



BEXLEY STRATEGIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

5:30 p.m.

Tim Madison, Chair

Steve Keyes, Rick Weber

- I. **Roll Call of Members:** All present.
- II. **Others Present:** Lou Chodosh, Bill Harvey, President Kessler, Mark Masser, Chief Rinehart and Richard Sharp.
- III. **Welcome and Background of Committee** – President Kessler said the original idea for the formation of a Strategic Committee was inspired by the City of Grandview Council Meeting. He said this committee will consist of different elements and will enable goals to be divided in this process. The Charter for the City of Bexley states the Mayor is responsible for the strategy of the City. The addition of this Committee will encourage City Council and the Mayor to work together toward goals. He said the Committee needs to focus on what we want the City to look like in the next 10 to 20 years. He would like to hold a retreat to focus on strategic planning. He said the City has multiple documents for planning that would need reviewed. He would like to have the Strategic Committee report to City Council. As an example, if selling City Hall is a priority, then the Committee can oversee this goal and work in conjunction with the Mayor and the Development Director.

Mr. Madison said a lot of strategic planning is accomplished but often there is not enough follow through. President Kessler said it should not be up to one person but an entire group defining goals with specific metrics. He said City Council created the Land Use Strategy Commission. Four of the main strategies have been accomplished to date, including the drive-thru on Livingston. It was a single purpose Commission which brought a report back to City Council members for either eliminating or adopting.

Mr. Masser said there are a lot of pitfalls regarding strategies. In past history 90% of the ideas, nothing happens and people who have committed their time and energy are upset. There have been some great ideas presented in the past. The Southwest Master Plan is a good example and it is now 10 – 15 years old. It probably needs to be updated. Mr. Kessler said the Land Use Strategy Commission doesn't overlap with the Jeffrey Mansion Project. There was very little overlapping with the Southwest Master Plan. He



said it did refer to issues with the Ferndale/Mayfield area and possible redevelopment as a secondary project.

Mr. Keyes said there have been a variety of recommendations of projects proposed. There are only a few things at a time that can be done. The Committee can decide which ideas are doable and those that may be cost prohibitive. He is leery of conducting more “studies” and thinks the need is for more “implementing”. Mr. Madison said they could pull out three or four ideas from each plan and as a Committee decide this information. President Kessler said one idea is the use of alcohol permitted at special occasions at Jeffrey Mansion. Mr. Sharp said he had suggested at the time the Land Use Strategy was accepted that a timeline for review be placed on the Plan. President Kessler said he liked the idea of picking out different ideas but would like to see a synopsis of all ideas. He said these would not have to be encompassed by a “plan”. They could include communication, infrastructure, etc. Mr. Keyes agreed and volunteered to prepare the synopsis. Mr. Keyes said the City Council versus the administration role is to have City Council help prioritize and help make the tough decisions.

III. Ordinances and Resolutions:

Tabled Ordinance 23-11 to form and endorse the Bexley Alternative Revenue Task Force, introduced by Mr. Kessler, (Introduced on December 13, 2011, tabled on January 10, 2012).

President Kessler said this Ordinance had been tabled and he reassigned to the Committee.

Mr. Madison said there was an excellent article in the paper asking for volunteers to serve on this Task Force. He has received a number of responses via phone and email. Mr. Keyes said the article was very good and was located on the front of the paper. Mr. Harvey suggested working with Steve Bruning regarding residents’ issues. He will be doing a mail survey and internet survey in Bexley. It would be a good opportunity to gather information regarding the residents’ concerns.

Mr. Madison requested Council members provide information to him regarding two or three people who would be interested. He would like to have a total of 15 members.

Discussion was held regarding Ordinance 23-11 and President Kessler said he was not concerned the wording was too much of a “free form”. He said this follows the Ordinance that was arranged for the Alum Creek Corridor Committee formation. Mr. Keyes said as far as limit and deadlines, etc. we can always leave that open and communicate when we need the information. President Kessler said the task force would be able to elect their own Chairperson and would be responsible for minutes and setting their meeting times and



dates. He suggested adding wording that would explain their responsibility in electing a Chairperson. Mr. Madison said he was only planning on attending the first meeting. He would introduce himself, communicate the objective and let them run with it. Council members were in agreement.

IV. Council Retreat – Mr. Keyes stated he would not be able to attend the March 30, 2012 – April 1, 2012 retreat. President Kessler said the basis for these meetings will be to focus strictly on the strategic committee. He also said it would be beneficial to hold the retreat at Jeffrey Mansion or Capital University. Tim Madison said it would be important to have the Director of Development and other department heads attend these meetings in order to provide their feedback. President Kessler said the press would be invited since it would be a “public” meeting. He would also invite the Department Heads for the City. He would like the entire meeting to focus strictly on strategic planning.

V. Long Term Strategic/Comprehensive Plan: President Kessler said it would be best to discuss this information at the retreat.

VI. Development of City Hall Task Force: Mr. Madison suggested possibly scheduling a meeting with local developers to meet with Council. He said there are a number of real estate developers who live in Bexley who might be willing to volunteer to advise the City on potential real estate issues, specifically the City Hall property. He said this of course would be assuming nothing transpires in the interim. Mr. Madison thought this would be a good idea.

Mr. Kessler emphasized that it will be important for the members to be placed where their individual passion exists. All task members will have to be willing to put the City’s best interest above their own. Mr. Madison said he would like to have a meeting to bring all of the developers who live in Bexley together. This would not be to “develop” a project but rather to receive some feedback from them as “residents”, not “developers”. It is just an idea to throw around. Mr. Sharp suggested they be invited to a portion of the retreat.

VII. Remarks from Audience- None

VIII. Adjourned – 7:20 p.m.

