

CITY OF UNION
Economic Development Committee
April 24, 2019

Members in attendance:

Jeremy Ramage, Chair

Steve Harper

James Collett

Dennis Mathis

Larry Solomon, Mayor

David Plummer, City Administrator

Melissa Hinkle, Communications and Operations Director

Kevin Costello, Boone County Planning Commission

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Commissioner Jeremy Ramage.

Old Business: Administrator Plummer updated on the Kroger Outlot Developments, with the opening of Sugarfire BBQ; Glamour Nails and Spa and Orange Theory Fitness. Panera Bread is expected to open sometime in May and is hiring employees. There is also work going on for Dominoes Pizza, Pet People and Chipolte in the area as well. There will also be a ribbon cutting ceremony for Central Bank on April 25th, as part of a ceremony with the NKY Chamber.

Mr. Costello and Mr. Plummer also confirmed that a site plan had been submitted for a Buffalo Rings and Wings for the area near the library and across from the Kroger Pharmacy toward the northeast end of the lot.

Mayor Solomon also updated that he had been in contact with Kroger to continue to push for improvements at the old Kroger location. Painting to the exterior, parking lot improvements and foundation and drainage work at the outlot building (where the old liquor store was located) is supposed to be completed soon with better weather in the area.

Administrator Plummer also updated on transportation projects in the area, providing the most recent update from the KYTC District 6. Mt. Zion is scheduled now for an early 2020 completion, while Pleasant Valley and the Jughandle intersection at Hopeful Church are well underway. Mr. Costello cautioned that while Pleasant Valley had made significant strides in construction, people should expect the progress to slow down as major work is needed for the bridges that are part of that project and the pace of construction will slow down as those bridges begin to be built.

The Interstate 71/75 projects (Richwood Interchange, Mt. Zion Interchange and the lane widening between Mt. Zion and US 42) are now being combined into a single project and will bid this year. Those are slated for a 2022 completion.

Gresham Smith Phase 1 Report: Commissioner Ramage presented the group with draft copies of the Phase 1 report from Gresham Smith for review. While the group has not had a chance to read the report in the entirety, Ramage asked that members review the report and provide notes or corrections so those can be sent to Gresham Smith for inclusion in the final report to be presented to the commission. Ramage highlighted the presentation of the six key ideas of consideration recommended by Gresham Smith: Vibrant Public Space, Mix of Uses, Active Environments, Well Connected, Experience Driven and Sustainable Living. He also quickly reviewed some zoning summary suggestions provided by GP in the draft. Mr. Costello advised that some of these were not a concern, as the current zoning provides for the flexibility to allow for nearly all of their suggestions. Ramage asked that Costello provide written clarification regarding these concerns and he would be sure those were sent to Gresham Smith for inclusion in the final report to the commission. Mr. Collett noted that he would like to see Gresham Smith look at the Loveland Area as another potential development to consider for ideas for Union's project.

Boone County Planning Update: Mr. Costello advised that he and other members of his staff would be attending the Conference for New Urbanism in Louisville on June 11-14. He noted that this conference was close by this year and provided an opportunity for networking and idea gathering if members of the committee or city staff and administration would be able to attend. Administrator Plummer will be looking into possible attendance by a city representative.

Business Owner Mixer: Ms. Hinkle and Administrator Plummer updated that a Union Business Owners mixer at Union 42 Bourbon and Brew will be held on May 20. Attendance will be limited to those businesses who have a primary location or business address in the Postal Union area, including those businesses located in the unincorporated county but with a Union mailing address. More information will be sent to area businesses to encourage attendance. It is hoped that this mixer will foster communication between the city and owners so feedback regarding issues in Union that the city can aid and assist with for the benefit of local businesses can be obtained. Commissioner Ramage will give a brief update on Union Town Center planning and the city will provide food and water to attendees. Attendance will be limited to the first 55 who RSVP, due to space limitations of the facility.

Wednesday, June 19 at 6 p.m. was set for the next meeting date. Location will be determined.

The Meeting was formally adjourned at 7:28 pm by Commissioner Ramage.

