

MINUTES

COUNCIL-MANAGER BRIEFING

MARCH 9, 2009

The Council-Manager Briefing was called to order by Mayor Ronald A. D'Epifanio at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Community Arts Center, 411 Wessel Drive with the following Councilmembers present Marty Judd, Tim Meyers, Mike Oler, Mike Snyder, Terry Senger and Mitch Rhodus. Also present: Arthur Pizzano, Dena Morsch, Dennis Stuckey, Dave Butsch, John Clemmons, Jim Bell, Mary Hopton, and Carol Mayhall.

2009 Grant Recipient's Presentations

Finance Director Mary Hopton explained the five grant applicants and the distribution of grants since 2005. She stated we average about \$241,000 in grants each year.

Great Miami Valley YMCA

Woody Fitton, President and CEO of the Great Miami Valley YMCA stated the grant is for air conditioning at the Fairfield YMCA. He briefly discussed the sponsorships and assistance to youth, individuals and families who do not have the resources to participate. Bridgette Warner, Fairfield YMCA Executive Director, stated a large portion of programming takes place in the gym. She explained the various programs that they are unable to provide during the summer months due to the heat in the gymnasium. City Manager Pizzano stated the ten year commitment with the YMCA at \$75,000 will be completed this year. He further stated this request is for a one time only one year extension for the air conditioning. Ms. Warner stated the expense for operating the air conditioning has been built into the YMCA budget.

Fairfield Tempo Club

Summer Musical Director Pat Davis stated over the past eleven years produced ten musicals which use both children and the adults. She explained due to the economy they decided not to raise ticket prices. She stated a summer children's program has been added. Summer Musical Producer, John Brunner stated the children's summer experience is more than a production it is more like a summer camp. He commented the Middle School experience is a new addition this summer. Mr. Brunner further explained the expenses and revenue sources for a production. He mentioned Ryan Heinrich has returned to Fairfield and has been selected as director this year. He further mentioned Ryan's wife Katie will assist him. Mr. Brunner thanked the city for their support. Mrs. Davis stated most of the people in the show are from Fairfield. Councilmember Rhodus questioned if this organization will ever be sustaining. Mrs. Davis stated the arts are very hard to be self-sustaining. She explained increasing the ticket cost could affect attendance. Councilmember Meyers stated these productions help with overall quality of life.

Fairfield Community Foundation

Fairfield Community Foundation Executive Director Betsy Hope thanked Council for their support and consideration of this grant. She stated last year was the Foundation's biggest granting year in which they gave out over \$178,000. She briefly discussed the increase in grants given out through the years. Ms. Hope stated there is a gap in the operating fund and what they will need to run in the next year. She briefly discussed what portion of the funds can be spent.

Hamilton Fairfield Symphony Orchestra

Leanna Mullins thanked Council for the support they have given the Hamilton Fairfield Symphony Orchestra in the past. She stated the Village Green Concert is a free concert and the budget for the event is approximately \$10,000. She noted this year's concert is scheduled for July 12, 2009. Ms. Mullins stated depending on the weather 500-1,000 people attend this type of outdoor event. She commented she is working with Heidi Schiller for two smaller performances due to outgrowing the facilities for the Christmas program. She explained a few of the ways that their budget has been reduced in order to still provide quality music to the community. Ms. Mullins stated the two things that suffer when you don't have enough funds are you cannot hire enough professional musicians to do justice to the concert and you cannot pay them to rehearse enough to get the quality needed.

Partners In Prime

Steve Schnabl, Chief Executive Officer of Partners in Prime, stated in the early 1990's the City began supporting the ARK transportation, which is now Prime Transportation. He explained the range of services available for seniors. Mr. Schnabl stated last year the transportation dispatch offices were moved to the Patterson Boulevard location, bringing with it about \$130,000 in payroll per year. He stated generally everyday there are 30-45 people at the location and most stay for lunch. Mr. Schnabl the types of calls and contacts received from Fairfield residents who are looking for assistance in understanding which resources are available, to apply for certain benefits or for help in untying red tape situations. He stated the transportation program has seen a tremendous impact for the City of Fairfield. He explained there were about 3,000 rides last year that originated and/or ended in Fairfield which served about 200 residents. He discussed according to the 2000 census, slightly over 8,000 people were living in the City of Fairfield who were 55 and over. He further explained at that time there were about 6,000 more ages 45-55, so we are reaching very close to 14,000 who are eligible for services. Mr. Schnabl stated they have asked for a rather unprecedented ten percent increase in support because of the difficulties being faced due to cuts in federal and state dollars. He stated without support there will be a reduction in services.

Adjournment

The Council/Manager Briefing adjourned at 6:43 p.m.