

Mr. Knisley asked if we should start a process for outside sponsorship of the Tech Center. Mr. Gulla responded that we could move forward, but have been conservative up to this point.

The trail project at LindenPointe is pretty much complete and the City is awaiting final pay estimates. The trails are already reported as being very well used.

Mr. Coxe reported that the Highland Road Phase I Transportation Enhancement Project was funded through the MPO for \$184,000. The project includes building sidewalks on both sides of Highland Road from Buhl Farm to Kerrwood Drive and has a start of construction date of November 13, 2007. Installation of the sidewalks can be done during colder weather and should be complete by the end of the year. Final restoration can be done in the spring. The last estimate received was \$230,000 and the City will cover any additional cost above the PennDOT money.

The \$434,000 Shenango Valley Bikeway Project is also an MPO funded project. In August the Hermitage Street Department installed new storm sewers between Richmond Drive and Buhl Farm Drive on the south side of the road. Work is being done to have construction documents and final approval by the end of this year so the project can go out to bid and construction can begin in the spring of 2008. The bikeway will connect all the municipalities, Buhl Park and most of the schools.

The next City newsletter will be mailed to all Hermitage addresses September 21, 2007 and will include all fall parks and recreation programs.

B. Marketing Program Review

Mr. Gulla stated that the marketing program has been developing as a work in progress over the last year and would like a recommendation from the HCEDC endorsing the marketing plan. Generally, a concise mission statement has been developed and the plan has three different aspects: a residential aspect, commercial and industrial aspect and community awareness. They hope to reevaluate the plan annually.

Mr. Holliday asked if guidelines have been made for distribution of the DVD and expressed a concern about the anticipated volume of requests for the DVD. Mr. Gulla responded that the matter has been reviewed by the staff and if a charge was to be applied to extraordinary requests the City has identified the cost of reproducing the DVD and will need to work out more of the details. The concern now is to get the word out that the DVD is available. The City has talked about hosting a meeting with realtors, developers and brokers in the region, giving them a small quantity and stating that additional quantities are available for purchase. The reproduction cost per packet (cover, DVD and postcards) is \$7.50.

Approximately 85% of the cost was subsidized by a grant. The thought was that if a request for a bulk quantity was received from a for-profit business we could ask for reimbursement. For a small request (1-3 copies) they will be sent free of charge.

After an extensive discussion, Bob Cucitrone suggested that the staff continue to provide the DVD upon request and monitor on a case-by-case basis. He also suggested that any unusual request be made in writing and could be addressed based on the circumstances.

A detailed record is being kept of the number of DVDs distributed and where they are sent. A clip of the DVD is available on the City's website.

Mr. Gulla stated that Representative Longietti requested to show the DVD at a PA House Subcommittee meeting being held Sept. 13th.

John Holliday made a motion to endorse the marketing program as presented (copy attached). Angela Palumbo seconded the motion. All members approved.

C. Recreational Facility / Site Acquisition Update

Mr. Hinkson gave a brief summary of the project. In 2005, the Board of Commissioners created the Recreation Facilities Advisory Committee to make recommendations on the site and type of recreation complex to be constructed. They recommended the property owned by the Hanson's on South Darby Road and one nearby as the top two choices. The second property was not available for sale and the City began negotiations with Mr. Hanson for the sale of his property. In 2006, former Commissioner Sylvia Stull passed away and left her farm to the City. At that point the City entered into an option agreement with Mr. Hanson and decided to look at both the Hanson and Stull properties. In July, EDP of Pittsburgh made a presentation to the Commissioners at a July Special Meeting that strongly recommended the Hanson property. In early August at a Special Meeting the Commissioners voted to exercise their option to purchase the Hanson property.

Currently the City is now at Phase II of the project. This is a four month process in which public meetings and meetings with the Recreation Advisory Committee will be done to look at what is needed and how the facility is going to be used. The Master Site Plan should be done by the end of the year.

The first Facility Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2007. EPD, with use the information gathered at the meetings, will lay out the site and help the City decide how much could be built at this time. Preliminarily they are looking at four fields. A meeting will be held in October with some of the residents from Lorenwood and Darby Road who expressed concern about the facility. In November a meeting will be held for the public. It is hoped that the Board will accept this Master Site Plan at their December meeting and recommend going forward with construction documents. By mid-March the project could go out to bid and construction started by April 1, 2008.

In the bond issues, \$1.5 million was set aside for acquisition, design and construction with other monies for trail construction and additional amenities. Of the 54 acres, 25 are wooded and the rest is open. The first phase of development should not go into the wooded area.

Mr. Gulla stated that DCNR was identified as a resource for funding and there is a September 28th application deadline for acquisition projects for recreation. Our intent is to present a resolution to the Board at their September meeting authorizing submission of an application to DCNR.

John Holliday moved to adjourn the meeting. Rex Knisley seconded the motion. All members approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:34 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Gargiulo
Recording Secretary

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