

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Meeting
June 18, 2007

Members: Debbie Ritzinger, Chair
Diana Colavecchio
Doug Flinn

Mrs. Ritzinger called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the April 16, 2007, April 23, 2007 and May 21, 2007 Committee meetings were approved as submitted.

Legislation Held:

None

Legislation Considered

None

Discussion:

Mrs. Ritzinger stated there were no ordinances to discuss but that some individuals from the Northampton Historical Society were present and wished to speak to Council.

Dreama Powell, President of the Historical Society, stated they were there to discuss the Keyser Swain house at Keyser Park which is going into great disrepair. She stated the family has been in the area for many years and that it is an important historical spot in the City. She stated Dave Brown was in attendance to present an idea that would perhaps get some legislation in place to preserve the property.

Dave Brown stated they proposed to turn the property into the Keyser Swain Heritage Farm Wind and Solar Education Center. He felt the house could be rented, the barn utilized by Parks and Recreation, and the grounds turned into a community garden. It would be powered by wind and solar and they would also incorporate a miniature golf course. They believed the educational part of this project would be the most benefit to the community. It would give the ability to allow young people to learn history and also explore and learn renewable energy concepts. The Society is a small organization but they believe this project would be a viable community asset. They would like some legislation that would protect the house and barn from demolition, vandalism and nature. They are not requesting substantial money. He said there are different avenues to pursue regarding funding and they are interested in finding out what revenue has been secured from the oil wells that are still active on the property. They feel that money could go towards the project.

Mrs. Ritzinger asked if the buildings were scheduled for demolition. Mr. Brown stated that Park & Rec. indicated they may need to be due to asbestos.

Beth Keyser Johnson, Randolph, Ohio, stated her family has had a presence in Northampton for over 100 years and that the family farm made a huge impact at Bath and Northampton Road.

Tom Wiolland, a relative of Carrie Swain Keyser, stated the Society has some unique ideas and that the property is located in a protective corner of the City.

June Truax, 520 Whispering Heights, stated they would like to see the house made into a museum and the property restored to what it looked like when the farm was there. The City could lease the property to the Society who would take care of it.

Mr. Mader thanked the Society for its presentation. He would be supportive of legislation that would further this endeavor. It was his understanding that the City purchased the property for a reasonable price.

Mr. Gorbach also thanked the Society. He stated that Mr. Brown is someone who can do the research to find out how to get grants and knows what to do to get money.

Mrs. Ritzinger stated that Council would look at the information and talk to Administration.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.