it, but the properties listed are really up to what they know to be available at that time. In response to Ms. Kramb's question, Ms. O'Callaghan stated that the online tool available is called Catalyst and that it is the online tool that one of the speakers referenced. Staff does access this and does receive phone calls about it, but it doesn't necessarily mean that every available property is listed on there.

Mayor Fox stated that when this issue was discussed at Planning and Zoning the aesthetic was a concern and the duration was a concern.

Ms. Alutto agreed it is the aesthetic and the signs are permanent signs because they are up for years. She appreciated the speakers willingness to help the committee.

She is comfortable with referring it back to the Community Development Committee.

Mr. Reiner agreed that Community Development Committee would be happy to discuss further. He also doesn't understand what other material options are out there other than plywood.

Vice Mayor De Rosa stated that she feels the issue is both aesthetics and duration.

She stated that she is hearing that a sign would have to be up all the time. She doesn't think that is a good solution. She is fine with forwarding this issue to the Community Development Committee.

Mr. Keeler agreed with Vice Mayor De Rosa that it is a perception issue. We don't want to appear as though we have all this vacant property. He doesn't want to make this more difficult for owners, but it is a perception issue.

Ms. Kramb stated that at some point there has to be a deadline. A temporary sign does not stay up indefinitely. She questioned how effective the signs really are.

Ms. Amorose Groomes stated that this is a result of an industry failing to police itself.

She looks forward to a robust conversation at Community Development Committee and to finding a win for both sides. There are perspectives on both sides.

Mayor Fox moved to refer this topic to the Community Development Committee for further discussion.

Ms. Alutto seconded.

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

- DORA Expansion

Ms. LeRoy stated that two Designated Outdoor Refreshment Areas (DORA) have been active in Downtown Dublin since spring of 2021. Feedback from residents, business owners and guests have been mostly positive with few reported issues related to the DORA. As a result of the feedback, the DORA hours were continued in the fall of 2021 and into the future. In order to increase the flexibility of the DORA boundaries, staff is proposing expansion of the boundaries by way of an application to the State of Ohio as shown in the attached maps. This expansion will allow Council to activate or deactivate any area within the approved boundary with a single motion in the future without having to submit a new application to the State. If approved, when a new restaurant opens outside of the current active area, or there are requests to extend the active area for a specific event, Council can approve or disapprove the expansion at any time. [Ms. LeRoy shared the recommended boundaries by showing a series of maps in detail.]

Ms. LeRoy state that with new boundaries, Council may also consider adding Riverside Crossing Park and the Dublin Link bridge in the active area, whether on a daily basis or for specific events. This is not an option within the current boundaries. When a survey was conducted in the summer, the most mentioned topic in the open-ended questions was related to having the DORA extend across the Dublin Link Bridge.

Mayor Fox stated that the area of Coast Wine at South High and Eberly Hill is not included in the DORA because the residential property just North of that property. It is no longer a residential property and likely will not be in the future. Ms. LeRoy stated



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that she was not aware of that change and will look at that area again.

Mr. Reiner is in favor of the boundary adjustments.

Ms. Amorose Groomes cautioned the area around the school. She would want to make sure that we are cautious and aware of those hours and events. Ms. LeRoy stated that any events that might be close to a school or school parking lot would come before Council for feedback and approval. There is a policy that all Tier III events would come to Council for approval.

Ms. Alutto asked how areas are activated and deactivated. Ms. LeRoy stated she would come to Council for review and approval of the request to activate or deactivate.

Mayor Fox stated that the street on the west side of the parking garage will be extended soon, so will that be revisited later? Ms. LeRoy stated that they are working with the State on those scenarios.

Mayor Fox moved to refer this topic to the Public Services Committee for further discussion.

Ms. Alutto seconded.

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

- DORA Extension Request – St. Patrick’s Day Parade

Ms. LeRoy stated that the 2022 St. Patrick’s Day parade will return to Historic Dublin on Saturday, March 12, 2022 after relocating and redefining the event for the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the first time the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) will be in place during the parade, and staff has received requests from establishments along the parade route to consider extending the DORA hours earlier in the day to encourage food and beverage sales. In order to help further activate the area of the parade, staff is requesting authorization to extend the DORA hours earlier for the Saturday of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. This is not a request to extend the DORA’s geographic area, the request is only to extend the hours of the DORA as follows:

<u>Normal Saturday Hours</u>	<u>Proposed Extended Hours</u>
1 p.m. - 10 p.m.	10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

If approved, staff will work closely with the Police Department and maintenance staff to ensure public safety and cleanliness are maintained during the extended DORA hours.

There was no public comment.

Vice Mayor De Rosa stated that she would be okay extending the hours beginning at 12:00 p.m. noon, but 10:00 a.m. seems too early for a family event like the parade.

Ms. Kramb agreed with Vice Mayor De Rosa. She feels it is a family event. Ms. Alutto agreed noon is a more appropriate time. Mr. Keeler agreed that noon is appropriate.

Mayor Fox moved to grant an extension to the DORA hours beginning at 12:00 p.m. (noon) for St. Patrick’s Day Parade festivities.

Ms. Alutto seconded.

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

- Recommendation for CSAC Referrals

Mr. Ranc stated that at its January 11, 2022 meeting, the Community Services Advisory Commission (CSAC) discussed topics it would like to review and consider at future meetings. CSAC is requesting to have the following programs and initiatives referred by City Council for its future review and consideration:

- Waterways Maintenance Program: The Waterways Maintenance Program is a



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- new initiative that was approved with the adoption of the 2022-2026 Capital Improvements Program. The mission of the Waterways Maintenance Program is to preserve and maintain the open watercourses within the City, preserving their storm water carrying capacity, addressing any critical items of maintenance, and protecting the environmental health of the waterways. The City is under contract with EMH&T for waterway maintenance. CSAC will be able to provide a review of the program developed by EMH&T and provide any necessary feedback and recommendations to City Council.
- **Composting Program:** The City contracts with GoZero to provide composting service. The program currently has 785 registered participants, with new participants regularly taking advantage of the program. In 2021, the City collected approximately 76 tons of composting (including pumpkins), which accounts for 1 percent of the City's current diversion rate. The composting drop-off location is located at the City's Service Center (6555 Shier Rings Road). Staff is initiating an evaluation of providing either a more central location in the City, or additional locations to provide convenient access to compost drop-off sites for residents located throughout the City. CSAC also requested to review a potential pilot project for curbside recycling throughout the City.
  - **Recycling Programs:** In addition to the standard curbside recycling performed via the City's contract with Rumpke, the City provides e-waste recycling. Accurate IT Services provides the City's e-waste recycling, and the drop-off location is located at the City Service Center. Like the composting program, the e-waste recycling program is popular, with approximately 24 tons of certified recycling collected annually. Similar to the composting program, staff is initiating an evaluation of providing a central drop-off location in the City to provide better access to the program for residents located throughout the City. CSAC also requested to review a potential Styrofoam recycling program, which is not currently offered by the City.
  - **Wildlife Mitigation Program:** The City maintains a vigorous nature education effort. The City's Nature Education Coordinator (Coordinator) works collaboratively with the Parks and Recreation Department, Police Department, Public Service Division, Recreation Services Division, community volunteers, and Dublin residents to provide a wide array of services. Services provided by the Coordinator include nature education programs, wildlife information and mitigation, data monitoring, and the City's contractual relationship with the Ohio Wildlife Center. CSAC has requested to review the City's current wildlife mitigation efforts.

Mr. Ranc stated that staff recommends Council refer these programs to CSAC for review and discussion about potential enhancements or improvements to the programs.

There was no public comment.

Ms. Amorose Groomes asked that, when CSAC talks about the curbside composting pick-up services, dual-use pick up services could be explored. Mr. Ranc stated this could be reviewed by CSAC.

Ms. Alutto asked about information regarding textile recycling.

Vice Mayor De Rosa asked if these ideas were from staff or from CSAC. Mr. Ranc stated that topics, except for the wildlife mitigation, were brought to CSAC, but CSAC expanded upon them and asked to also explore wildlife mitigation. Vice Mayor De Rosa appreciated their willingness to dive into these meaningful, hefty projects.

Ms. Amorose Groomes questioned if the word "management" wasn't a better fit for the wildlife project.

Mayor Fox would like to see about composting turned into energy. Mr. Ranc stated that it will be part of the discussion.



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Mayor Fox moved to refer the Waterways Maintenance Program, Composting and Recycling Programs, and the Wildlife Management/Mitigation Program to CSAC for further discussion.

Ms. Alutto seconded.

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

## STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. McDaniel stated that Black History Month is the month of February. Black History is American History and it is certainly varied and rich. What happened in the past, shapes and informs our future and it is of paramount importance to set aside the month of February for learning and connection.

Mr. McDaniel also stated that there will be information in the City Manager Packet tomorrow (January 25) about South Franklin Street Improvements. He noted this because at the February 14 meeting Council will be asked to provide staff some guidance relative to sidewalks.

## COUNCIL REPORTS

### o Committees

Administrative Committee: Vice Mayor De Rosa stated that there is an upcoming meeting on February 1. She also stated that the end of March is when some of the Board and Commissions have vacancies so she would encourage anyone with interest to apply.

Community Development Committee: No report.

Finance Committee: No report. The first meeting this year will be in March.

Public Services Committee: No report. They will be meeting February 9.

## COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Amorose Groomes stated that she is appointed to the National League of Cities Information Technology and Communications Committee and they recently held their first meeting. There was great robust conversation among cities across the United States. She is keeping an eye on the focuses of the conversations, which are: cyber security, sustainable infrastructure, smart cities - emerging technology, workforce readiness and digital equity. She is monitoring those conversations so Dublin can stay ahead of the curve and hear what is happening around the country in those focus areas. She also shared that:

- She attended the Dublin Connector meeting on January 13.
- She met with State Representative on January 18.
- She met with Leadership Dublin on January 19.
- She judged the Poetry Readings on January 22.

Finally, she shared that she was approached by the Lieutenant Governor about workforce development and workforce readiness and what that might look like in our region of Northwest Columbus. A meeting is being assembled, co-hosted by Mayor Ginther's office and Ms. Amorose Groomes, that will take place here in the next several weeks with the leadership from area schools, business leaders and elected officials. There is funding available for workforce development so they will be exploring what opportunities might exist in our area for our students and businesses.

Vice Mayor De Rosa stated that she also attended the Dublin Connector meeting and Leadership Dublin event. She met the new Franklin County Commissioner, Commissioner Crawley, at the Leadership Dublin event.

Ms. Kramb asked the balance of Council if she could participate in the South Riverview Properties Committee with Mayor Fox and Mr. Keeler. Mr. Keeler agreed and



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welcomed her. Mayor Fox also supported her request. Vice Mayor De Rosa was also in favor.

Mr. Reiner shared that he and the Mayor will be meeting with the Historic Dublin Business Association (HDBA) shortly.

Mayor Fox stated that she and Mr. Keeler had the opportunity to watch the kick off of the Historical Society and HDBA's Time Track. Time Track is a project that provides a QR code in front of 19 historic businesses in the Historic District that will provide the history of that building. They hope that this program will be expanded to residences as well in the District. More information can be found at [historicdublin.org](http://historicdublin.org), or through handheld cards from Visit Dublin or several businesses. She also mentioned that she and Ms. Amorose Groomes will be meeting with Congressman Balderson tomorrow (January 25).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor – Presiding Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council