Special Beavercreek Trustee's Meeting with Beavercreek City Council

Monday, June 20 2011

Mr. Glaser called the Special Trustee Meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Those present from the Township were Trustees: Robert Stone, Carol Graff and Robert Glaser. Staff present: Administrator Alex Zaharieff, Assistant to the Fiscal Officer James Barone, Fire Chief David VandenBos, Deputy Fire Chief Scott Dorsten, Road Superintendant Tim Parks and Beavercreek Park Board Members Steve Robinson and Pat Cochran.

Those present from the City were: Mayor Mr. Scott Hadley, Vice Mayor Mr. Brian Jarvis, Mr. Gerald Petrak, Ms. Vicki Giambrone, Ms. Julie Vann and Ms. Deborah Wallace. Staff present: Mr. Michael Cornell- City Manager, Clerk Ms. Diane Lampton, Mr. Michael Thonnerieux-Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, Mr. Jeff McGrath Planning Director, Mr. Bill Kucera – Finance Administrator, Mr. David Beach – Public Works Director, and Capt. Evers of the Police Department.

U.S. 35 INTERCHANGES:

Mr. David Beech introduced Mr. Keith Smith from the Ohio Department of Transportation to discuss U.S. Route 35 Interchange options that impact both the City of Beavercreek and Beavercreek Township. Mr. Smith passed out maps for all in attendance on the proposed interchanges and a brief discussion with questions and answers occurred. Mr. Smith announced that a meeting will occur on Wednesday June 22, 2011 at 10:00 AM to discuss this further and encouraged all in attendance to write letters of support for this project. He also informed all in attendance that the cost of this project is roughly 77 million dollars.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND EFFICIENCIES:

Mr. Michael Thonnerieux-Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture addressed all in attendance and explained that both the City of Beavercreek Council members and the Beavercreek Township Trustees have received the presentation on park management and efficiencies and was looking this evening for everyone to have a discussion and dialogue on what was presented, and the goal is to get some general consensus as to whether we should move forward to keep the process going.

Ms. Julie Vann opened the discussion with a question as to whether or not the issue will be put on the ballot. Mayor Hadley answered her and said he did not think at this point, that they needed to decide if the entities would merge the parks and how to pay for it.

Ms. Graff stated that she thought there was a decision that needed to be made earlier than that, and she stated at this point she would not support at this point what we are calling a merger. She stated that she liked the way it was put as park management efficiencies and having one management of all of the parks with each one of us still retaining the ownership of those pieces that we have and somehow come up with one funding mechanism. She understands the proposal includes the Senior Center but excludes the Golf Course.

Ms. Wallace asked Ms. Graff is she believes in joint management, then why would it be a problem to have joint ownership? Ms. Graff stated that she wanted to see if it works first, to make sure it goes smoothly and the process is efficient, and also to make sure it does do what we want it to do. At that point, if it really works then it should be put together at that time.

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Ms. Giambrone stated that we have worked together for so long and have been going down this process and asked Ms. Graff why she thought it might not work?

Ms. Graff stated that it has not been totally decided who the owning agency will be. She stated that it has to be the City, the Township or the Park Board. If the City owns it all, the City cannot put a ballot issue on for the entire Township, there are only two entities that can put the ballot issue on for the entire Township and that is either the Beavercreek Township Park Board or Beavercreek Township. She further stated that if it is the Township, is everyone willing to deed ownership of all of the property over to the Township? Or if it is the Beavercreek Township Park Board, is everyone willing to deed ownership over to that entity that has three part time people and no real staff of any consequence? The way she sees it, the City should do the management, but at this point, the City cannot put the ballot issue on to do the merged property which is the problem that she sees.

Mr. Stone stated that this issue has been discussed at the Township level and the alternative to turning over ownership of property, is to have leases on the property and those leases can be turned over to the Beavercreek Township Park District. He wants to see if the public is going to support this levy again when it is up for renewal five years down the road and whether the public is happy. If the public is happy and supportive, then I think everyone is a little more comfortable with discussing turning over property. It makes more sense to him the first time around to consider some sort of lease agreement.

Ms. Giambrone stated she just wanted to understand what the concern was, but she thinks that makes sense.

Mr. Glaser stated with regards to the plan itself, all along I have voiced a concern that there is park land or whatever it is, but there is land that the City has that is located along Haines Road and is in the Bull Skin Run water shed, and there has been a movement over the years by the City to have neighborhood parks, and that area of homes does not have any neighborhood parks or sidewalks, and the kids play in the street. He also stated that this is the twenty year plan and there is absolutely no detail in developing that land into some kind of park other than intentionally cutting trails. He would like to see some kind of development of that land in this twenty year park program.

Ms. Wallace stated that there was a master plan that was sent through both the City of Beavercreek and Beavercreek Township and that this is a personal side issue

Mr. Thonnerieux stated that Bull Skin Run is actually a detention area that was secured by the City several years ago with detention dollars. The plan does plan to utilize that open space for trails, and it was identified in the Park Master Plan as a potential site and it is not currently listed as a park, and is not currently scheduled as park. There is some open space that may have some value as woods.

Mr. Glaser stated that this is a twenty year plan and it would make sense to put something in there, because there is a whole section of Beavercreek that has no neighborhood parks.

Ms. Graff had another issue of concern when talking about putting something on the ballot as she feels November of 2012 is not really a good year for anybody, as she understands it from Mr. Cornell, that that is when the City is going for an earnings tax, and it was her understanding that everyone wished to keep the ballot empty of everything else at that point in time.

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Mr. Cornell explained that in 2007 the Beavercreek City Council instructed staff to provide a five year plan that looked at different revenue source such as an earnings tax and in 2007 the target date for that was November of 2012. He further explained that Council was in the process of starting a survey to get a sense of where the community is and the final date of when to place that issue on the ballot has yet to be determined.

Ms. Graff further stated that if we are going to go forward with this plan, and she likes the general concept of the plan, there are just a few details to be worked out on who would be doing what, then she would like this issue to be placed on the ballot either this November, or next March's primary.

Ms. Vann stated that she would always have concerns over not having control of parks when it is such an important part of urban planning.

The Consensus of the group is to move forward with this project to legal review.

DISPATCH AGREEMENT:

Captain Evers explained that the Dispatch agreement between the City of Beavercreek and Beavercreek Township has been in discussions since January of this year as a result of the Township wanting to modify the agreement. Captain Wright and Deputy Chief Dorsten have been conducting those discussions and there is a preliminary draft that tries to address the operations that were not addressed in the original agreement.

Mr. Stone stated that this agreement renews automatically if the Township does not give notice by June 30, and since there are still some concerns out there, we did not want to sit on our laurels and not get this done and then automatically this agreement renews at its current state, and we are not looking for this agreement to renew at the way it is written currently, and we are looking for a new agreement.

Ms. Giambrone stated that it is impossible to have all the necessary work done and a new agreement in place by the end of the month. She asked what we had to do to have the current agreement extended. It was explained that the current agreement does not expire until December 31, but the Township would have to give notice by June 30 so that the current agreement does not automatically renew.

It was decided to let Beavercreek Township Administrator Alex Zaharieff and Beavercreek City Manager Michael Cornell work on this agreement and bring something back to both the City Council and the Township Trustees.

2011-265 Ms. Graff made a motion to Adjourn at 6:17 P.M. Mr. Stone seconded. Roll Call: Ms. Graff, yes; Mr. Stone, yes; and Mr. Glaser, yes.

Trustee: _____

Fiscal Officer: _____