

**MINUTES
PIQUA CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
THURSDAY JANUARY 10, 2013
7:30 P.M.**

Piqua City Commission met in a City Commission Work Session at 7:30 P.M. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street. Mayor Fess called the meeting to order. Present were Commissioners Vogt, Terry, Martin, and Wilson. Absent: None. Also present were: Law Director Stacy Wall, Assistant Finance Director/Assistant City Manager Cynthia Holtzaple, City Planner Chris Schmiesing, Community Development Director Bill Lutz, Chris & Angie Smith, John Cruse, Brad Boehringer, Tom Jenkins, Steve Stiefel, Kevin Pryfogle, Perry Sprowl, Linda Stoudt, Cindy Pearson, Ron Cool, and Beth Royer.

UPPER MIAMI VALLEY BMX FACILITY

City Planner Chris Schmiesing stated he wanted to provide the Commissioners with information regarding a request received from Chris and Angie Smith regarding plans for a BMX Park behind Smitty's Bike Shop. This has been reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission.

Chris Smith, 1032 Covington Avenue, gave a brief overview of their plans for the BMX Park. This has become a very fast growing sport with many young children through college age students participating, and is now an Olympic sport. We feel this will be a great asset to the community, stated Mr. Smith.

There was discussion on the days and times for the races and practices, along with the number of people expected to be in attendance. Questions were also raised regarding the size of the track, if the 3 acres the Smiths have would be large enough to accommodate the track, if these are motorized bikes, and if there are any other tracks like this in the area.

Mr. Smith replied races will be held on Saturday evenings, with an average of 500-600 people in attendance, riders will be able to come six days a week to practice, there will not be any motorized bicycles just regular race bicycles, there are several other tracks in Kettering, Brookville, Hamilton, Akron and Columbus, but not any very close, stated Mr. Smith. Mrs. Smith came forward and explained how the races were set up and the type of races.

City Planner Chris Schmiesing stated the issue of parking was raised at the Planning Commission Meeting. Mr. Schmiesing showed a map of the area outlining the area owned by the Smiths. Questions were raised concerning the zoning of the property and if it was zoned to have a BMX Park on that location. Mr. Schmiesing stated the Planning Commission has authorized the BMX Park Special Use of the property. The possibility of bike rentals was also asked, and Mr. Smith stated they hope to provide that in the future. Mayor Fess asked if the neighbors had voiced any complaints. Mr. Smith stated he has not had any complaints, but has had several people tell him they were excited about the BMX Park in Piqua.

City Manager Huff commented this will be good for the City of Piqua. Mayor Fess stated the Smiths are looking for donations from the Community to help get the track up and running as they are working on getting a 501CS designation so donations can be accepted. The approximate cost to build the track is approximately \$70,000 and they have about \$40,000 so far.

Commissioner Wilson inquired as to the parking situation, and the number of spaces they would have available. Mr. Smith mentioned the possibility of parking in the parking lot at the Apostolic Church located at 820 Covington Ave. and having patrons walk up the Bike Path to the BMX Park.

Mayor Fess thinks the BMX Park is a great idea and should move forward with it if possible.

Commissioner Vogt stated he is all for it, and would like to see them get as much parking on their property as possible. The main thing is the parking situation; they are going to have to control that as much as possible, stated Commissioner Vogt.

Commissioner Wilson asked if Mr. Smith has spoken with all of the close neighbors. Mr. Smith replied yes, he has spoken with them and they are in favor of the BMX Park. Commissioner Wilson asked if he has spoken with the neighbor on the east side of them. Mr. Smith stated yes, she came over and he explained what they were planning on doing.

Commissioner Martin stated he is all for the BMX Park.

Commissioner Terry stated she enjoys riding her bike and maybe she will come up and ride on the track. Mrs. Smith stated there are certain rules and regulation that must be met to ride on the track. Their main goal is to provide a membership which will allow qualified participants to ride on the track, and further explained the reasons for this.

Mr. Schmiesing noted that the Planning Commission has approved the BMX Park use and that the next step for the BMX Park approval is for the applicant to apply for a Zoning Permit.

Public Comment

Jim Cruse, Co. Rd. 25A stated he believes it is an excellent project for the City of Piqua at this time.

There was a question regarding the building being built on the site. It was noted that it is just a storage building for the Bike Shop for bicycle storage.

Commissioner Wilson stated regarding the parking issue, if in the future if any land would become available close by would they be interested in purchasing it? Mr. Smith stated yes.

Mayor Fess asked how citizens could help with the fundraising. Mr. Smith passed out a copy of the fundraising sheet they have available.

Mayor Fess stated they have the backing of the City Commission and wished them much success.

A question was raised concerning an open ditch in the rear of the property. Mr. Schmiesing explained.

Mayor Fess stated Smitty's Bike Shop has been in the City of Piqua for over 66 years, and have been in their new location at 1032 Covington Avenue now for over a year.

WOOD STREET CBDG PROJECT

Bill Lutz, Development Program Manager provided a brief update on the on the demolition of 650 Wood Street at the point at Covington Avenue and Wood Street. The plan is to vacate a portion of Wood Street, and provided a brief overview of the plan.

There was discussion of how the traffic would be handled in the area. City Planner Chris Schmiesing explained how they plan to reroute the traffic pattern in the area.

City Manager Huff stated this is just an opportunity to provide information and have discussion on the proposed plans for the area; nothing is set in stone no decision has been made at this meeting. The reason for the change is to improve the flow of traffic through the city, stated City Manager Huff. Mr. Schmiesing stated this is just a conceptual plan at this time, nothing has been decided. Questions were raised about what would happen to the building in the future. City Manager Huff explained how the City received the money, and how the city must follow Federal Guideline in spending the money. Commissioner Wilson asked if they have to decide where the money is to be used at this time. Mr. Lutz explained what they need to do to guarantee the funds.

Cindy Pearson, 701 Wood Street, voiced her concern over the traffic situation at the corner of Wood/Gordon, and Covington streets. Ms. Pearson stated she would like to see Wood Street vacated at this time. Ms. Pearson further stated she is very passionate about her neighborhood and that there are only three houses that would be included in the vacated area on Wood Street.

Mayor Fess thanked Ms. Pearson for her comments and concerns., further stating they all want to see improvements made in that area.

Steve Stiefel, 206 Brentwood, came forward stating he would like to see Wood Street made a cul-del-sac or be used as green space in the future.

Mr. Schmiesing stated the illustration is very general and nothing is set in stone. This project would be similar to what was done on Riverside Drive/Rundle Street area.

Brad Boehringer, 128 Mound Street, voiced his opinion about the vacation at this time and traffic.

City Manager Huff again reminded everyone this is just an informational meeting nothing will be decided at this time.

There was discussion on when this would go to the City Commission for approval and what the next steps will be. City Manager Huff stated he would like to see another work session on this before making any decision. Also discussed were the plans for the building located on the property, and what would happen to the property after the building was removed. Mr. Schmiesing explained what some of the possibilities are. There was also discussion on the zoning of the property, and what the plans were for the property. Questions were raised if there is a need for traffic to go from Gordon Street through to Covington Avenue. Mr. Schmiesing explained.

City Manager Huff stated this is the type of information and input the Commission is looking for.

Mr. Schmiesing invited citizens to attend the Planning Commission meetings in the future for further information.

Tom Jenkins, 1821 Britton Drive voiced his concern about a school bus stop on the corner close to his home. When there is snow the snow is piled up on the corner and the children have no place to stand to wait on the bus. City Manager Huff stated he would look into it.

Jim Cruse, Co Rd. 25A voiced his concern about the sidewalks along Rt. 36 and plowing of the snow up on the sidewalks.

There was discussion on the grant received by the Fire Department, and if there is a possibility of Police Department receiving a similar grant. City Manager Huff explained.

Mayor Fess stated there are so many grants available. The City staff is always on top of applying for any of them we are eligible for, and have received over \$1.5 million in grant funds.

Moved by Commissioner Vogt, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to adjourn from the Piqua City Commission Work Session at 8:30 P.M. Voice vote, Aye: Wilson, Fess, and Vogt, Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

LUCINDA L. FESS, MAYOR

PASSED: _____

ATTEST: _____
REBECCA J. COOL
CLERK OF COMMISSION