

**Workshop Meeting of the Clayton, Ohio Council  
Clayton Government Center  
July 15, 2021**

The workshop was called to order by Mayor Stevens at 6:33 PM. Present were Mayor Stevens and Council members Bachman, Gorman, Kelly, and Lieberman. Motion by Gorman to excuse Mr. Merkle this evening from the Workshop and the regular Council meeting tonight, motion second by Kelly. All yeas, motion passed. Mayor Stevens advised Councilman Henning was running late this evening and would be joining us later.

Mayor Stevens stated we will be having a presentation tonight on a committee we've been working on. I just wanted to say thanks, and three of the members of the committee are in the audience tonight, including our Chair, Mr. Foley. It was an interesting exercise for us. The thing I really like about this kind of group getting together is, it gives our residents some input into how the city government runs. I'm real proud of Clayton. We've done this with several other things, we've drafted some residents so we do get feedback from them. Everyone was very forthcoming and I think they were good meetings.

Seth Dorman, City Planner, gave a brief overview of the PLAN Clayton Implementation Committee, and then introduced the committee's Chair, Dan Foley.

Dan Foley, Chairman of the PLAN Clayton Implementation Committee, thanked the Council members for allowing him, Derek, Kim, the Mayor and Brendan (Bachmann) to serve on the committee. We had a nice group of people and even though we were not always in the same room together at every meeting, we gelled, and everyone did a nice job. We wanted to thank Council for taking the interest in allowing residents to give their opinion. As Mike suggested, we wanted to be smart about this, but also aggressive in coming up with suggestions and recommendations that would be helpful to move Clayton forward. I'm going to touch on three things, then Seth will get into the meat of this report, three high-level things that the committee kept coming back to. One is the focus on North Main Street, the other is a stronger connection to the regional bikeway system under Parks and Recreation, and then the third is developing a long term strategy for housing, leaning into more housing developments in the community.

I will start on the North Main Street proposals that the committee recommended. Derek spent some time looking at walkable communities. One of the recommendations he came back with is around prioritizing the construction of in-fill sidewalks, particularly on main thoroughfares, particularly Main Street in this case. Derek looked at the need to build infill sidewalks on the west side of North Main Street from Westbrook Road northward. Using government and non-government funds, this will booster pedestrian safety, booster more sidewalks where it makes sense and where it benefits the greatest number of people. We think Main Street really needs to be prioritized as a pedestrian friendly section of road. The committee believes that North Main Street has the potential to become a more traditional downtown area for Clayton. We also believe the city should take a more aggressive approach to gain control of strategic properties along the Main Street corridor and believe this would be beneficial especially from an economic development standpoint. The second theme we talked about was the parks. We looked at better ways to connect Clayton to the regional bikeway system. Five Rivers Metro Parks, everyone knows that we have more connected miles of paved trail in this region. We've done a good job

creating the outer ring, but we haven't done a good job in connecting the arteries. What we see is Clayton banning together with the northern communities to fill in the gaps. Five Rivers Metro Parks has asked to come speak to Council to start discussions. The last thing, the committee strongly believes the city should develop a long-term strategy for more quality housing. This would be to support a stronger, diverse tax base. We also believe this would be necessary to make the case to the next Caterpillar that we have sufficient housing in our community, because people live and work in the same community.

Dorman advised Council the Committee was established November 5, 2020 to be comprised of two council members, one Planning Commissioner, one real estate professional and one resident from each Ward. The primary goal of the Committee was to come up with projects in the short term, mid-term and long term that can be undertaken by the City to establish and solidify the City's brand and to encourage additional development within the City's boundaries. The committee members were broken into groups to work on four sub-committees: Walkable Neighborhoods, Central Cores, Connected Parks, and Great Streets & Infrastructure. Dorman then shared the sub-committees highlights for each goal. Finally, the Committee prepared a list of recommended implementation projects, that run the gamut from planning initiatives to major infrastructure projects.

Councilman Henning joined the meeting at 6:59 PM.

Mayor Stevens stated I just want to reiterate that it was great having everyone come in, it was a smart committee. I just want to make the committee aware that I'm going to continue to push Seth, our City Manager, and Jack, and everyone else involved in this. There is some low-hanging fruit that we've identified that we can get started on right away. Some stuff is long-term, and some if it is not. If there are short-term goals that we can get to right away, I think that it's important that we work these plans, it's a great plan. If we don't work the plan, it just collects dust. So, I just want to reiterate that I'm going to push these folks, city staff, and council to get the work done.

Dorman stated this is the cumulation of six months of work from a dedicated and thoughtful group of people. Now the hard works start, funding the projects in conjunction with City Council. They have to be designed, they have to be scheduled, and ultimately constructed. But we wanted to present these recommendations, I think they're a very good list of recommendations.

Mayor Stevens thanked everyone for participating, and hopefully we'll see some good results from this.

Motion by Bachman to close the workshop, second by Gorman. All yeas, motion passed.

The workshop adjourned at 7:07 PM.