

# Cuyahoga Falls City Council

## Minutes of the PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE Meeting

### January 18, 2005

Chair: Mary Ellen Pyke; Vice Chair: Terry Mader; Member: Jerry James.

Mary Ellen Pyke brought the Public Affairs Committee to order at 6:50 p.m. All member of the Committee were present. The minutes of 1/4/05 were approved as submitted.

**Scheduled legislation (second reading):**

B-9	A Resolution expressing support to the students of Sill Middle School for their efforts to create and erect a monument memorializing the Doodlebug Disaster of July 31, 1940, and declaring an emergency.
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Mrs. Ritzinger indicates the children from Sill started this process back in November. Last Wednesday they gave a wonderful speech and have a beautiful monument to share. They are raising money to erect a monument for this largest disaster in Cuyahoga Falls History. Donations can be made at any First Merit Bank. Several students from Sill Middle School, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade were present to discuss their project.

Joe Gajovski, 615 Magnolia Ave., state he heard about this incident from his neighbor and decided to do this for our project in Ohio History. We didn't know why they haven't been honored. Joe indicates the doodlebug was used as transportation from Hudson to Akron. On this day, the daily route signals were mixed up near Hudson Drive/Silverlake area and they collided head on with a railroad car and there was an explosion. 43 people died 3 jumped and saved their lives. The fuel was kept in the top of the doodlebug so the crash caused an instant explosion.

Clarissa Melvin, 2010 Issaquah, states she enjoyed the project and a neighbor donated the granite for their temporary memorial. Nathan Gera, also enjoyed the project and learning the history.

Mary Ellen commends the students for a job well done and looks forward to helping them get the word out to raise the funds for the memorial. Nathan indicates that at the First Merit Branch , \$295 has been collected and they need \$10,000 to get this done. They have not organized any fundraisers and are hoping to collect the amount through donations. Mr. Gorbach encourages the students to put together a flyer for Council to distribute along with information to the media. Mrs. Hummel encourages them to speak with the Falls News Press and try to organize a coupon for donations. Mr. Arrington indicates the Mayor was extremely excited about this resolution.

Michelle Gera: As a parent, she is very pleased, they did their homework and have taken it to the next level.

*The committee recommends bringing out Temp. Ord. B-9*

**Miscellaneous Business:**

**Held Legislation:**

A-79	An Ordinance amending sections 1309.26 and 1309.30 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.
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The Public Affairs Committee Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.