



Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes
The City of Kent, Ohio
Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Chair Kuhar called the Community Development Committee Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Robin Turner; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Mr. Roger Sidoti

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Public Service Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Fire Chief John Tosko; Mr. Dave Coffee, Budget and Finance Director; Police Chief Michelle Lee; Mr. Harrison Wicks, Assistant to the City Manager; Mr. Justin Smith, Chief Sanitarian; Ms. Joan Siedel, Health Commissioner; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

ABSENT: Ms. Tracy Wallach

There were two (2) items on the Agenda.

1. Fair Housing Impediments Report

Ms. Bridget Susel gave a brief history of the Fair Housing Impediments Report process and introduced the results of this year's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) which is submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) every five to seven years.

Ms. Susel stated the language has changed in the directive from HUD, requiring cities to seek legislation to authorize moving forward with the action plan.

The AI and action plan, located at the end of the attached document, helps the city focus on the work that needs to be done and any issues that need addressed. Lack of affordable housing is echoed across the country and is actively worked on by Council and Staff in the City of Kent. Kent had an increase in issues with housing discrimination in relation to persons with physical limitation disabilities. The city will be working with the Fair Housing Agency and adjusting the testing that is performed. The city found that regarding persons with disabilities, tests were not completed, and there was not a lot of follow up. The city will work on addressing this issue.

Mr. Roger Sidoti asked if the disability issue was based on complaints received since the last evaluation.

Ms. Susel says they look at a mix of both complaints and the testing they perform. They do random samplings to see if there are issues or concerns.

Mr. Sidoti asked if people with disabilities who live in our community feel safe and welcome.

Ms. Susel said yes, any calls received regarding housing, the city works with Fair Housing Contract Services to provide services. They advocate and handle legal representation. It

usually ends at mediation and often time it is found the landlord is simply unaware. Kent's goal is to see the testing go all the way through.

Ms. Heidi Shaffer noticed there were a couple of items in the report about gender identity and asked if that was due to the LGBTQ protections that Kent extended.

Ms. Susel stated yes, it is because it is a locally funded protected class, we need to look at both Federal, State and Local.

Ms. Shaffer asked if the foreign born population in the report was specific to Kent or a national requirement.

Ms. Susel said it is national requirement to report.

Ms. Shaffer asked if all communities are required to do this or if only entitlement communities.

Ms. Susel stated it is entitlement communities, anyone who received CDBG or HUD funding is required to do this.

Ms. Shaffer asked if we fell short in any categories.

Ms. Susel said in regards to affordable housing we would like to see improvement in testing. Fair housing issues tend to be an uphill battle but have improved.

Mr. Turner asked if once an issue has been identified if there is any way a city can help work to address and get assistance for help in making a modification.

Ms. Susel stated the cost falls upon the person with the disability. She also noted the city works with many local agencies that help with issues. The city works through the Housing Services Council to help find funding.

Mr. Turner asked anything is provided to help educate those who fall into this area, helping them receive assistance. He asked if they are notified.

Ms. Susel stated deficiencies are addressed through the Fair Housing Agency and mediated with the landlord if it rises to that level. The City helps pay for modifications during moderate rehabilitation activities, for example the Kent Way project, making them ADA accessible.

Mr. Roger Sidoti stated this includes rental housing and owner occupied housing. He asked what the basis for determining what is affordable is.

Ms. Susel said households which are 80 % or below the area median income are considered low to moderate income. Housing that meets anyone below the 80% threshold is considered to meet Fair Housing. 61% of Kent households are at the 80% or lower. The area median income includes the Akron Statistical Metropolitan area. We assist households in Kent at the 60-70% threshold.

MOTION TO SUBMIT THE FAIR HOUSING IMPEDIMENTS REPORT TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD), WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE made by Ms. Shaffer, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0

2. Proposed South End Historic Identification

Mr. David Ruller stated there has been a lot of talk about neighborhoods and neighborhood enrichment and it's great we were able to move forward this identification.

Ms. Bridget Susel said Kent is a Certified Local Government (CLG). The process to become a CLG is codified in Chapter 1393 (of the Ohio Revised Code) and specifies requirements to apply for historical status with the State Historical Preservation Office. This process requires petitioning building owners and collecting 51% of household signatures. Instead of this process, Ms. Susel suggested coming to Council and requesting local recognition of the Historic South End neighborhood. (**Attachments #1 and #2**)

Mr. Roger Di Paolo, Historian in Residence of the Kent Historical Society, rose and spoke on the history of the South End Neighborhood. His verbatim remarks are attached. (**Attachment #3**)

Mr. Steve Haas of 3889 Curtis Street, Mogador came to speak in support of his family, having grown up in the south end which was very diverse. He stated it was a great place to grow up and be loved by all. Thank you.

Ms. Sharon Watts of 546 Harris Street grew up on the south end. She indicated multiple family members that stayed in various spots within the south end. She states it is a lovely place to grow up and loves what everybody is doing. She said Doria Daniels is doing a wonderful job and is supported.

Mr. Mike Deluke of 844 Manchester, Kent rose and spoke about growing up on Dodge Street. He said it's always been a great neighborhood and he fully supports doing this.

Ms. Peoples of 224 Dodge Street said she came here in 1956 and that everyone is so nice and she loves Kent. She stated the South End is a nice neighborhood and all of her children attended Kent Schools.

Mr. Turner thanked Ms. Doria Daniels for stepping up with this initiative. The Southside of Kent was a special place to grow up. He acknowledged former Councilman Anderson who walked door to door as an At Large Councilman with no education and being born in 19th century. Mr. Turner is honored to be present during this historic vote and would like to make the motion. He stated our best days are ahead of us and he prays we can keep everyone involved around and keep pushing. He encouraged Council to adopt this proposal.

Mr. Amrhein state as President of Kent Historical Society and Museum, he has presented a letter to the Clerk from the Board of Directors supporting a resolution to name the Historic South End as presented by the Historic Preservation subcommittee. (**Attachment #4**)

Ms. Shaffer asked about next steps and implications. She asked if this will be promoted and if it was possible to attract more funding for improvement in the South End.

Ms. Susel said it gives a sense of pride and ownership to the community. It will be announced in the Tree City Bulletin and the City's new website. The city will disseminate the information widely.

Ms. Shaffer asked if the neighborhood would be erecting signage.

Ms. Susel stated yes.

Ms. Shaffer said this could spread to other neighborhoods with possible future designations of areas city wide.

Mr. Sidoti stated the North Water Street area has been named the Mill District and asked if this is a similar designation.

Ms. Susel said it is a similar designation identified by its residents. Future goal of working with the Land Bank to open up investment opportunities in the area. This will help stabilize the neighborhood and continue with improvements and investments.

Mr. Sidoti asked if this would help development.

Ms. Susel said it would.

Mr. Frank Harrison from Ravenna said he is proud to be a neighbor and friend. There is a rich history of this area that hasn't been mentioned this evening. Many black men found housing in box cars. The first black students at Kent State were unable to live on campus and found housing in the South End. Many residents took them in, fed them, helping the first phase of students attending college. He takes pride knowing Mayor Hansford hired the first two black people to work in City Hall from the South End Community. He stated he hopes to continue to talk about it and bring these items forward.

Doria Daniels thanked Council for entertaining this idea. She said they were always tagged as the kids from the south end. She said Ben Anderson and Paul Iacovona worked hand in hand in the area. It took Ben Anderson twenty years to get elected to City Council and eventually did so with the help of Paul Iacovona, a Democrat and Republican working together. She is interested in erecting a banner in the Historic South End District. She thanked all for considering this and the opportunity for other neighborhoods as well.

MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF THE SOUTH END NEIGHBORHOOD, WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Mr. Turner thanked everyone for coming and showing support and for moving us forward.

Mr. Kuhar stated he is a proud graduate of South Elementary School and a paper boy from Pine Street to the old Waterworks plant and is honored to be here and see this. He encouraged anyone to vote passage.

Ms. Shaffer said she would like to see this across the city, as it is a wonderful model for the rest of the community. The diversity in the South End is exemplary and is pretty rare these days. She is proud to lift this up and show the community it is the appropriate thing to do.

MOTION TO PROVIDE FUNDING NOT TO EXCEED \$1000 FOR SIGNAGE IN THE SOUTH END made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Mr. Ferrara said the physical signage lets the all residents know it is historic and it should have proper signage.

Mr. Sidoti encouraged the Sound End to come up with a design. Ms. Doria Daniels said they are already working with the Kent State School of Architecture on this.

Hearing no further business, Mr. Kuhar adjourned the Community Development Committee Meeting at 7:40 PM.

Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

1. Authorize the submittal of the Fair Housing Report to HUD with an Emergency Clause.
2. Adopt a resolution memorializing the historic importance of the South End neighborhoods.
3. Provide funding to the South Side, not to exceed \$1000 to provide signage designating the historic area.



CITY OF KENT, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: October 30, 2019

TO: Dave Ruller, City Manager

FROM: Bridget Susel, Community Development Director

RE: Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI)

The Community Development Department staff commissioned an update to the City's "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI)," which is submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) every 5-7 years as part of the City's responsibilities as a recipient of federal housing assistance funding.

The final draft of the City's AI is attached and I am respectfully requesting time at the November 6, 2019 Committee session to discuss the AI conclusions about impediments to fair housing choice and the actions proposed to address them in greater detail and request Council's authorization to submit the updated AI to HUD as the City's implementation plan to address identified impediments.

If you need any additional information in order to add this item to the agenda, please let me know.

Thank you.

Attachments

Cc: Hope Jones, Law Director
Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council



CITY OF KENT, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: October 29, 2019

TO: Dave Ruller, City Manager

FROM: Bridget Susel, Community Development Director

RE: Recognition of Historic South End

Several local historians and established South End residents have been working together to gather information on how the South End neighborhood was established and its historic significance to the Kent community. Since Kent's formation as a City, the South End has played a critical and essential role in the commercial and residential development of the community. It is the part of the City where the railroads established their earliest presence here and it is where some of the first residential homes were built to provide housing for the expanding railroad workforce.

Much of this rich historic character is still present in the South End neighborhood and some of the residents have requested Kent City Council demonstrate its support for the area's contribution to Kent's history through the passage of a resolution that identifies the area as the "Historic South End."

This request for a resolution varies a bit from the more formalized local historic designation ordinance process addressed in Chapter 1393, but will still recognize and document the significance of the South End area as a point of pride for the residents who call the neighborhood home.

I am respectfully requesting time at the November 6th Council Committee session to discuss the significance of the South End area in greater detail and to request recognition of its role in the City's history through the issuance of a Council resolution identifying the "Historic South End" area.

If you need any additional information regarding this matter in order to add it to the agenda, please let me know.

Thank you.

Attachment

Cc: Hope Jones, Law Director
Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council



CITY OF KENT, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: October 29, 2019
TO: Dave Ruller, City Manager
FROM: Bridget Susel, Community Development Director
RE: Recognition of Historic South End

B.S.

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Thank you.

Attachment

Cc: Hope Jones, Law Director
Amy Hutchinson, Clerk of Council

Historic South End, Kent

Nestled inside the Southwest boundaries of an 1865 Old Settlement map on land that was once owned by abolitionist John Brown, known then as Franklin Mills, is a small multicultural community. Immigrants whose ethnic backgrounds and cultures merged over decades to become the melting pot of what we descendants would like designated as the Historic South End. The boundaries begin at Mogadore Rd. and Summit St. and extend to South Water Street and Cherry Street. Our great grandparents were Italian, African-American, Irish, Polish and German. It was a community where the aroma of fresh baked breads, tomatoes being canned, homemade wine and homemade brew would permeate the air. Every house had a garden or grape arbor and lots of fruit trees. We grew up eating organic grown vegetables and fruits. One can only speculate that maybe the origins of the Tree and Fruit street names of our community came about as a result of the community's love for nature. Our community is rich in history. The contributions of its residents have enhanced not only this neighborhood, but also the general business community of Kent and laid down important social and political foundations within our city.

In 1865 during the civil war era, the Atlantic Great Western/Erie Depot and B&O Railroads, along with Parsons Lumber Company (where the Kent post office is currently located on Franklin Ave.) set up industrial complexes in Southwest Franklin Mills. In 1864, the town was renamed from Franklin Mills to Kent in honor of and in gratitude for Marvin Kent's efforts. It was incorporated as a village in 1867 and became a city after the 1920 Census. Marvin served at his father's bank as an officer and owned large segments of Franklin Mills. He was president of the Erie Railroad, the largest employer of workers, and oral traditions suggest he set up temporary housing in rail box car shops for his workers.

Marvin also built the first homes in 1865-1880 that workers moved into. According to Hometown Bank, Southwest Kent was the first area the bank began making home loans in during the early 1900's. The loans were available to potential homeowners, many of whom moved from the rail box car shops that housed migrant workers from all over the U.S. and foreign countries, to Southwest Kent to work in the rail yards as carpenters or as rail workers, etc. Harris Street had some of the first homeowner settlers and from the oral history of our older residents (in their 90's), the flooring and walls in some of those houses was wood board used from box cars. One neighbor even said that the garage of their family house was made from box car wood. We have a local grocery store in which the bathroom walls were made of this type of wood, confirmed by [Michelle Ciccone Stein](#), and we have pictures of this wood in the home of another resident on Dodge Street, built in the late 1860-1880. Parsons Lumber Company was the only local supplier of wood to the Erie Railroad in that era.

A group of architects in the city are also looking for and documenting historical designs of houses on Franklin Avenue, which shows that many of these homes are also over 100 years in age and were also built from material supplied by Parsons Lumber using its modest architectural design kits, similar to building kits of Sears Company in that same period. We have a copy of an early 1900 floor layout from Sears in the content of this document. Another architectural design prevalent in that era was Caffeen, per Hometown Bank

President [Howard Boyle](#). We have pictures of both designs on Franklin St pointed out by Howard Boyle.

According to Local Historian [Roger Di Paolo](#) the Southend is the "mother neighborhood" where a lot of Kent's residents originated.

[Roger Di Paolo](#) July 27 · Proud of my South End roots ... my Siciliano grandparents settled here in 1914.

Pictures Included

1. Parson Design House

800 Franklin Ave. House built from Parson Lumber Kit in late 1880 or early 1900 per [Howard Boyle](#)

Note: 1a Also included is a copy of the Sears Kit – note similarity

2. Coffeen Design House

1920..it was the Melucci House on Franklin From [Howard Boyle](#): Doria Daniels that sounds about right. It looks like a Coffeen built home. He was active at that time and the design was popular with him.

Additional Historic Houses

3. The original built houses on Dodge St dating back to 1860-70.. **note the creative** woodwork detail on the pillars, Parson box car wood around door to the left of the front porch. This is Mr. Bennie Wright home when this picture was taken probably in the 1960-70's?
4. Another century old home on Cherry St

South Elementary School

5. Before Holden Elementary replaced it. It was built around 1880 and schooled some of the first settlers to the neighborhood: Italians, then Germans, Irish, African-American, Polish kids went to school here.

Neighborhood History Erie Shop

6. Apparently there were two rail shops locations one on Mogadore (behind Parsons Lumber Co) and one on Lake st

There even was even a boarding house on Franklin St called Central Hotel that housed male rail workers in the early 1900. .it was where Rays Place is now located.

7. There is also a picture of the box car housing from 1914

8. Picture of Box Car Wood used in wall of bathroom of house on Dodge and same wood on floor etc.

Points of Interest over the Past Century:

Past Political Contributions (50-100 years ago)

- Ben Anderson, First African-American Elected Official in Portage County – designated Councilman Emeritus- Councilman at large
- Paul Yacavonna – Ward Councilman designated Councilman Emeritus

Neighborhood Businesses

- Montoni Bar later sold and became the Eldorado
- Daniels Beauty Salon
- Tiplers Confectionary
- Lanari Store
- Ciccone Grocery Store
- Urbri Grocery Store
- Burgano (we called it Kates Store)
- Ciccone's Bar
- Vets Dry Cleaners later became Jerry Sales Cleaner
- Shortys Candy Store
-

Civic Centers and Community Halls

- Christopher Columbus Society Franklin Ave – site of the Italian-American Benevolent Society 1916 – disbanded in 1920
- Armstrong Hall, Franklin Ave site of Democratic Party gatherings in the early 20. Now Thurman Music

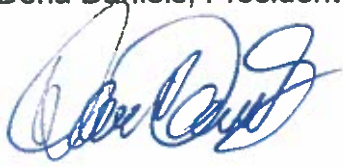
Neighborhood Churches

- Spelman Chapel AME, named for the Spelman family who donated the land (parents of Comfort Martin) The first church in Portage to house Head Start
- Union Baptist Church - named after First Baptist and 2nd Baptist Churches united in the early 40. Where Political organization gathered such as Portage County NAACP

Note: The Neighborhood is also rich in Kent City School Hall of Fame Recipients – to numerous to include here.

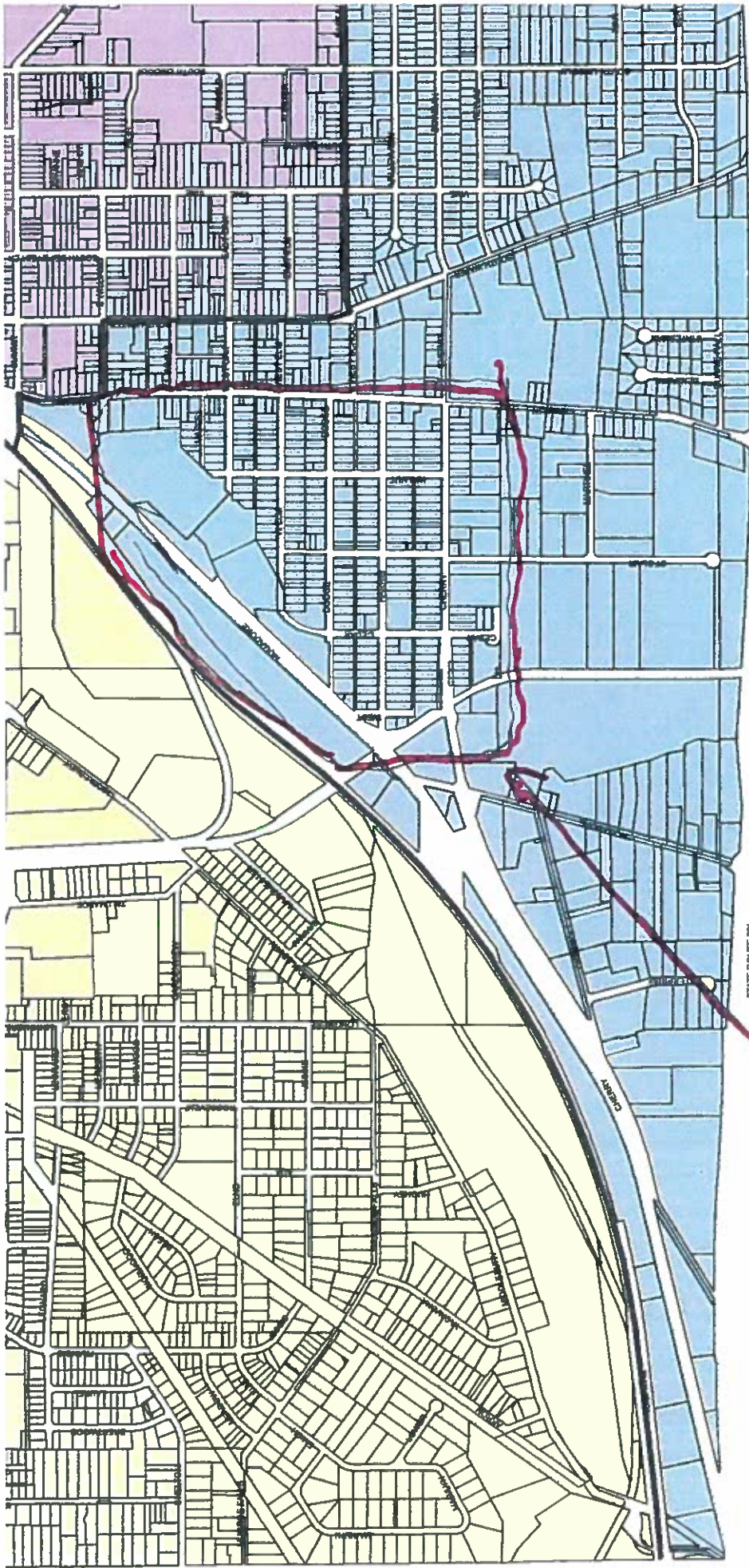
We thank the Kent Community Development and the Council members of the city of Kent for considering our proposal.

Doria Daniels, President South End Neighborhood Committee

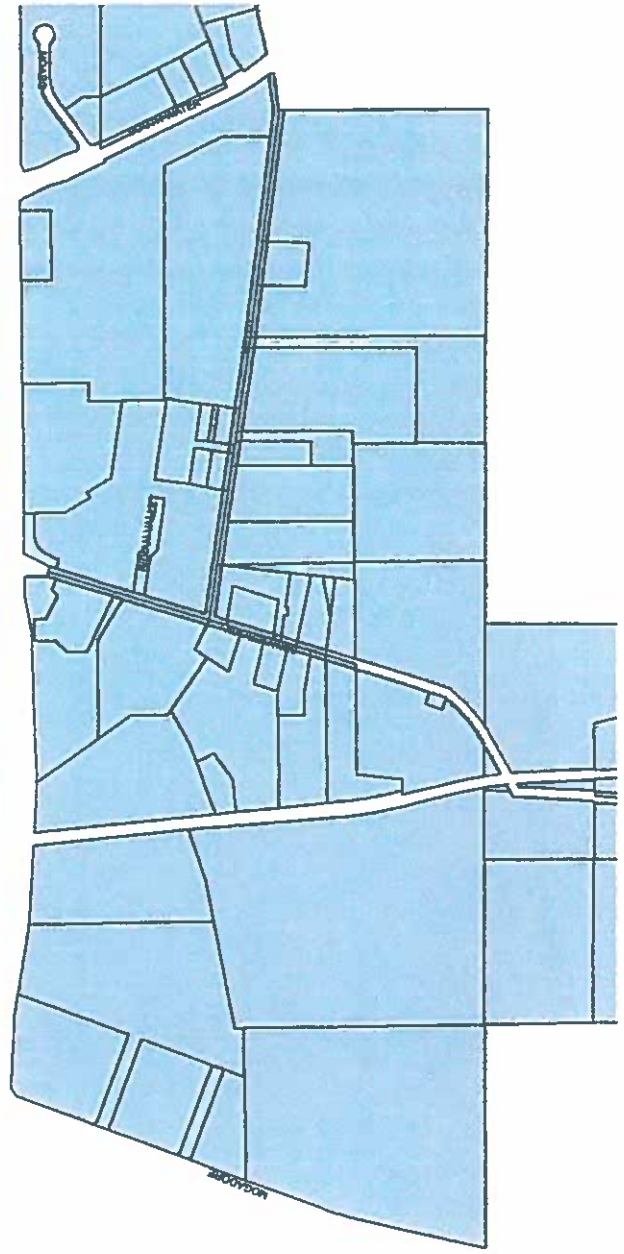


330-673-7515





STATE ROUTE 301



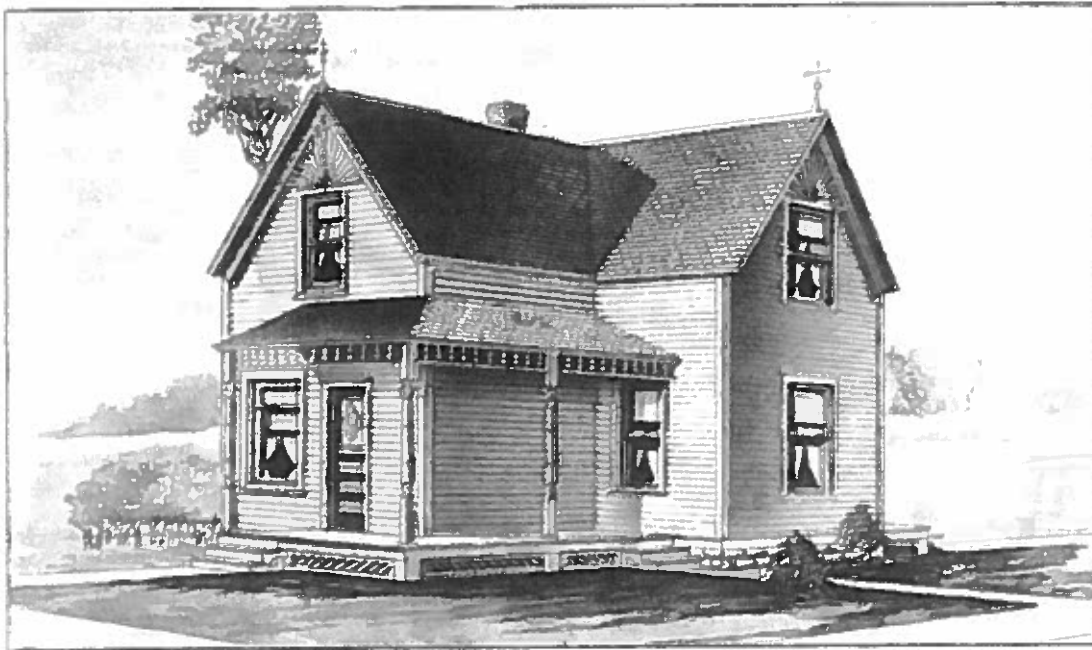
Boundaries



#1

\$725⁰⁰ and Our FREE BUILDING PLANS **WILL BUILD, PAINT AND COMPLETE, READY FOR OCCUPANCY,** **THIS INVITING \$1,100.00 SIX-ROOM COTTAGE.**

We tell you on page 2 how we furnish, free, the plans for this house, or any of the many houses shown in this book.



MODERN HOME No. 115

With Wood Foundation, Not Excavated.

On the opposite page we illustrate a few of the materials we specify on this, our \$725.00 house.

The arrangement of this house is as follows:

FIRST FLOOR.

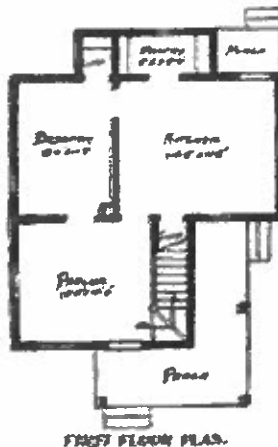
Parlor - - - 12 feet by 10 feet 6 inches
 Bedroom - 8 feet 6 inches by 11 feet 9 inches
 Kitchen - - - 14 feet by 11 feet 9 inches
 Pantry - - - 8 feet 2 inches by 3 feet 6 inches

SECOND FLOOR.

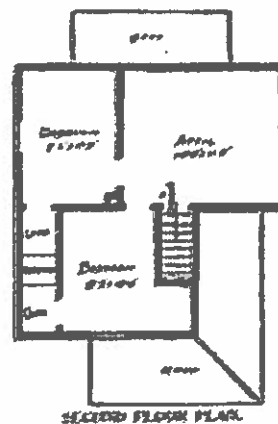
Front Bedroom, 8 feet 3 inches by 10 feet 6 inches
 Rear Bedroom, 8 feet 6 inches by 11 feet 9 inches
 Large Attic - - - 14 feet by 11 feet 9 inches

All bedrooms have roomy closets.

Size: Width, 24 feet; length, 28 feet, exclusive of porch



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

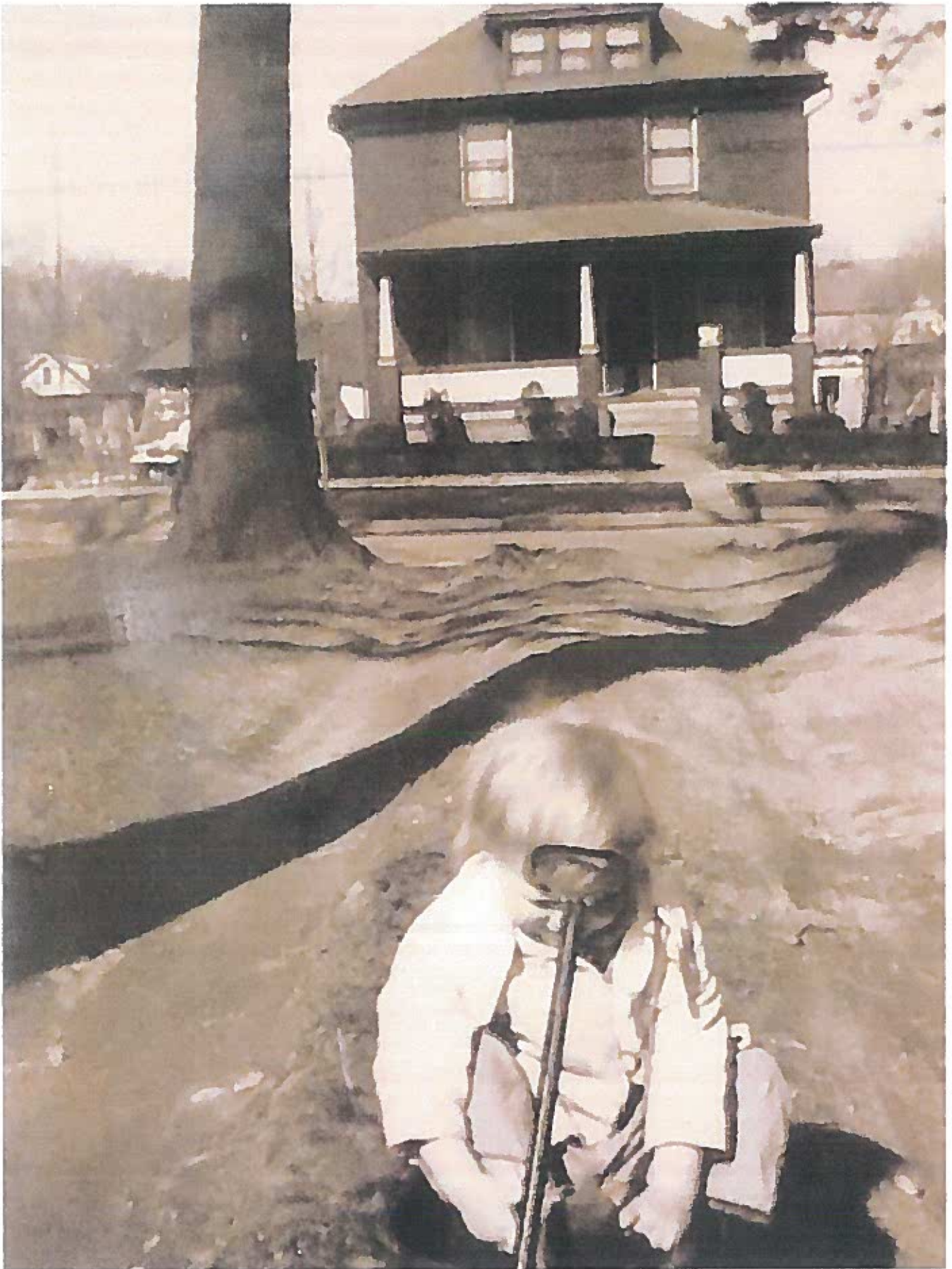


SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

GOOD MATERIALS MAKE GOOD HOUSES

When planning our houses it is a question of how good, not how cheap. This statement is easily proven by referring to some of the materials we illustrate and describe on opposite page. In using our plans, you take no risk of getting poor materials, such as might occur if the work were done by some unscrupulous contractor. The mill work specified is the best in each grade. You take no risk when building from our plans, as we positively guarantee every piece of material we furnish, and if each piece is not entirely satisfactory, it may be returned and your money will be refunded, together with all transportation charges.

#1A



#2





#4

Doria Daniels Kent South-End Friends of the Village
May 31

Neighborhood History Housing Design (double click on picture to see detail)
226 Cherry St. built 1880 ..stripped down to original wood



Photos from Doria Daniels's post



Like Comment

Doria Daniels Kent South-End Friends of the Village
May 31

Add a description

Tag Photos Add Location Edit

You and Kim Wnght

Like

Comment

Write a comment.

Carmen Douglas Did that used to be the Goretti's house?

Like Reply 12w

Doria Daniels replied · 1 Reply

Write a comment.

H LA



#5

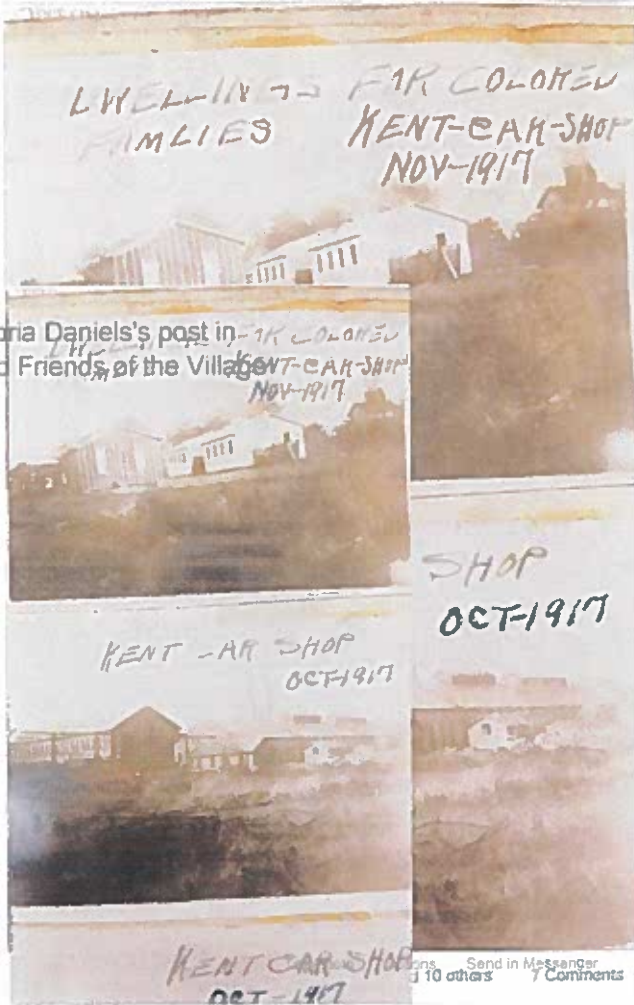


#6


Doria Daniels Kent South-End Friends of the Village
May 13

Neighborhood History

Box Car Shop Housing for those that don't believe it. here is your proof (tap the picture to expand photo) African-American didn't arrive in Kent until after the rail road strike 1912-14 time frame. Prior to the 1900's other ethnic groups lived in the rail box car housing complexes as well!



13 7 Comment

Like Comment

John Herman Sales Always wanted to see pictures of this
Like Reply 15w

Roger Di Paolo Chris Myers photos?
Like Reply 15w

Roger Di Paolo replied · 2 Replies

Adrienne Coleman Awesome!
Like Reply 15w

Mark Trimble WOW
Like Reply 15w

William Myers WOW
Like Reply 15w

Write a comment ...


Doria Daniels Kent South-End Friends of the Village
Admin May 13

Neighborhood History

Box Car Shop Housing for those that don't believe it. here is your proof (tap the picture to expand photo) African-American didn't arrive in Kent until after the rail road strike 1912-14 time frame. Prior to the 1900's other ethnic groups lived in the rail box car housing complexes as well!

Tag Photo Add Location Edit

13 7 Comment

Like Comment

John Herman Sales Always wanted to see pictures of this
Like Reply 15w

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Like Reply 15w

Roger Di Paolo replied · 2 Replies

Adrienne Coleman Awesome!
Like Reply 15w

Mark Trimble WOW
Like Reply 15w

William Myers WOW
Like Reply 15w

Write a comment ...

#7



2/9

Kent Historical Society
237 E. Main St.
Kent, OH 44240
(330) 678-2712
khs@kentohiohistory.org
www.kentohiohistory.org

Jack Amrhein
President

Scott Flynn
Co-vice President

Carol Stroble
Co-vice President

Matt Metcalf
Treasurer

Audrey Kessler
Secretary

Jean Booth
Trustee

Howard Boyle
Trustee

Rebecca Dunlap
Trustee

Thomas Hatch
Trustee

Kasha Legeza-Burton
Trustee

Maggie Mckendry
Trustee

Jim Myers
Trustee

Julie Kenworthy
Director

Kent Historical Society & Museum
237 E. Main St.
Kent, Ohio 44240

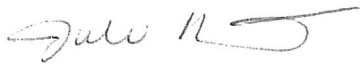
November 1, 2019

City Council
301 South Depeyster Street
Kent, Ohio 44240

To whom it may concern:

The Kent Historical Society Board of Directors supports the resolution to name the Historic South End as presented by the Historic Preservation Sub-Committee. The area has a rich diverse history and the Historical Society feels that officially naming it will bring awareness and encourage further growth and preservation.

Thank you,



Julie Kenworthy

Director
Kent Historical Society & Museum

My name is Roger Di Paolo. I am Historian in Residence of the Kent Historical Society, 237 E. Main St., Kent.

I also am a proud son of the Historic South End Neighborhood and I speak in support of the proposal before council.

The South End remains the Mother Neighborhood for many of us, not only for those families who have lived there for three or four generations, but for people like myself, who trace their roots to homes built by Parsons Lumber Company for Marvin Kent to house workers on the Erie Railroad during the early 20th Century.

My mother's parents settled in the South End in 1914. They came from Italy and lived in homes on Cherry, Harris, Elm and Summit streets, where my mother and her nine siblings were born. My grandfather worked on the Erie Railroad. The South End provided decent, affordable housing for an immigrant family who were aware that their housing options in Kent were limited,

Their story was similar to many South End residents who found homes there after coming to Kent from Southern and Eastern Europe, or in the case of the African-American residents, coming to Kent during the Great Migration a century ago. Their housing options were even more limited.

The South End is rich in history. John Brown and Marvin Kent played important roles in its development. It was the site of neighborhood businesses, including grocery stores on virtually every corner, churches, political and ethnic gathering places, such as Armstrong Hall and the Christopher Columbus Society. It was the home of Parsons Lumber Co and the Erie Railroad car shops. South School, the predecessor of Holden School, laid the educational foundation for generations of its residents, including my grandfather, who learned to read and write English there.

It also played a role in Kent's political history, beginning in the Depression when Paul Yacavona began his 46-year tenure on City Council, motivated in part by the fact that the South End had dirt roads while other, wealthier neighborhoods had paved streets. It fostered the political careers of many of his successors on City Council, including Ben Anderson, the first African-American elected official in Portage County, John Thomas, Joshua Brown, Ray Spain and Councilman Turner, who ably represented the interests of the South End. It also led to the formation of Kent's chapter of the NAACP, under the leadership of Albert Peoples, who was known as "The Governor" of the South End, and others,

More than 100 years after its formation, historic South End Neighborhood remains a vibrant community, a “village” within the city of Kent whose diverse residents take pride in their homes and heritage, a place where neighbors know each other and watch out for each other, a model multi-racial community.

Doria Daniels, Ben Anderson's stepdaughter, continues to foster the interests of the South End as head of the Thomas-Anderson Improvement Corporation. She has led the effort to have it designated as a historic neighborhood and, as a Kent historian rooted in the South End, I am proud to join in support of this initiative.

###



Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
The City of Kent, Ohio
Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Chair Michael DeLeone called the meeting of the Health & Safety Committee of Kent City Council to order at 8:57 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Robin Turner; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Mr. Roger Sidoti

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Public Service Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Fire Chief John Tosko; Mr. Dave Coffee, Budget and Finance Director; Police Chief Michelle Lee; Mr. Harrison Wicks, Assistant to the City Manager; Mr. Justin Smith, Chief Sanitarian; Ms. Joan Siedel, Health Commissioner; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

ABSENT: Ms. Tracy Wallach

There were four (4) items on the Agenda.

1. Operating Levy Resolution to Proceed

Mr. Coffee began by stating he is requesting Council's authorization for a resolution to proceed and finalize the operating levy for the ballot in 2020. As a recap, the City has a 1.16 mill General Operating Levy due to expire in the 2019 tax year and there is a need to get on the ballot in 2020. This is a two-step process, this being the second step in order to get it to the Board of Elections and meet their requirements. There will be a formal resolution drafted for next council meeting; tonight we are requested authorizing support moving forward with this levy request.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE A RESOLUTION NOTICE TO PROCEED ON THE PROPOSED RENEWAL LEVY WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE made by Mr. Sidoti, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

2. New PARTA City Health Department Lease Agreement

Mr. Ruller noted the PARTA City Health Department Lease Agreement is not ready, therefore discussion about it will be deferred for one month. Moved to next month's Committee Meeting.

3. Proposed 2020-2024 Capital Plan Update

Mr. Ruller noted the Capital Plan is important in that it provides the framework to organize resources, aligning with our priorities. The focus is the next year out and is a fluid process

which changes at times. Planning is a great way to balance things and keep within the plan, managing resources effectively and plan accordingly. Mr. Ruller referenced the Capital Plan that was distributed to Council as well as the one page attachment which is a summary of the water and sewer rates (**Attachment #1**). This multifaceted approach on payment will be reviewed over time. Borrowing may need to be considered and will be analyzed in the next six to nine months, which will be built into next year's capital plan. Mr. Ruller recognized Mr. Coffee's tremendous job on the capital plan and noted it keeps Kent in good standing even with fluctuations in the market place. He thanked Mr. Coffee for all the work he has done over the years.

Mr. Coffee indicated this is the eleventh budget presentation he has given and said that concludes the presentation. There was great laughter in the audience.

He proceeded to indicate that Mr. Bowling's presentation is always a tough act to follow, but the book of numbers is where it all begins. The approach taken is to review the current fiscal year (2019) and work on subsequent years (2020). It is a collaborative process and a compilation of work from all of the City department leader's input. Everything is considered such as Police and Fire to service the community, Community Development and Information Technology becoming a priority as we continue to know the importance of obtaining data and achieving more with automation where possible.

Mr. Coffee referred to the 2019 summary located on page four. The City uses the Charter requirement as the measurement; although not required to spend the Charter requirement Kent is required to reserve at least that amount. The Charter target of \$3,545,000 compared to actual expenditures of \$5,169,000 gives a gross overage of \$1,074,000. \$548,593 are re-appropriations from previous year's projects; these are carried forward and appropriated for expenditure this year and do not count against it. The balance of the overage (\$589,500) are budget amendments Council has approved year to date, the bulk of which is \$380,000 for the acquisition of the Star of the Mill properties. He concluded 2019 has been managed very effectively and Kent is within its capacity to move forward.

Mr. Coffee then referred to page seven to discuss looking forward to 2020. The Charter has been revised with a slight increase in the income tax revenue anticipated. \$1,657,992 is above the charter requirement, \$1.5 million relating to the new administration building. It is shown as an overage, technically, but is funding reserved over the years from the sale of a previously owned property. In effect, we are left with a true overage of \$157,992 which is an acceptable plan given needs of the city at this point in time. As in past years, this overview provided is not in great detail, but he is willing to address any specific questions.

Mr. Coffee continued on to the last few pages of the document reviewing projections of fund balances. The first item to be reviewed and analyzed is the impact of the fund balances of the water fund. A few years ago, the City was really challenged with the water fund, but the eight to nine percent increases have helped stabilize it. The net operating fund after debt service is remaining pretty stable and is a strong indication of the fiscal health of this particular fund. Everything beyond that becomes a capital expenditure. Currently the City is projecting \$1,010,500 capital expenditure for 2020 which leaves a carryover balance of \$1,457,718 which is 44.28 % of operating and is well above fund balance policy of 25% minimum. At this point the fund is sustainable.

He went on to review the sewer fund on the next page of the report. He noted the sewer fund is positive through the year 2020 but at a risk to “go negative” on the fund balance in 2021 and beyond, based on capital needs. The net operating level is facing challenges as well. It will need to be monitored and managed closely, using a multifaceted approach to heal this problem. It is complex and will take a lot of effort; the City may need to look at an advancement from income tax funds that can be repaid on the short term. At some point, debt may need to be acquired as rate increases alone are not solving the problem. Billable consumption decline is one of the biggest reasons. In 2017-2018 there was an eight percent increase in rates, but actual revenue received from this increase was only 3.4%. This is a reflection of billable consumption decline. In 2019 rates were increase by 3% but this only realized a 0.7 % increase in revenue. This issue remains a challenge for the city. Sewer is even worse. Even with a 3% increase in sewer this year, Kent is projecting a -3% in revenue. In 2018 Kent was flat on sewer revenue. In 2019 the City is projecting a -2.4% which would be \$100,000 less in revenue as compared to 2018.

Ms. Shaffer asked how many housing units would need to be developed and if it would make a difference.

Mr. Coffee replied that residential doesn't provide that much consumption. Commercial is where the most consumption comes from. He noted it is a bitter sweet situation as people are more conscious of natural resources needing to be preserved.

Multiple Council Members suggested more breweries.

Mr. Ruller pointed out that as discussed before, even though there is decreased consumption, the infrastructure remains the same. Looking at a way to “right size” the system, possibly taking one of the tanks offline to save on costs. There will be many conversations going forward regarding this. Raising rates will not necessarily bring Kent out of this situation alone. In the near future we will likely see a Utility Account management position being added whose main responsibility will be analyzing this.

Mr. Coffee mentioned part of the multi-faceted approach that is recommended would be in the operating budget. Adding to staff is a cost, but utility revenue is the second highest revenue source behind income tax. Every department within the City is trying to do its best to manage utility funds, but there are voids that need filled. This new Utility Analyst position can help do this. Updating the utility billing system was the first step to utilize technology to analyze data to help with this approach. The next step is to provide training to use this system more effectively to extract the data needed to make better decisions in regards to water and sewer. This person would be dedicated 100% to utilities and responsible to pull this all together. For 2020, we are recommending a 3% rate increase for water and sewer effective after the first of the year. He stated the City is mindful of the impact on the community and does not take an increase lightly.

Mr. Amrhein asked if most cities are going through similar situations.

Mr. Coffee replied “absolutely”, but Kent is in better shape than some other communities.

Mr. DeLeone asked when the last time rates were raised was.

Mr. Coffee responded both water and sewer rates were raised by 3% each last March.

Mr. Ruller interjected that from the 3% recommended raise the average household's water bill will increase and average of \$1.30/month and sewer \$.95. The actual revenue the City receives is smaller.

Ms. Shaffer asked if grants are factored into this.

Mr. Coffee replied they are. An example is the NOPEC Grant which can be applied anywhere in the city, but collectively the decision was made dedicate it to the water reclamation plant. Staff has done a commendable job working together to do the right thing for the citizens.

(Inaudible)

Mr. Coffee referred to the storm water concerns a few years ago and council approved a rate increase in 2016 which helped restore the health and viability of storm water fund.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSED 2020-2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE made by Mr. Sidoti, seconded by Mr. Amrhein, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

4. 2019 Budget Appropriations Amendment

Mr. Coffee referred to his Memo to the City Manager dated October 28, 2019, with attachments, outlining the requested budget appropriations. .

Council nor the audience had questions.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2019 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENTS WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE made by Mr. Kuhar, seconded by Mr. Amrhein, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Chair DeLeone adjourned the committee meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1) Authorize the resolution of notice to proceed on the proposed renewal levy.
- 2) Approve the proposed 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Plan.
- 3) Approve the 2019 Budget Appropriations Amendment.



Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
The City of Kent, Ohio
Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Chair Jack Amrhein called the meeting of the Health & Safety Committee of Kent City Council to order at 7:40 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Robin Turner; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Mr. Roger Sidoti

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Public Service Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Fire Chief John Tosko; Mr. Dave Coffee, Budget and Finance Director; Police Chief Michelle Lee; Mr. Harrison Wicks, Assistant to the City Manager; Mr. Justin Smith, Chief Sanitarian; Ms. Joan Siedel, Health Commissioner; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

ABSENT: Ms. Tracy Wallach

There were three (3) items on the Agenda.

1. Retirement of K-9 Iron from the Police Department

Mr. Dave Ruller introduced Chief Lee to announce Iron's retirement from the Police Department.

Chief Lee said Iron belongs to the City and is considered City property but it is customary the handler adopts the dog or takes ownership upon retirement.

Ms. Gwen Rosenberg asked of the Police Department's plans to replace Iron.

Chief Lee said two officers are interested in becoming a canine handler and are going through an assessment process to determine who would best be suited.

Ms. Shaffer asked if Iron could be brought to the Council Meeting when approval is given.

There were no comments or questions from the audience or further questions from Council.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE RETIREMENT AND RELEASE OF IRON TO HIS PATROL HANDLER/PARTNER made by Mr. Sidoti, seconded by Mr. Kuhar and CARRIED by a vote of 8-0.

2. Proposed No Parking Restriction on Wolcott Avenue

Dave Ruller mentioned the Traffic Safety Committee of Department Heads who received a request from a resident on Wolcott. The Committee recommended support of this restriction on parking by the driveway.

Chief Lee stated cars are parked on Wolcott as the high school lets out, there is congestion with foot traffic and cars. It is an undeveloped street with no curbs and a small lane for through traffic. This makes it difficult and unsafe for the resident to back out of driveway.

Mr. Kuhar asked about previous requests that required residents to get a petition and why this is different from what is usually done.

Chief Lee said they discussed this and the reasoning is because it affects one resident and probably would be an easier way for the resident.

Mr. Ruller said petitioning is typically done when it is a longer section of the road. This is a small, specific request and can be taken to Council without a full petition process.

There were no comments or questions from the audience or further questions from Council.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE NO PARKING RETRICTION ON WOLCOTT AVENUE AS PRESENTED made by Mr. Sidoti, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and CARRIED by a vote of 8-0.

3. County Public Defender's Office Renewal Contract

Mr. Ruller stated this is an annual item brought to Council. We've always used the County as a Public Defender and this is just a continuation.

There were no comments or questions from the audience or further questions from Council

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S CONTRACT FOR 2020 made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. Kuhar and CARRIED by a vote of 8-0.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Chair Amrhein adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1) **Authorize the retirement and release of Iron to his patrol handler/partner.**
- 2) **Authorize the new no parking restriction on Wolcott Avenue as presented.**
- 3) **Authorize the renewal of the Portage County Public Defender's contract for 2020.**



Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes
The City of Kent, Ohio
Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Chair Roger Sidoti called the meeting of the Streets, Sidewalks, and Utilities Committee of Kent City Council to order at 7:46 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Robin Turner; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Mr. Roger Sidoti

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Public Service Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Fire Chief John Tosko; Mr. Dave Coffee, Budget and Finance Director; Police Chief Michelle Lee; Mr. Harrison Wicks, Assistant to the City Manager; Mr. Justin Smith, Chief Sanitarian; Ms. Joan Siedel, Health Commissioner; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

ABSENT: Ms. Tracy Wallach

There were two (2) items on the Agenda.

1. Staff Report on KSU's Flash Bikes Program

Mr. Dave Ruller explained there were questions on how the program works and the particulars of the program. This is the third iteration of the bike program that KSU has offered and it has really expanded. We are fortunate to have KSU coordinating this program.

Mr. Jim Bowling introduced Mr. Chris Lucas from Kent State University Parks and Recreation Service in charge of coordinating the Veoride Program. Mr. Bowling began by starting his presentation (**Attachment #1**) by showing how bikes parked in the past that were of concern. The concerns were corrected and reported to the company. He stated it's a fluid situation and things move fast. He showed pictures of bikes parked properly as well.

Mr. Bowling reviewed the iterations of the bike program at Kent State University, ending with the current program as it is now. Students are interested in using the bikes to go downtown. The first bike program was paid for by the Kent State University; the second iteration of the program was subsidized by KSU, the City of Kent and businesses downtown. The current program is unmanned and dockless which drives more business and requires no subsidy from either Kent State University or the City of Kent. The goals of the program are to reduce vehicle trips for short distances, increasing the amount of people visiting downtown, promoting transit and walkability throughout the city and reducing emissions.

Mr. Bowling then reviewed usage statistics from September 2017 and now. In 2017 there were only a little over 900 uses. As of September 2019 in the Veoride program there have been 12,486 rides.

Mr. Bowling then went on to state that by talking to other communities, he learned there is a learning process on proper bicycle usage. Mr. Bowling and Mr. Harrison Wicks went out into the community to survey the usage thirteen (13) separate times to see if the bikes were being parked properly. They found 93% of the bikes observed were parked properly. Some of the bikes were on their sides, having fallen over. It's hard to know if the previous user did this or if someone came along and pushed the bike over. None of the bikes observed were parked illegally, blocking sidewalks or handicap areas.

Mr. Bowling stated that Veoride has an education component on how to park the bike and instructions are provided on the bike on how to properly park. Veoride also has a fleet of technicians responsible for repositioning bikes.

(Inaudible question from Council). Mr. Bowling stated there are designated areas in the City and on Campus where bikes are allowed to go, and if they go outside of this area they are not able to be locked. Bikes can physically be ridden anywhere, but cannot be locked outside of the authorized area. This boundary was discussed and decided upon between KSU and the City to give the program the biggest chance of success. People want to park bikes outside of destination and we want to give them the chance to do this. Boundaries are not set in stone and can change to help prevent bikes for being left in places that aren't appropriate. Users can be fined by Veoride for improper usage and he noted there is a hotline number to call to report improper usage of bikes. Marking off areas within designated areas is also being considered. Miami University has taped off areas such as a parking space to park scooters on their campus. Kent is not there yet, but it will be considered in the future.

Mr. DeLeone mentioned at Ohio State University he has seen bikes put up in trees.

Mr. Bowling showed pictures of bikes on a roof, on a porch and noted he heard someone had created a Twitter handle for a bike. Mr. Chris Lucas from Kent State University (off mic) stated there briefly was a Twitter page but hasn't really taken off and he believes has since been taken down.

Mr. Turner stated he is amazed of the success of this program and imagined managing it would be a nightmare. There is so much possibly for mischief and he is amazed this is working. He is stunned they can do this.

Mr. Bowling replied that Kent is not unusual. In the last 18 months many companies are going into towns all over the country, noting that the City of Columbus has two or three companies. He also noted the transformation he has observed at Miami University, now noticing scooters lined up properly as opposed to when the program first started. He said it was a great improvement.

Mr. Kuhar asked if Mr. Bowling was aware of Ohio revised code 351.04 and 351.05.

Mr. Bowling stated they referenced Ohio Revised Code 373.09 which is in regards to bike parking and the blocking of sidewalks and handicap areas.

Mr. Kuhar stated he has received more phone calls on this issue in the past six months than the amount he's received in the past twelve years, and this needs to be fixed.

Mr. Bowling cited Ordinance 373.09 as the Ordinance regarding bikes and sidewalks. When the program first started there were issues of bikes on sidewalks but stated it is getting better. In the random sampling that was conducted, no bikes were totally blocking sidewalks or blocking handicap areas.

Mr. Kuhar reported seeing a person in an electric wheelchair ramming a bike that was on a walkway so they could get through. He also stated a bike has been on its side on Loop Road by the Kent State Recreation Center and has been there for weeks.

Mr. Bowling reviewed pictures of bikes parked on sidewalks, and noted they are parked in the same areas where there are trash cans and aren't blocking sidewalks. The Police have been given the Veoride App and the telephone number to the company and have been asked to report misuse directly to the company.

Mr. Kuhar asked if Mr. Bowling would agree that out of the 39% of non Veoride bikes, you very seldom see those lying around.

Bowling said it is seldom, but at times he did. He saw owner's bikes lying on their sides by porches similar to Veoride bikes in the grass.

Mr. Kuhar said the program is good, but something needs to be done about enforcement.

Mayor Fiala said he is not questioning the data that was collected and put together, but doesn't think we are addressing the problem. The problem is behavior. He stated he had photos of bikes on his phone, one of which a bike was thrown in the river by the damn. He has photos of bikes blocking sidewalks and handicap spaces. He stated it is a good program and asked how we change people's behavior.

Mr. Bowling referenced his slide in the presentation regarding fines imposed by Veoride.

Mr. Fiala asked if he were to call Veoride, how long it would take for someone from the company to respond.

Mr. Chris Lucas from KSU replied they are very responsive and reiterated the amount of representatives they have canvassing the area on a daily basis (Inaudible off mic). Their goal is to educate users on how to park bikes.

Mr. Fiala asked what the repercussions were for the person who threw the bike over the bridge.

Mr. Chris Lucas mentioned it is a tricky situation because a customer can park and lock the bike, and anyone can come and do anything they want to it afterwards. They have staff who go around in a Veoride vehicle and if able to get down to the bottom of it, they can issue warnings, fines and potential police involvement.

Mr. Fiala asked if this has happened yet.

Mr. Lucas is not sure if it happened for that event specifically but they have reached out to the police and know that is an option they are willing to take when they find out people are purposely damaging bikes.

Mr. Ruller added it is not much different from when people were throwing barrels in the river. Unfortunately a big challenge is being a city where a lot of people come and drink at night. People who are using the bike program value it and aren't going to throw the bike into the river. Unless we catch the person who did it, it's hard to know who is responsible.

Mr. Fiala then asked about the person who parked in a handicap spot. He stated it is a behavioral problem and that is what we need to address.

Mr. DeLeone asked what is going to happen in the winter when sidewalks need plowed. He asked if the bikes are put away in the winter or if they will put snow tires on the bikes.

Mr. Bowling stated some are put away for winter and some are equipped with fat tires to be used year round. Plowing around them is something we will have to adapt to. It is similar to trash cans, signs and bike racks and is dealt with to do the job of cleaning off the sidewalks.

Mr. Kuhar asked Chief Lee if there was a complaint if he parked on the sidewalk, how long would it take for him to get a citation. He further stated police should be giving citations.

Chief Lee said that could be a possibility but right now when a complaint is received the issue is addressed. As mentioned previously, the hard part is who to address it with because without actually seeing how the bike got to where it is, it's hard to know who is responsible.

Mr. Kuhar suggested if a few citations went out we might see a solution to the problem.

Mr. Amrhein stated he is in full support of the bike program. Recently he noticed a bike in the middle of the yard at the Kent Historical Society. He went out and moved the bike to the sidewalk. He wanted to make sure that was the appropriate thing to do.

Mr. Bowling stated it was the appropriate action.

Ms. Rosenberg voiced support of the bike program, mentioning this is a modern business model that has not been seen before so there will be evolutions to this and a shift. She does not believe we should hobble the program because of the immaturity of some. She informally surveyed downtown business owners about the bikes and they were mostly neutral to positive about it. Students, and others, are able to come downtown and also go on the hike and bike trails. It leads to an ecological mindset and is good for general health, fitness and wellbeing. Winter is interesting and a fat tire bike sounds like fun. She likes the fluidity of the space that seems to come alive and a city that is more modern and progressive. She stated behavior will evolve and be corrected in future versions of the program.

Mr. Turner stated change in conduct is the one issue of oversight. There isn't the ability to ensure that people comply with the rules. He asked how often the company receives updates from the university and if the interaction can be increased to discuss how the program is working.

Mr. Bowling answered Kent State has reached out to the city several times regarding input on the program.

Mr. Lucas added they meet with Veoride quarterly and are in touch with them on a weekly basis, sometimes several times a week. The Veoride Regional Manager said he would be happy to come to Council at any time to speak about the program.

Mr. Turner asked how often they are required to talk to KSU and address the outliers.

Mr. Lucas stated (off mic) these meeting are set up quarterly.

Mr. Turner addressed Chief Lee about getting information to them on where bikes are placed. He has not heard a lot of feedback so it must mean the program is working reasonably well, but it may be based on where you live.

Mr. Ferrara suggested Kent may be better served to have a designated area or areas where bikes could be place, such as a taped off area.

Mr. Bowling replied this is a possibility. If downtown, it would need to be every block both sides of the road. A lot of these areas already have a bike racks, especially downtown and this is where they should be parked.

Mr. Kuhar states this is a tremendous idea but needs some control. The main area of abuse seen is the center of town to the East Main Street corridor. He suggested placing yellow banners near bike racks to get attention and indicate this is the appropriate place to park a bike.

Mr. Bowling said the East Main Street area is an area of most concern because there is no area for bikes to be placed.

Ms. Shaffer asked for clarification on the hotline and if we are to call if something is really out of place or knocked over.

Mr. Bowling added he too does what Mr. Amrhein does; if he sees a biked tipped over, he picks it up or moves it out of the way. It takes a community to make a great place and this is just one more thing.

Mr. De Leone indicated now he has seen the map, it makes more sense where he is seeing the most bikes.

Mr. Bowling added the map in the presentation is an older version. Veoride has extended the area further north so they don't have to leave bikes on the East Main sidewalks.

Mr. Ruller added one final thought to please try to use the hotline. Officers can help but Kent has a small force. Using the hotline would be more responsive. He also mentioned he thought usage will drop off significantly with winter approaching.

Mr. Bowling added if we see a problem and come up with a solution we would take action as soon as possible.

There were no further questions from Council or the audience.

2. Update on the City's 2019 Capital Projects

Mr. Ruller introduce Mr. Jim Bowling and his presentation on 2019 Capital Projects.

Mr. Bowling began his presentation (**Attachment #2**) by stating it has been a good year, having accomplished a lot of previously set priorities, especially in the south end of the City.

The first project was removing the sediment and deposits in the water treatment facilities and the replacement of the sand filter. The Water Facility hasn't had any major rehabilitation since the 1980's and had to be divided into five separate phases.

The next project was on Valley View and Morris and involved the replacement of a collapsing storm sewer. There were sink holes in the tree lawn and sidewalk and also waterline breaks in the same area which resulted in combining projects, replacing sidewalks and curb and then resurfacing the road. The project took four months to complete and was finished in October. Resident's driveways were redone at the end of the project.

Ms. Shaffer asked if there was a cost for this to the homeowner.

Mr. Bowling replied there was not due to having to replace the water and sewer lines.

Mr. Bowling reviewed the replacement of the water main on Hudson Drive from Fairchild to Whetstone. Fire flow on a four inch line was increased to eight inches, increasing water for firefighters. Sidewalks were replaced up the east side because they were damaged during work.

Mr. Bowling reviewed work done on traffic signals as well as a second west bound turn lane on Route 261. More than half of all traffic signals (26 out of 42) are now on the central control system which allows for better coordination. This was finished in October and was delayed until then to get more cars on the road during this time. Without adding any lanes, delays in the number of stops dropped 40%. Regarding left turn lanes, the amount of delay in peak hours dropped 63% and west bound movement was dropped by half.

Street and sidewalk projects are where the bulk of funds are spent. Thirteen streets were milled and resurfaced, twelve of those included concrete work of sidewalks as well. Dodge Street looks like a new street, as well as ten other streets. Some the road was repaved but no sidewalk work needed and some needed sidewalk work and not road work.

Ms. Shaffer asked if there is a cost to rental property owners.

Mr. Bowling replied yes, they worked with 130 different owners which resulted in over \$100,000 that will be coming back to the city.

Mr. Bowling indicated sixteen streets received heavy pavement repairs and were seal coated. When the work is done, the street looks smooth. Over twenty five streets were completed.

Mr. Bowling reviewed the work done with the County to pave Mogadore Road. More work will be completed next year on the section from Route 261 to Cherry Street. Also next year, repaving of West Main Street will begin as plans are currently being reviewed by ODOT.

Next year work will need to be completed at the water reclamation facility. Reclaimer #2 will need the weld are repaired and will cost half a million dollars. Work has not been done on this since the 1980's.

Additional work needed to be done on the Water Reclamation Facility will occur over the next five years including a six to ten million dollar rehabilitation. Unfortunately, it comes at a time where water and sewer rates and usage are going down. Since 1973, industries have left the area which has caused a drop in water usage. Also, in the past eight years, people are using less water. It still costs the same amount of money to treat 4.5 million gallons of water as it does to treat 2.5 gallons of water. We are paying more for the same because we are using less of it. In Kent, the rate stabilization plan has helped. If rates didn't change, we would have been in a worse position. We are working on a multi-faceted approach that isn't about raising rates. Looking ahead to the next five years, Kent will be pursuing OPWC grants to assist with the water treatment plan.

Ms. Shaffer asked if there is some type of technology the plan could utilize to help with this.

Mr. Bowling acknowledged there may be but no matter what if there is a problem at the plant, you have to fix it right away. Any type of overflow is a violation from the plant.

Ms. Melanie Baker added there are two shifts that are manned by staff and the third shift is manned by a guard to help save money. The plant runs the same as it did in 1964, but EPA mandates are the main reason costs are going up.

Mr. Bowling reviewed other smaller issues that have been improved; bike (bus) shelters have been added, as well as a new connection for bikes and a sidewalk connection from the parking lot near Pizza Fire.

Next year's work will be focused on the construction on North Water Street, paving West Main Street and work on the Administration Building. Additional funding is being pursued for the East Main Street project with hopes to start the design phase in January.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Chair Sidoti adjourned the meeting 8:57.

Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1) No action necessary**

Bicycle Parking



- Pictures Received on Sunday
- Monday at noon....2 bikes already moved and one reported

Bicycle Parking

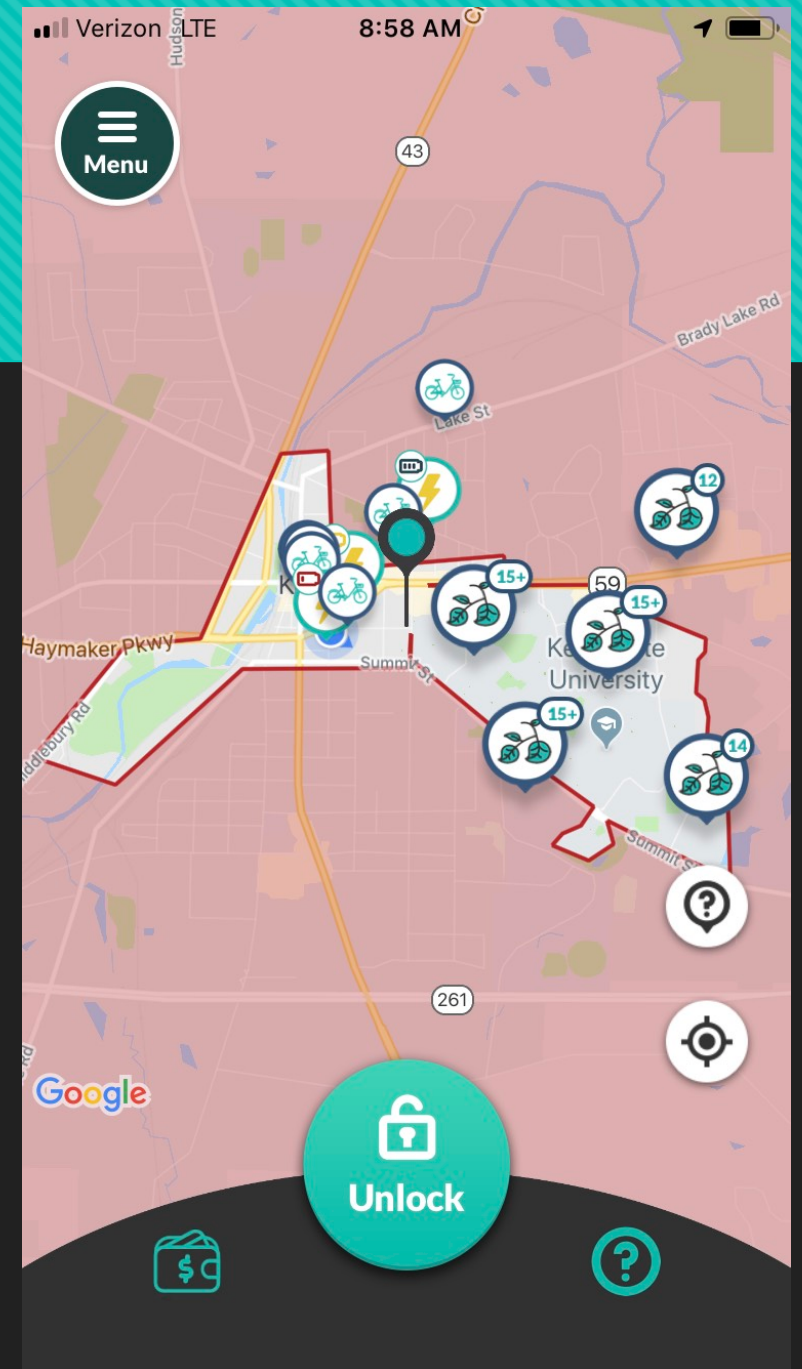


History/Background

Generation	Service Area	Manned/ Unmanned?	Parking	Subsidy	Number of Bikes
1 st & 2 nd	Kent State	Manned	Few Designated Bike Racks	Kent State	55
3 rd	Kent State & 1 Location Downtown	Unmanned	Few Designated Docking Stations	Kent State/ City of Kent/ Businesses	60
4 th	Kent State & All of Downtown	Unmanned	Dockless	<u>None</u>	180

History/Background

- Goals
 - Reduce vehicle trips and crashes
 - Increase customers going downtown
 - Reduce emissions
 - Promote walkability and transit use
 - Create a more sustainable community
- Usage
 - September, 2017 – 928 Rides (15 rides per bike)
 - September, 2019 – 12,486 Rides (70 rides per bike)



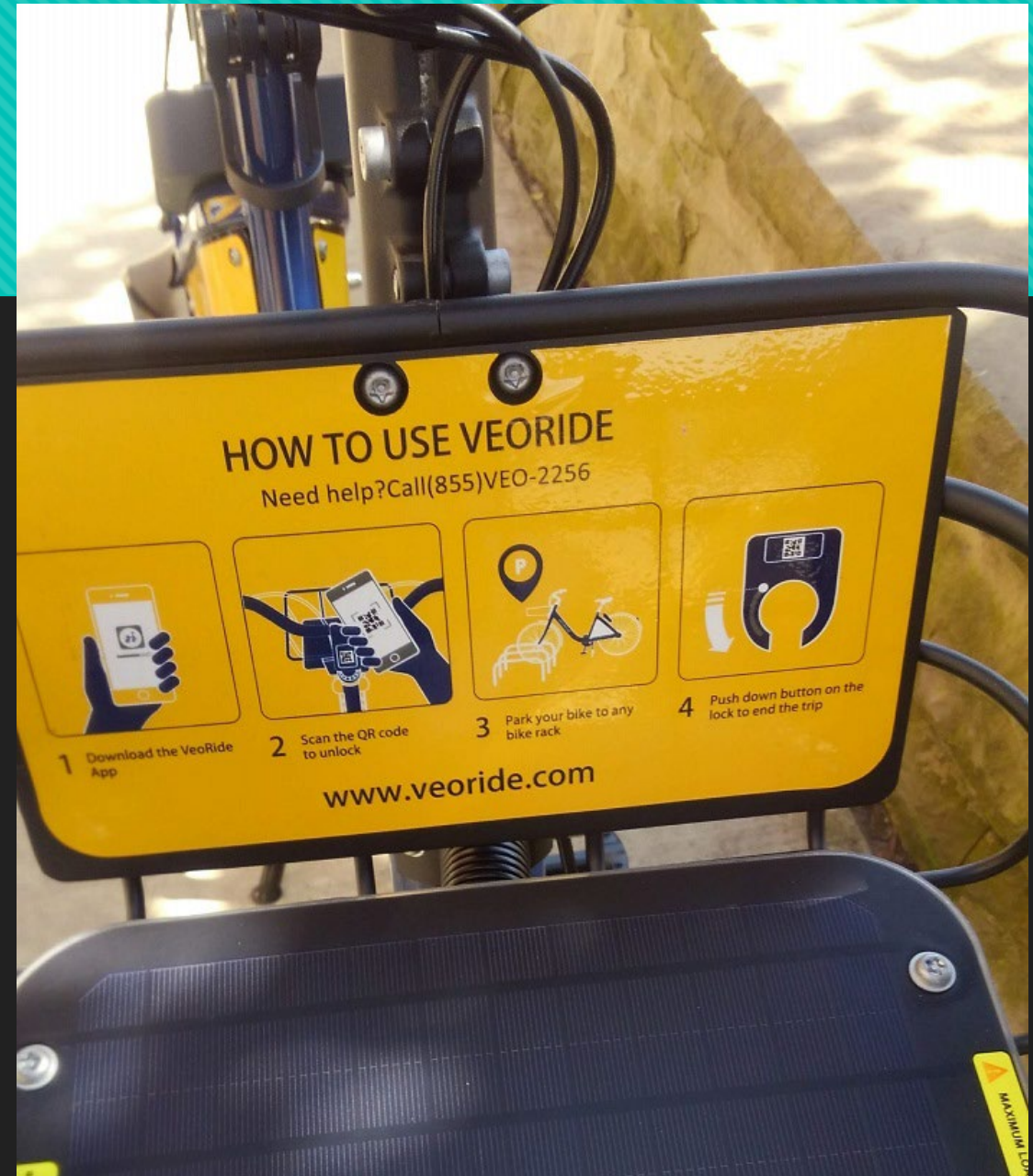
Status

- Random Surveys of the Area

- 13 Random Times
- Partial areas

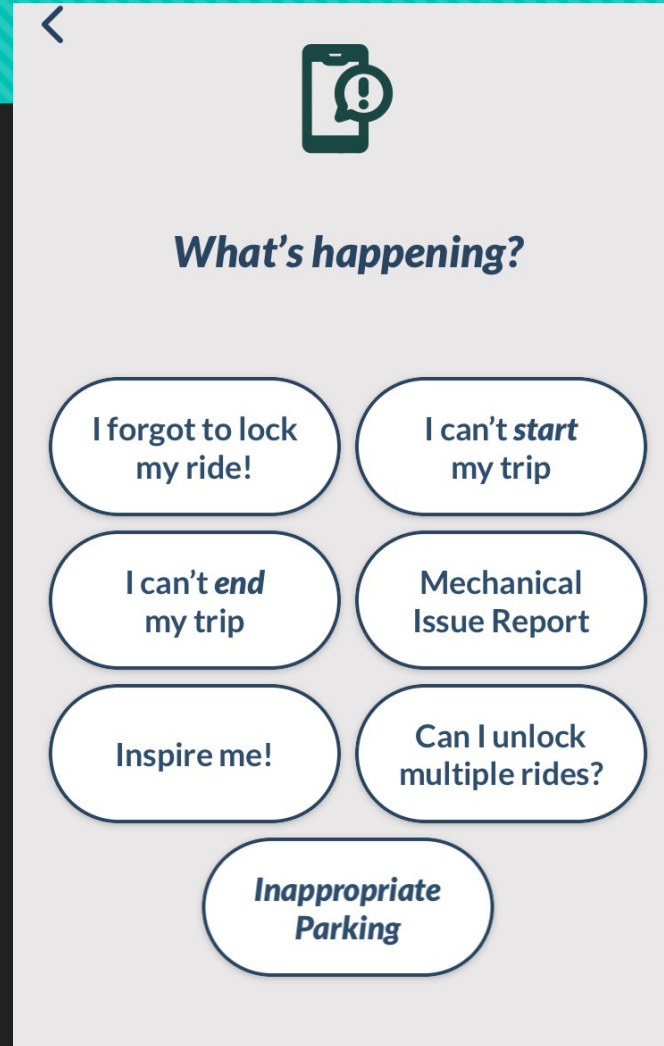
- Results

- Parked Properly – 93%
- Parked Legal but Clutter – 7%
- Parked Illegally – 0%
- Bike Share (61%) vs. Other Bikes (39%)



What's being done

- Vendor (Veoride)
 - Education
 - Messages
 - Signage
 - Staff Reposition Bikes
 - Modify Boundaries
 - Punitive fines
 - 1-855-VEO-2256 (hotline)



A mobile app screen with a light gray background. At the top left is a back arrow. At the top center is an icon of a smartphone with a speech bubble and an exclamation mark. Below the icon is the text "What's happening?". There are seven rounded rectangular buttons arranged in three rows: the first row has "I forgot to lock my ride!" and "I can't *start* my trip"; the second row has "I can't *end* my trip" and "Mechanical Issue Report"; the third row has "Inspire me!" and "Can I unlock multiple rides?". At the bottom center is a button labeled "Inappropriate Parking".

<



What's happening?

I forgot to lock my ride!

I can't *start* my trip

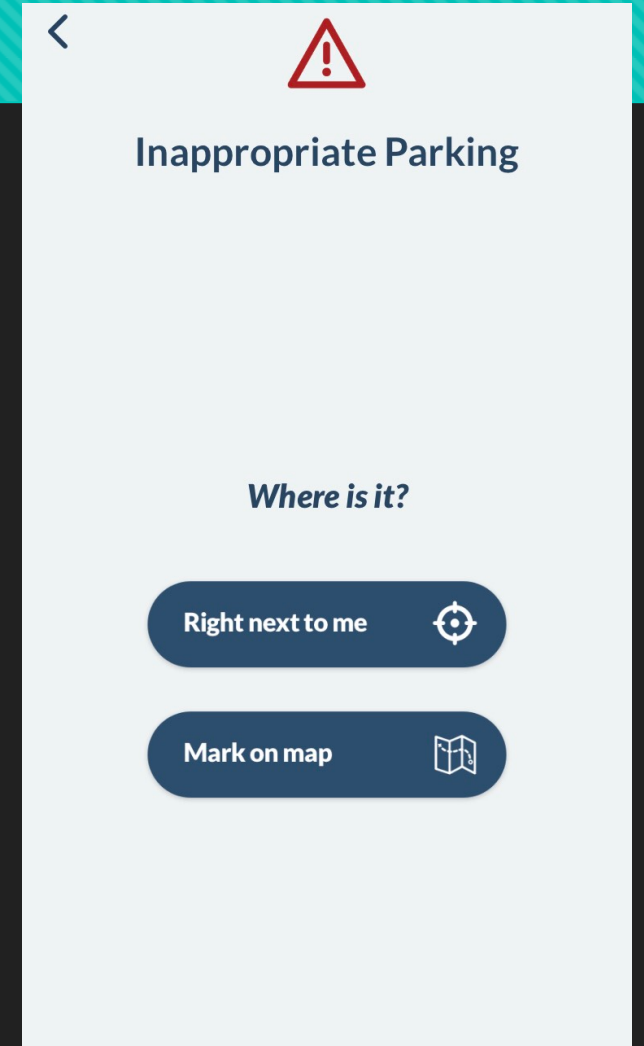
I can't *end* my trip

Mechanical Issue Report

Inspire me!

Can I unlock multiple rides?

Inappropriate Parking



A mobile app screen with a light gray background. At the top left is a back arrow. At the top center is a red warning triangle icon. Below the icon is the text "Inappropriate Parking". There is a section titled "Where is it?". Below this title are two dark blue rounded rectangular buttons: "Right next to me" with a location pin icon, and "Mark on map" with a map icon.

<



Inappropriate Parking

Where is it?

Right next to me 

Mark on map 

What's being done

- Assessing Program
 - Usage
 - Problems
- Adjust/refine the program
 - Modify Areas
 - Install markings/signage/racks



Bicycle Parking



9/29/19
per Kent Wired



10/4/19



Bicycle Parking

- Bicycle Parking Ordinance 373.09
 - *"(a) No person shall park a bicycle or electric bicycle upon a sidewalk in such a manner so as to unduly interfere with pedestrian traffic or upon a roadway so as to unduly interfere with vehicular traffic."*
- KSU/City Bike Share Agreement
 - Article #2 – Permit operation of Bike Share Program in jurisdictions
 - Article #3 – Costs
 - No specific costs for program
 - Optional costs for bike racks, markings, signage, etc. (up to \$5,000)
 - Article #4 – Location
 - Establish Service and Parking Areas

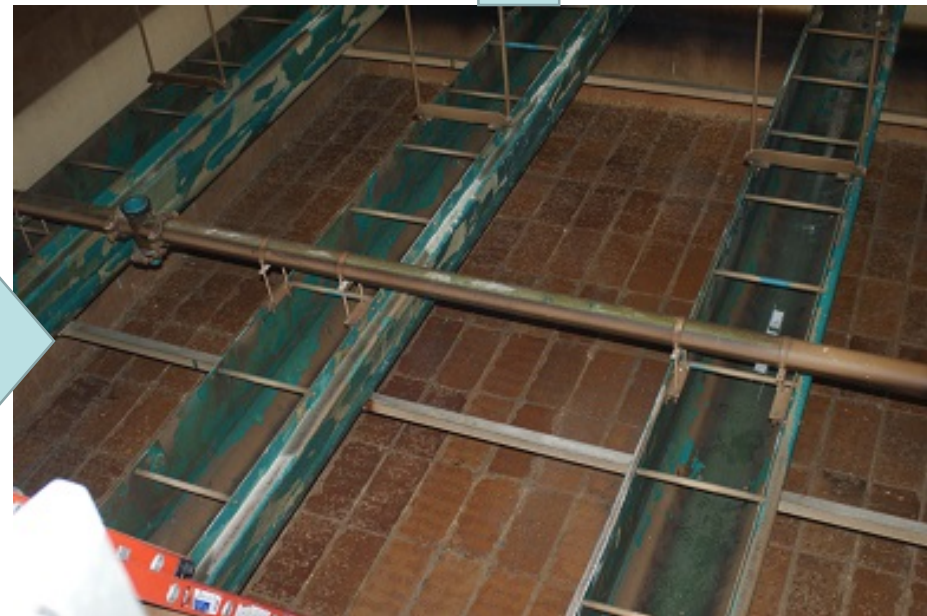
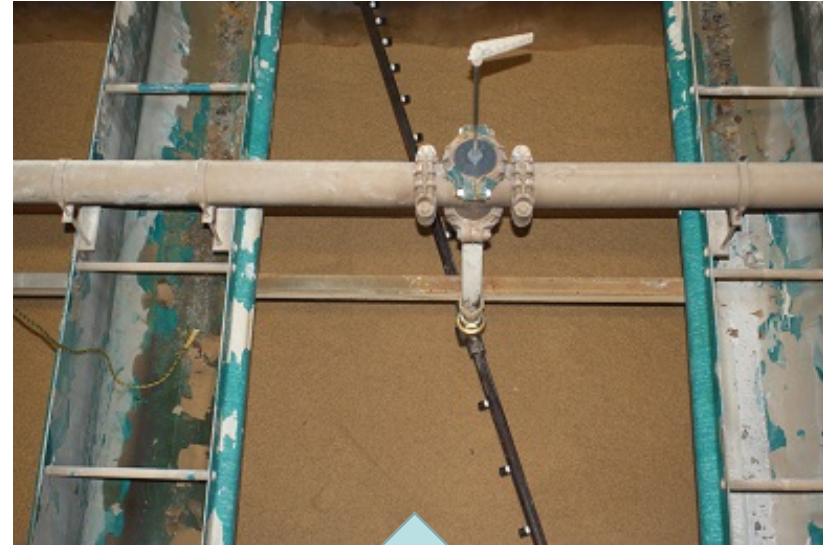
2019 Capital Construction Projects



Water Treatment Plant

Filter Replacement

- Water Treatment Plant
 - Replace Filter Media in 4 Sand Filters
- Construction Cost: \$215,000
- Construction Start: January, 2019
- Completion: April, 2019
- Issues:
 - Sedimentation Deposit Build-up Removal



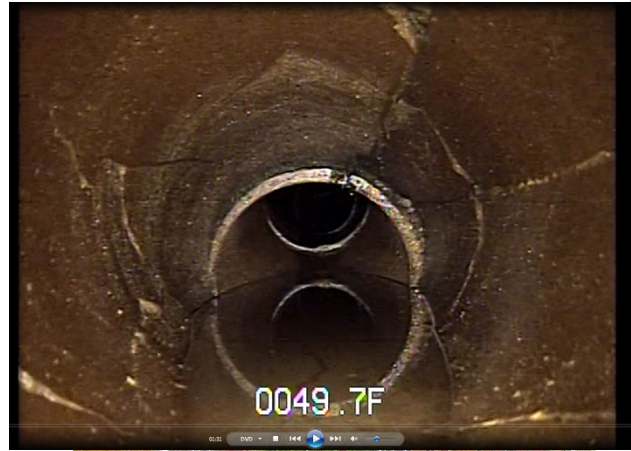
Water Reclamation Facility - Motor Control Center Phase II

- WRF – Electrical Controls for the Facility
 - 5 Separate Phases
 - 1st Phase completed
- Construction Cost: \$130,000
- Construction Start: June, 2019
- Completion: October, 2019
- Issues:
 - Keeping treatment operations functioning



Valleyview/Morris Storm & Water Improvements

- Valleyview(Lincoln to Morris)
 - New Storm Sewer & Water Main
 - New Sidewalk and Drive Aprons
 - Resurfacing
- Morris (Valleyview to School)
 - New Water Main
 - New Sidewalk
- Construction Cost: \$810k
 - (OPWC Funded 47%)
- Construction Start – June, 2019
- Completion – October, 2019
- Issues:
 - Curb/Drive Apron Construction



Morris



Valleyview

Hudson Rd Water Main Replacement

- Hudson Road (Fairchild to Whetstone)
- Watermain Replacement
 - 9 Breaks in 21 years
 - Fireflow Improvements (up to 400% Increase)
- Construction Cost: \$880k
 - (OPWC Funded 42%)
- Construction Start: June, 2019
- Completion: September, 2019
- Issues:
 - Completing by start of school year



SR 43 Traffic Improvements

- SR 43 Signal Replacements
 - School Street
 - Cherry/Bowman
 - Beryl/Marc's Drive
- **SR 261 2nd westbound turn lane**
- School St permanent one-way configuration
- Signal Interconnect installation
 - 7 Signals added to central system
 - Sidewalk reinstallation
 - **Signal Coordination**

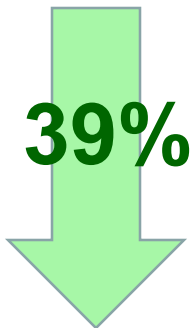


SR 43 Traffic Improvements

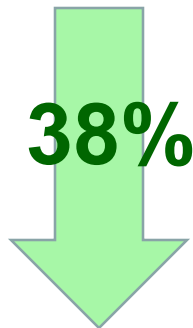
- Construction Start: May, 2018
- Construction Cost: \$2.1 million
 - (AMATS Funded 80%)
 - (OPWC Funded 15%)
- Completion:
 - Construction - May, 2019
 - **Signal Timing** – October, 2019

Corridor Results (Summit St. to Devon Place)

**Vehicle
Delay**

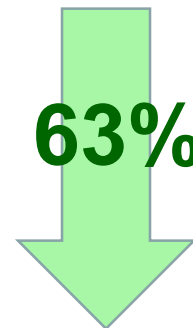


Stops

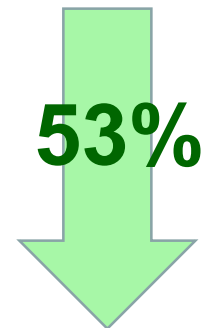


SR 261 Westbound Peak Hour Results

**Westbound
Left Turn**



**Westbound
Total**



Annual Street & Sidewalk Program

- Sidewalk and Pavement Resurfacing

- West College Street
- Dandel Street
- Sheri Street
- Brady Street
- West School Street
- S Lincoln Street
 - (Marigold to Summit)
- Dodge Street
 - (Franklin to Pine)
- Horning Road
 - (E Main to Theater Dr)
- Lowell Drive *
- Lock Street *
- St. Clair *
- Brady Street
 - Paving to be finished in 2020



Annual Street & Sidewalk Program

- Resurfacing Only Areas
 - Colleen Drive
- Sidewalk Repairs Only Areas
 - S Depeyster Street
 - W Grant Street

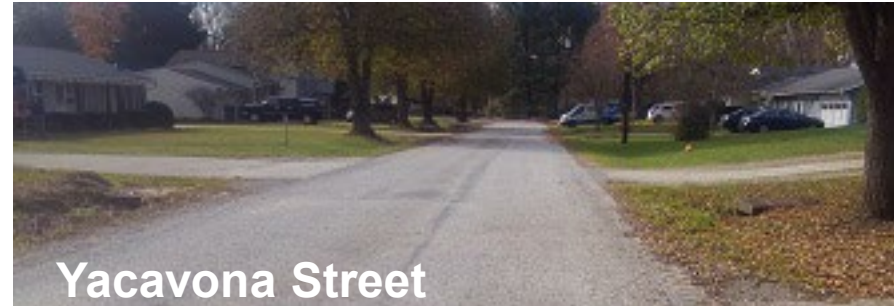


Annual Street & Sidewalk Program

- Seal Coat
 - Allen Dr.
 - Beech Dr.
 - Brentwood Dr.
 - Chelton Dr.
 - Garrett St.
 - Hughey Dr.
 - Irma St.
 - Laurel Dr.
 - Louise St.
 - Meadow Dr.
 - Norwood St.
 - N Francis St.
 - Overbrook Dr.
 - Parmalee St.
 - Yacavona Dr.
 - Eton Rd.
- Crack Seal Completed
- Cost: **+/- \$1.6 million**
- Completion: November, 2019



Garrett Street



Yacavona Street



Hughey Drive



Meadow Drive

Mogadore Road Resurfacing



- Resurfacing
 - Howe Ave to SR 261
- Constructed: Summer 2019
- Construction Cost: \$ 200k
 - (OPWC Funded 50%)
 - 28% in Kent / 72% in County



West Main Street Resurfacing

- Resurfacing
 - County Line to River Street
- Construction: **Summer 2020**
- Construction Estimate:
\$1.17 million (ODOT/AMATS 69%)
- Municipal Paving Program

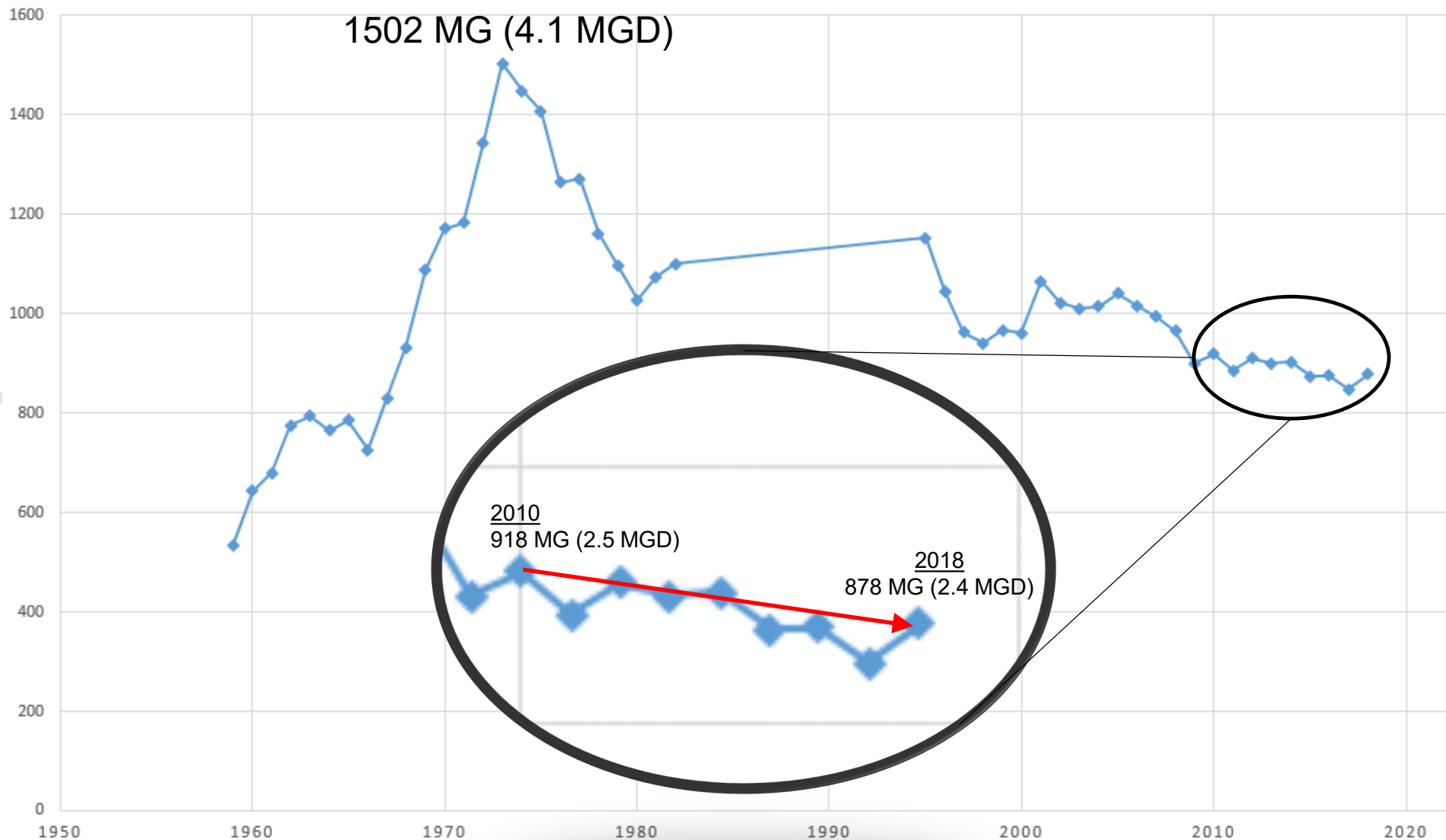


Water Reclamation Facility – Upcoming Focus

- WRF Major Rehabilitation
 - 1967
 - 1985
- Several Areas need Rehabilitation
 - Heat Digesters
 - Secondary Clarifiers
 - Motor Controls
 - Aeration Basins
 - Primary Clarifiers

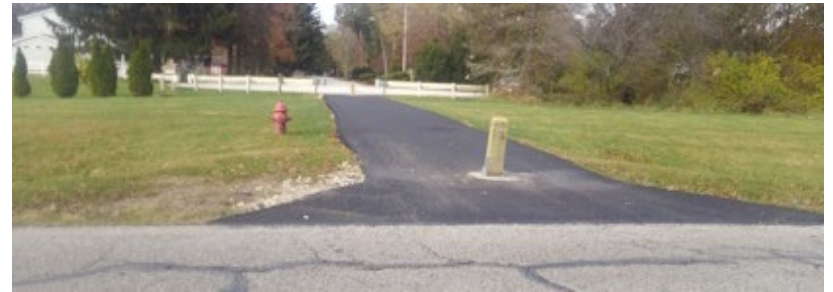


FINISHED WATER YEARLY FLOWS 1959-2018



Miscellaneous Items

- **Bus Shelters (w/ PARTA)**
- **Lower Drive Bike/Ped Connection (w/ Central Maintenance)**
- **Water St Lot Sidewalk Connection (w/ CTK)**
- **River Stanzas**



Key Endeavors - 2020

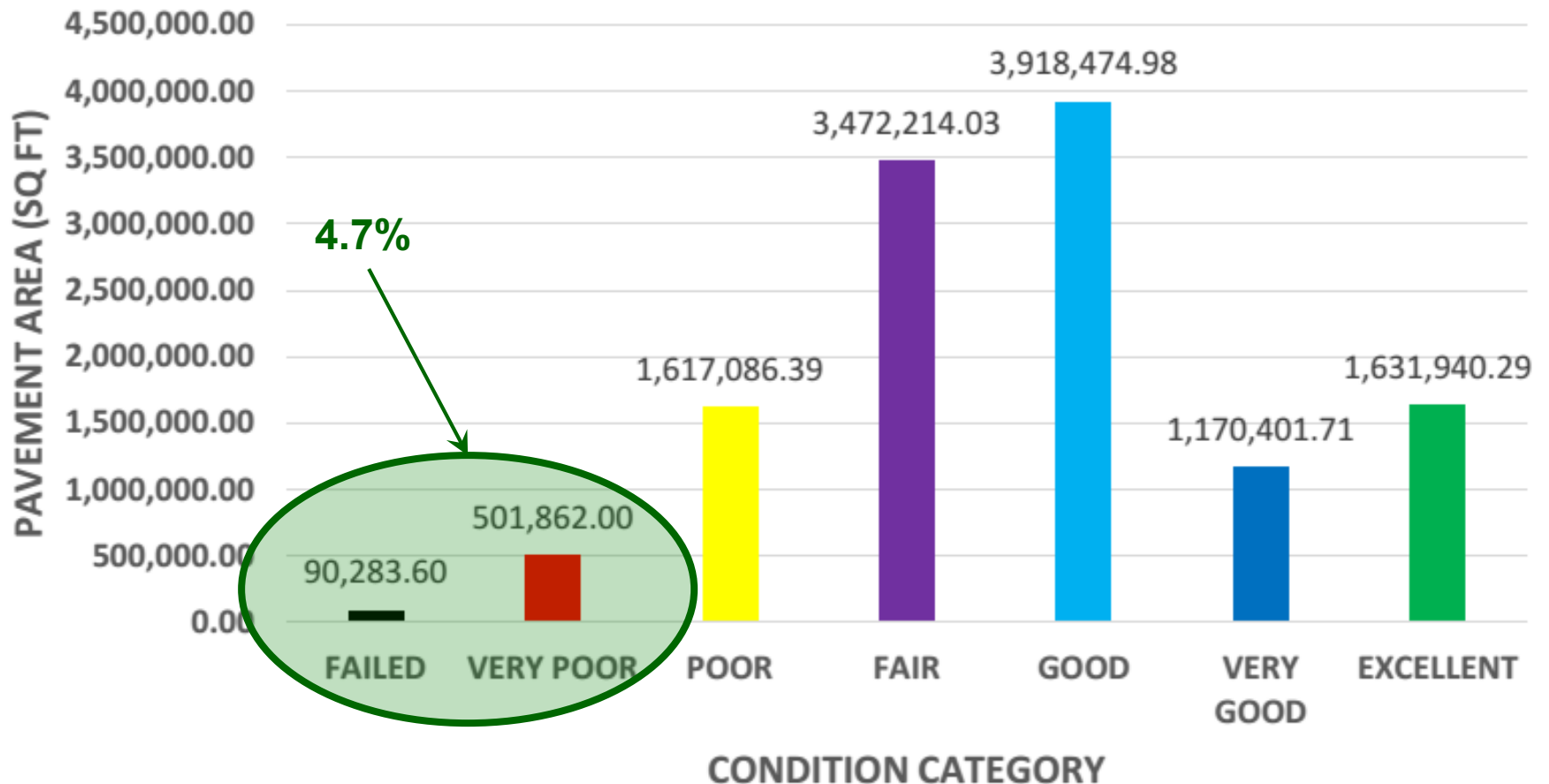
- Primary Clarifier #2 Emergency Repair
- Annual Street & Sidewalk Program
 - Mogadore Road Resurfacing (OPWC)
- North Water Street – Construction
- West Main Resurfacing (ODOT)
- SW Sanitary Pump Station – R/W & Construction
- Admin Bldg – Finish Design/Start Construction
- East Main Street...Pursue Funding/Begin Design

Citywide Pavement Condition

Worst 1st vs. Preservation

2018 City of Kent Pavement Conditions

CONDITION BY PAVEMENT AREA



East Main Street Improvements – Planning Stage

- From Willow to Horning
- Public Involvement
 - 1 Public Meeting
 - 2 Open Stakeholder Meetings
- KSU Partnership
- Purpose & Need Development
- Proposed Alternates Determined
- Next..... Pursue Funding

Why Studying?

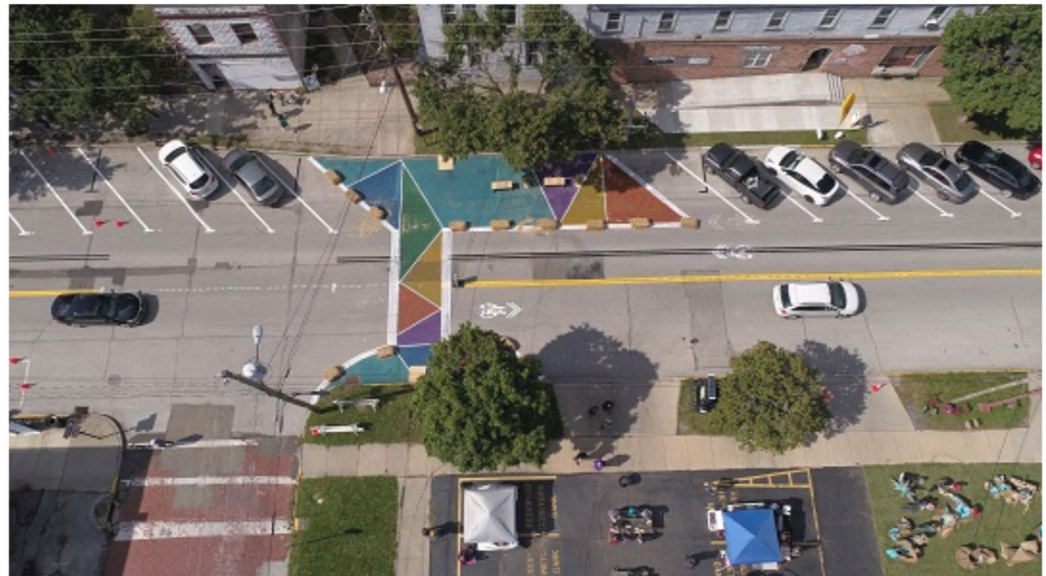
1. Safety
 - Worst Crash Corridor
 - 2nd Worst Crash Intersection
 - Auto/Ped/Bike Crashes
2. Corridor Development
 - *“Emphasis should be placed to direct traffic to destinations while minimizing negative effects on residential areas”*
3. Kent State Master Plan
 - Opportunity to improve area

N Water Street Improvements – Planning/Funding Stage

- Location: Main to Brady
- Roadway Reconfiguration
 - Curb Extensions
 - Add Cross Walks
 - Reconfigured parking
 - Minor widening/resurfacing
 - Pedestrian lighting
 - Brick Streetscape
- Funding Obtained (90%)
- Better Block....

Why North Water?

1. Safety
 - 2nd Worst Crash Corridor
 - High vehicular speeds
 - Poor Pedestrian Facilities
2. Corridor Development
 - 257 N Water
 - Star of the West Mill
 - Others
3. Pavement Condition (PCI 60)



Pilot Sidewalk Programs

- Resurfacing Only Areas
 - Colleen Drive
- Sidewalk Repairs Only Areas
 - S Depeyster Street
 - W Grant Street