



Minutes of the Oberlin City Council Work Session

Held on Monday, May 6, 2013

6:30 p.m.

President Rimbart called the Work Session to order at 6:30 p.m., for the purpose of hearing a presentation regarding the Bio-Regional Dashboard.

Members Present: Charles Peterson, Bryan Burgess, Sharon Soucy, Elizabeth Meadows, Scott Broadwell, Aaron Mucciolo, and Ronnie Rimbart.

Others Present: Belinda Anderson, Clerk of Council; Eric Severs, Law Director; Eric Norenberg, City Manager; Sal Talarico, Finance Director

Presenter: John Peterson, Oberlin College Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology

City Manager, Eric Norenberg offered introductory remarks and turned the discussion over to the presenter.

Council heard a presentation from John Peterson, Oberlin College Professor related to a presentation regarding the Bio-Regional dashboard. The following key points were highlighted:

- A. Goal of the Environmental Dashboard - Dynamic visual feedback.
 1. Promotes systems thinking.
 2. Fosters sense of connectedness and belonging to ecological and social place.
 3. Situates individual decision-making in a community context.
 4. Empowers youth and other community members in Oberlin to function as environmental communicators.
 5. Positively changes behavior.
- B. Three Elements of the Environmental Dashboard
 1. Building dashboard
 2. City-wide Dashboard
 3. Community Voices
 - i. Recognize existing leadership in the community.
 - ii. Inspire sustainable thought, action and commitment.
 - iii. Broaden understanding of "sustainability".
 - iv. Highlight diversity.
 - v. Increase awareness of and interaction with the Environmental Dashboard.
- C. Two delivery Venues for the Environmental Dashboard
 1. Digital Displays
 2. Website
- D. Feedback concept
 1. Monitor Utility use throughout the community.
 2. Process the information
 3. Provide real time socially and environmentally contextualized feedback to occupants.

E. Sources of Data for Dashboard

1. College Dormitories
2. K-12 Schools
3. Apartments and Businesses
4. Single Family houses
5. City-wide water flow and quality
6. City wide electricity consumption

Additional topics discussed at the meeting are outlined in the attached Power Point presentation.

Several members of the community commented on their experience with the community voices aspect of the Bio-Regional Dashboard Project. Council heard from supporters Sharon Pearson, Oberlin Project Coordinator; Janet Haar, Director of the Oberlin Business Partnership; and Kim Koos, PYO Coordinator for Prospect Elementary School.

Broadwell noted his appreciation for the education component of the program.

Councilor Peterson asked if the dashboard was accessible on smart phones. John Peterson answered that they were working on it.

Soucy asked the presenter what his goals for expansion were in the future. Peterson remarked that moving forward they are excited about expanding into the other schools in Oberlin, they would like to do more public displays in town and they would like to further develop the messaging component to make it more evident. They have also been partnering with Cable Co-op to develop a designated cable channel which will be the Environmental Dashboard cable channel. They are very interested in pursuing ways of increasing access to this dashboard within all components of this community.

Being that there was no further business to come before Council at this time the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Attest:

BELINDA B. ANDERSON, CMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL

RONNIE J. RIMBERT
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: 05/20/2013

POSTED: 05/21/2013