

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 20, 2024

The council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President of Council, Ross Bittner, followed by the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Parsons, Mr. Roetting, Mrs. Dosa, Mr. Young, Mrs. Rissel

Absent and Excused: Mrs. Lingo

A motion to excuse Mrs. Lingo due to illness was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mrs. Dosa. A 5-0 aye vote carried the motion. Mrs. Lingo was excused.

Mr. George arrived at 7:05

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Jennifer Moody, City Manager Scott Bauer

MINUTES:

A motion to approve and adopt the minutes as written for the February 6, 2024 council meeting was made by Mr. Parsons with a second by Mrs. Rissel. An aye vote carried the motion ~~5-0~~. Minutes were adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

GUESTS, SPECIAL EVENTS: None.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Karen Arnette: (Hickman) Re-distributed the 2023 Urban Tree Commission report. Tom Davis gave a report at the February 6, 2024 council meeting; however, Ms. Arnette wanted to provide a bit more clarity to some of the things the commission has done for public acknowledgement. The Urban Tree Commission put a lot of hours into the compilation of a grant application for \$25,000. The results were supposed to be announced on December 31, 2023; however, as of today they are still deliberating. The commission also worked with council and the city manager to get a tree ordinance in place, which was a unanimous vote with one recent enforcement. A large volunteer group joined a mulching event, which traveled around to the trees in Mt. Healthy to mulch, including Mr. Roetting, UC students and employees from GE. Tom Davis is highly skilled and went around pruning the street trees with Karen Arnette, and two young people were recruited to regularly volunteer to water the trees through the season with continued family support. The tree commission academy is an ongoing offering for tree commissioners and public servants as well as public works employees. This is a 40 hour program spaced over 4 segments of classes over a 2 year period.

The tree commission, even though they are a branch of the city, exists thanks to an ordinance passed in 2011 and appointed by the Mayor. Ms. Arnette would like to acknowledge the pride in the fact that they are an all volunteer group. A total of 350 hours are accounted for in 2023. Pruning alone required a 40 hour work week. Tom Davis donates \$100/hour for his time to our community. Dwight Weese also should be acknowledged as his job requires 70 hours a week. Despite that, he contributed to putting together the grant which totalled 109 hours combined. While this commission is a small group, the volunteers care enough about Mt. Healthy to donate their time. Karen Arnette encourages council to extend more overt thanks and support to these volunteers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beautification: Denise Lingo: Nothing to report.

Business Partnership/Economic Development: Paul Young III: A meeting will be scheduled on March 5, 2024 at 6 p.m. in council chambers.

Alliance: Paul Young III: Nothing to report.

Finance: Bob Parsons: Nothing to report.

Library: Kisha Dosa: The library is still offering tax assistance at Groesbeck and North Central Branch locations. They are also doing the Discovery Pass program where library card holders can reserve passes to cultural institutions like museums, parks and more. Log on with your library card to browse opportunities by locations and days. Meals for youth continue to be offered for children 1-18, M-F 3:30 p.m.- 4 p.m. at the Mt. Healthy branch.

Parks: Kisha Dosa: On February 13th at 6:30 p.m. a public parks open forum was held in chambers. Along with the public, council members Mr. Young, Mr. Roetting, Mr. Parsons, Mrs. Lingo and Mrs. Rissel along with Mayor Moody were in attendance. Council member Dosa led the meeting. Justin from Public Works and John Peters were also in attendance. There were also several representatives from Playground Equipment Specialists (PS) which included the president and founder, the VP of sales, as well as Ron Riedy of the Kiffmeyer Foundation and a community member. Mrs. Dosa gave a background on the need to upgrade the playground and discussed grants to make it happen. She then opened the floor for suggestions from the public. Some of the public input included: basketball court, frisbee courses, waterplay areas, game and work out room, water aerobics at the pool and sensory play areas as well as a natural playground structure, and a little free library. It also included more special needs equipment and equipment that could accommodate all ages and abilities. Discussions moved to "placeholders", which would be equipment at a discounted rate from the showroom so that we have something at the park while funding and a plan are finalized.

PS will present three different options which will include different types of equipment based on the discussion making sure to utilize the space that we have. They have also volunteered to give a tour of the show room and equipment that they have on site if that's something council is interested in. The Parks Commission goal is to have city and community involvement throughout the process. Once the three options come back from PS they will be reviewed by the parks commission and then will be presented to council. Another public forum will be scheduled once this happens. Mrs. Dosa encourages families to participate in the next forum. Kids are not only invited but encouraged to attend.

Lacey and the Mt. Healthy branch of the Cincinnati Public Library have been instrumental in the encouragement of family participation in the parks project. In the library there is a drop box which goes directly to Mrs. Dosa. These notes, drawings and plans continue to be a part of the process.

Safety: Joe Roetting: As the weather continues to get warmer there will be more people walking in the evening. Mr. Roetting encourages residents to wear reflective clothing or carry a small flashlight to be more visible, especially around intersections and crossing the street.

Schools: Cordel George: Nothing to report.

Streets: Peggy Rissel: Nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Jennifer Moody

WeThrive honored Dwight Weese (The Urban Tree Commission) as a "Hero in our Community". Mayor Moody wanted to acknowledge him at City Council and will make sure he receives his certificate. WeThrive is also working on an "active transportation plan" which takes into consideration walkability, transportation needs, and accessibility for people without transportation who need to navigate the community. On March 19, 2024 there will be a representative from the state to review the findings. Some of the items raised in a community meeting last year were red flagged as concerns such as road and sidewalk conditions and accessibility to the park. Mayor Moody shared the information from the public parks forum and received feedback through WeThrive that they hope to support or participate in this project. They talked about WeThrive county and state grant opportunities.

There will be a community group to do monthly trash pick ups. Volunteers will take a certain section of town. WeThrive is happy to support this as well.

An invitation from Denise Driehaus has been extended to "Women in Government". It is encouraged to wear purple and is an opportunity to network with other women in the Cincinnati area in government positions. This is a bi-partisan event, and Mayor Moody plans to attend.

Two event grants were applied for to fund July 3rd events as well as the Skating rink for Christmas in Mt. Healthy.

Mayor Moody took the time to acknowledge the parks forum that was held on February 13, 2024. The meeting ended on a hopeful note and she enjoyed hearing from the community.

Mayor Moody is also hoping to approve the Civil Service Commission members: James Wolf, Mary Ann Schenk, Deborah York.

The Planning Commission appointees need to be approved as well: Mayor and City Manager, Dave Osterday, Kim Cremeans, Jeff Placke. These names will be for council approval at the March 5, 2024 meeting. There are enforcement concerns.

Mayor Moody hopes to creating an Architectural review board.

There are a few things happening around Mt. Healthy to note: Fibonacci is being featured at a Krohn Conservatory event called "Botany and Brews". There is also a "Seed Swap" this Sunday at 3 p.m. On the second Thursday of each month there is an event called "Stitch Social" which invites anyone working on a creative project to bring it to the brewery and socialize while working on their project. This is a great opportunity for community building.

Trinity Lutheran Church has a free community meal every other Thursday at 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Mt. Healthy Alliance food pantry could use non-perishable items such as canned fruit, pasta, peanut butter, tuna as well as personal care items and cleaning products.

Tikkun Farm has volunteer opportunities on the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Mt. Healthy Public Schools are being faced with some financial challenges. A public meeting will be held on February 28, 2024 at the High School. The first meeting will be held from 5-6 p.m., followed by another meeting from 6:30-7:30. Both are open to the public.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Scott Bauer

The City Manager's Report was sent out to council on Friday. The Fire Department part-time Union negotiations continue to go well. A third meeting will be held February 21, 2024.

A pre-construction meeting for the Forest-Madison project was held with the expectation that construction will begin in March. The Harrison Ave pre-construction meeting needed to be rescheduled.

City Manager Bauer received a presentation check from Metro's Transit Infrastructure Fund to the City of Mt. Healthy for miscellaneous Metro projects in the amount of \$582,400.00. On May 31, 2024 the 4th round of Metro project money will be open for project submission. We will apply for those funds as well.

A conversation was had with the Speedway upper management about the upkeep of the property.

The City Manager, along with Public Works Director and Council Member Young, visited Franklin, Ohio to learn more about their streetscape project to discern best practices for Mt. Healthy. This was a very informative meeting. He hopes to attend their grand opening. By a unanimous aye vote, council decided to work with Human Nature for the Hamilton Avenue project.

ORDINANCES: None.

RESOLUTIONS: None.

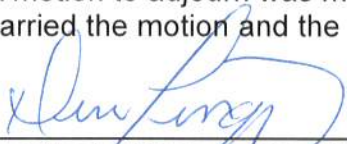
OLD BUSINESS: A motion to approve the Civil Service Commission was made by Mr. Parsons with a second by Mr. Young. A 6-0 vote carried the motion. ***The Motion is carried.***

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Roetting provided new information that the "Metro Now" bus is raising their rates from \$2 each way to \$4 each way.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Young with second by Mr. George. An aye vote carried the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



President of Council, Ross Bittner Denise Ling, Pro tempore



Clerk of Council, Sara Danks