

CITY OF CLYDE
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
August 23, 2022

The regularly scheduled work session of Clyde City Council was held on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, Clyde City Building, 222 N. Main Street, Clyde, Ohio 43410 for a discussion on an Arts & Entertainment Commission in the Clyde community.

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Brent Stanley
Vice Mayor Chris Shay
Council Member Scott Black
Council Member Steve Keegan
Council Member Doug McCauley
City Manager Justin LaBenne (Not voting)
Finance Director Frank Weasner (Not voting)
Clerk of Council Janet R. Dickman (Not voting)
Deputy Clerk of Council Jackie Hoppe (Not voting)

Absent/

Excused: Solicitor Zachary J. Selvey (Not voting)

Visitors:

There were no visitors.

Mr. LaBenne gave a presentation on the benefits of establishing an Arts & Entertainment Commission in Clyde. Arts & Entertainment have been lacking in Clyde for a while. Mr. LaBenne joined BPA to try to bridge the gap between the group and the City, but events were still lacking. He feels this plan would streamline resources to fund public art projects and monthly entertainment/events.

Mr. LaBenne worked on the Paden Lane project for three years, mostly on his own. He would like to get other community members involved.

Within this proposal he would like to bring back Clyde In Bloom, murals, etc. Basically he just wants to get things done. Next year it will be discussed how this would fit in with the overall strategic plan.

Currently the model for disbursing the bed tax money is to give all the funds to one group/organization to plan all the events. Currently, the group/organization receiving the bed tax funds is the BPA, but those members are resigning. A commission like this could help with the Fireman's Convention next year.

The proposed commission structure would include four board seats, or possibly five if the City Manager is included (but would have no vote). Possibly a high school student could be a board member. We have struggled with getting volunteers for City boards/committees; we do not want our volunteers to get burn out.

To approve this proposed plan, a modification to the Codified Ordinances would be needed. It was noted that some municipalities have all bed tax funds go directly to the General Fund. In 2022 the bed tax funds were allocated to the BPA, but were not used; therefore, the funds remain in the General Fund. In the past, BPA would submit receipts as purchases that were made, but would not submit a final report on how all funds were used. BPA members are burn out, and the events are disorganized.

Mr. Black received a call from a concerned resident, asking if this type of commission would be competition with the high school auditorium (we would work/plan around their schedule; bed tax funds average \$32,000/year, and typically \$15,000 is put back into the General Fund).

Mayor Stanley feels this is a good idea, however he has a concern with the need to get the information out to the community in an efficient manner; he questioned how this would be advertised (a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with a marketing company; if approved, this plan would possibly be put into place next year; the City will coordinate Winesburg weekend this year).

Mr. McCauley would prefer the City try to do something, even if someone would be upset with this decision, than to have someone upset because the City is doing nothing (Mr. LaBenne and Mr. Weasner tried to rejoin BPA to see if they could help to rebound the group, but it did not work).

Mr. McCauley noted that all of the current City boards and committees are lacking in members (we are banking on the fact that this is different; we will try to build excitement).

Mayor Stanley noted that a recent new City committee, for the CRA, had more applicants apply than the number of members that were needed.

Mr. Weasner noted this commission would have a varied/broad focus, not just one topic/project to work on (even if we would not get any applicants to be board members, the city manager would proceed with the plan to develop Arts & Entertainment; in the proposed plan, the City Manager would only have a vote if there is a tie between the board members).

Mr. McCauley has heard past comments that there is “nothing to do here” in Clyde.

Mr. Weasner stated the bed tax started in 1977. Many things have changed in Clyde since then. We need to develop things that will attract people to want to move to Clyde. The proposed plan suggests having board members of varied ages to bring varied interests up for discussion.

Mayor Stanley suggests that establishing a DORA should be discussed if downtown entertainment will be planned (a minimum of four restaurants/bars need to participate in order to establish a DORA; we will research if any DORA in the area includes private clubs, such as the Moose; an idea to close Railroad Street has also been discussed; we will want to make sure we are ready before we proceed).

Mr. LaBenne feels this is a way to start some excitement with City activities. Recently, events have been scheduled and promoted, but then the events do not happen. We need to try to keep people in Clyde, and to attract new residents such as people who work from home.

Mr. Shay questioned if the bed tax funds would be spread around to various groups planning different events (no, a commission would be developed, the bed tax funds would go to the commission and the commission would approve others who want to coordinate events and more art within the City).

Mr. LaBenne will develop legislation to present to Council for their consideration.

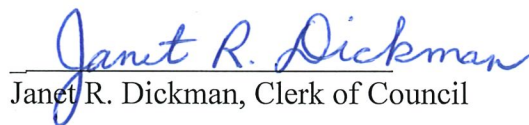
Mr. McCauley once served on a Clyde Arts Commission in the late 1980's. This group selected art for the City Building, until the funding was taken away. This type of commission could start to change the cultural identity of Clyde. Mr. McCauley supports things related to culture, living experiences and various programs.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Stanley announced the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Brent Stanley, Mayor



Janet R. Dickman, Clerk of Council

CITY OF CLYDE

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday August 23, 2022 Work session

Visitors – PLEASE SIGN IN:

1. none
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____