

Emahiser, Bonnie

From: Kari Suhadolnik <karisuhadolnik@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 2:03 PM
To: Emahiser, Bonnie
Subject: Comments To Be Read During City Council Public Comment Period 8/9/18

Dear Bonnie,

I would like the following comments to be read into record during the public comment period during the City Council meeting on Thursday 8/8/18. I believe I was too late for the last meeting, and I want to make sure I am on time for this meeting.

Thank you for your time.

Good evening,

As a concerned citizen of Stow, I was hoping to attend this meeting in person but unfortunately circumstances will not allow. I appreciate your time and attention in listening to my concern.

It has come to my attention that City Council has been discussing a charter amendment proposed by Mayor Costello to clarify term limits. I applaud the mayor's proactive stance in trying to resolve this issue. I have researched the issue myself and upon discussion with many other concerned citizens, have come to one primary conclusion. This is an issue to be decided by the voters. As elected officials who strive to represent their people, I believe you have a duty to put such issues back to the public and leave it to the will of the people. I respectfully request that I am given a voice in such an important issue concerning term limits for the the Office of the Mayor and other elected positions within our great City of Stow.

Again, I thank you for your valuable time and look forward to attending upcoming City Council Meetings.

Regards,

Kari Suhadolnik
4263 Meadowlark Trail
Stow, OH 44224

August 9, 2018

Mr. Mayor, Councilmen, City Officials, and Citizens of Stow,

We are members of the Stow-Munroe Falls Community Foundation (SMFCF). Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of our citizens, to build community, and to serve our families. We are comprised of community leaders. We are current members of other service organizations. With funds we have raised, we have supported our schools, police, fire departments, churches, other local non-profits like Bulldog Bags Inc., and many others. In addition, we utilize our 501(c)(3) designation to support many existing Stow and Munroe Falls Programs such as the Stow Youth Football, the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program, Stow school alumni groups, and the Veteran Banner Program.

The SMFCF supports retail development in downtown Stow in conjunction with creating a Community Gathering Place, which would include SKiP Playground. Along with all of you, we await the results of the second legislation request for recommendations and quotes from retail developers. Comprehensive plans for a community gathering Place cannot realistically be formed until viable retail development plans have been received and accepted.

Prior to this legislation, the SMFCF met with city officials to discuss the most pressing need: The redevelopment of SKiP Playground and surrounding area to create a safe and accessible community gathering area for Stow residents of all ages. In March of 2017, the SMFCF paid to organize and hosted a Community Summit, attended by members of 60 community organizations, non-profits, service clubs, schools, churches, Scouts, and many more. The Summit was designed and ran by an independent professional facilitator. The collaborative and collective wisdom these groups provided proved invaluable to the concept of a community gathering place. We even brought a suggestion into fruition and hosted our first Family Movie Night on the natural green space behind City Hall last September. It was a huge success and we are excited to be having our second movie night next month.

We are here tonight to offer our services to our fellow residents of Stow. We want to use knowledge gained through our Community Summit to provide the city of Stow with the gathering place. We want to work closely with city officials and the Parks and Recreation Board, along with other interested community groups. We want to pursue state grants and continue to work with our community to raise funds for this project. Importantly, we want to offer our 501(c)(3) as a conduit for providing a safe, accessible Community Gathering Place for all of Stow. Using our 501(c)(3), knowledge, and contacts is an extremely cost-effective method to satisfy the city's desire to get this project done.

We eagerly await the response from retail developers to see what possibilities are available to create a downtown Stow. Whether or not a downtown is developed, a Community Gathering Place can be accomplished with or without a downtown. In either case, the Stow- Munroe Falls Community Foundation is ready and able to assume a leadership role in this important and vital project.

Most sincerely,

The Stow-Munroe Falls Community Foundation:

Martin Tass

Julie Root

Gary Aleman

David Miller

Bill Flinta

Scotte Rorabaugh

Kelly Toppin

John May

Tom Stephan

Annie Hanson

Bob Pontius