

**SPECIAL AND CONTACT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 14th, 2014**

The Special and Contact Committee met Monday, July 14th, 2014 at 6:45 PM in the Council Chambers at the Knisely Centre. In attendance were Special and Contact Committee Members, Ms. Winnie Walker, Mr. Rob Maurer, and Chair Mr. Dan Lanzer

Guests were Mayor David Johnson, Law Director Marvin Fete, President of Council Sam Hitchcock, Council Clerk Patti McKay, Service Director James Zucal, Auditor Beth Gundy, Councilperson Sandy Cox, Councilperson Cheryl Ramos, and, Nathan Cozart (WTUZ), Fire Chief Parrish, Creston Stephan, Dan Rice, Eric Reip and City Residents, Mark Cox and Sandy Parrish.

Chairperson Mr. Lanzer called the Special & Contact Committee Meeting to order July 14th, 2014 at 6:45 PM. in Council Chambers with one item to discuss: the Maintenance Agreement for the NP2R Trail.

A discussion was held on proposed Ordinance 16- 2014.

**AN ORDINANCE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA,
OHIO FOR MAINTAINING THE NP2R TRAIL.**

Whereas, the Council for the City of new Philadelphia, Ohio recognizes that the NP2R Trail will create a more livable, healthy and sustainable community, which in turn will attract more business and economic development.

Whereas, the City of New Philadelphia, Ohio will be responsible for any and all maintenance of the NP2R Trail.

This meeting followed the heavily attended Public Hearing for the NP2R Trail (New Philadelphia to Roswell Trail) Mr. Lanzer introduced Chip (Creston Stephan) from W.E. Quicksall and Associates who informed the Committee the Maintenance Agreement is basically for the Grant Application. The funding agencies want to have reasonable assurance that it is going to be properly maintained. And there is an interest by the general public to have the Trail.

Comment from the Mr. Lanzer:

“It sounds like the City is going to be spending money to maintain this Trail and that is not the case, we have our group who is already planning to do that once we raise the private money to build the Trail the same group will have fund raisers all year long to maintain the Trail.” This is City property.

Comment from the Mayor:

Mayor Johnson is in favor of the Trail and thinks it is a great project but did not know if the timing is correct.

The Mayor pointed out that if we take this over as the service agreement to take care of it, you are not going to have volunteers the unions will not allow it.

They want their people to do it and they are going to want more people in the City to cover that. This is something to think about..

Suggestion from the Law Director:

You might want to do something like Tuscora Park with RTY and run it as a nonprofit organization.

Comment from the Service Director:

Mr. Zucal said he would be more than willing to work with the Law Director.

But If the ordinance states that it is the City of New Philadelphia's responsibility, than the service union will automatically accept that.

Mr. Zucal said he will work closely with the Law Director to come up with what it should say.

Comments from were given by Mr. Rice the importance of volunteers.

And he hopes the funding application for NP2R compliments the
(The county will be submitting an application) to the Clean Ohio Trail Fund or
the Recreational Trail Fund to continue the Tow Path Extension funding application
And doesn't compete against it.

Comment from Mrs. Ramos:

If we say the City of New Philadelphia is responsible for that they will be responsible for
that. At this point in time, we have other priorities for the City Budget
We are trying to reduce the size of government not increase it.
It is a worthwhile project but I agree with the Mayor
the way the ordinance is worded we don't want to obligate the City to this extra burden

CONCLUSION

CHAIRPERSON LANZER ANNOUNCED:

The Service Director will work with the Law Director to come up with the appropriate language and
make the changes to the proposed ordinance for the committee to review.

There will be another meeting on this in the near future.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Lanzer, Committee Chairperson
Special and Contact Committee