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SPRING 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sponsored Legislation 2

Columbus Recreation and Parks · 100 Years and Going Strong! 3

Arts Alive

Landscape Enhancement and Community Produce Gardening Grant 4

Martin Janis Recreation Senior Reopens

Columbus Parking Code Update 5

South Side Planning Effort

Committee Hearings Scheduled 6

Festival Calendar

WELCOME...

Spring is always an exciting time as we witness plants grow, flowers bloom and we become reinvigorated after a long winter. It is also a great time in Columbus as we await the many outdoor activities and festivals that occur each year that entertain locals and bring thousands of visitors to our city. In this edition of *V ^ • [} q • Á Ò Ì ð e } /* information on many of these City supported events and undertakings. Also included is information on the many important City-related activities I participated in over the past few months, including the announcement of the 100th anniversary of Columbus Recreation and Parks. Information on this celebration can be found on page four.



As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as a voice on Council. If you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (614) 645-2932. Be safe, happy spring, and be sure to enjoy a wonderful outdoor activity · Columbus has something for everyone.

Free Lunch Served at Barnett Recreation Centers



When Columbus City Schools were on spring break in April, I had the opportunity to help serve lunch at Barnett Recreation Center. The recreation center staff and leaders from Christ United Methodist Church, Barnett Road Baptist Church, Reformation Lutheran Church, and The Ohio State University College of Social Work realized that too many children that rely on the free and reduced lunch program at school may

not have a nutritious meal available to them when school is out. So, they got together and provided a free meal during the school vacation at Barnett Recreation Center. Since I was serving up the salad and spaghetti, I can say that not only did the kids appreciate it, they ate very well!

In much the same vein as this project, Council recently passed legislation that will continue the Summer Food service program for 2010. The program provides nutritionally balanced lunches during the summer months at no cost. Last summer, children age 1-18 were served over 400,000 meals through the recreation centers and various other community agencies. Please visit @ c c] K ð ð] æ ! \ • È & [| ~ { à ~ • È * [ç Á æ } á Á & | ã & \ Á [} Á % ~ ! ^ ^ Á | ~ } & @ ^ • + A offering free lunch beginning in June.



Sponsored Legislation

Below you will find a list containing some of the legislation I was proud to sponsor during the previous three months. My sponsorship of these ordinances reflects my dedication and commitment in making sure Columbus remains a strong, growing and dynamic city.

- L · HELPING SENIOR CITIZENS STAY INDEPENDENT:** The *Pre-Admission Screening System Providing Options and Resources Today (PASSPORT)* program provides home care services as an alternative to nursing home admission for Medicaid-eligible clients. Ordinance 0606-2010, sponsored by Recreation & Parks Committee Chair Priscilla R. Tyson, authorizes the appropriation of \$75 million in grant funds from the Ohio Department of Aging to continue operation of the PASSPORT program. Services include case management, adult day care, homemaker visits, meals, personal care, respite, transportation, and emergency response. Approximately 4,100 clients are currently being served by the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging under the PASSPORT program.
- L · SUPPORTING JOBS PROGRAMS:** The Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation (COWIC) is a non-profit agency with a mission of providing various workforce development programs, services, and training initiatives to our region. Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee, sponsored two ordinances that will help COWIC meet their programming goals while providing needed jobs for teens and adults. Ordinance 0389-2010 authorizes the Director of Recreation and Parks to enter into a \$440,000 contract with COWIC to provide summer youth programming through December 1, 2010. Teens will receive job readiness training and be placed in jobs around Columbus. A second ordinance, 0508-2010, will allow COWIC to hire nearly 150 people to work in various Recreation and Parks Department positions for 8 week periods. Young adults will receive on-the-job training and skills that they can then take with them as they look for permanent jobs.
- L · PARTNERSHIP THROUGH SPONSORSHIP:** Each summer, Columbus hosts some of the most family-friendly outdoor festivals in Ohio. Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee, sponsored ordinance 0407-2010 to appropriate and transfer \$61,100 from the existing Hotel/Motel tax allocation to the Recreation and Parks Department for the Partnership through Sponsorship program. The program supports various annual cultural and arts programming for the enrichment of the community. Events typically supported by these funds include regional festivals such as Festival Latino, Jazz & Rib Fest, the Fall Harvest Jamboree and other community-building activities.
- L · ATTRACTING YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TO THE COLUMBUS WORKFORCE:** In 2006, the City of Columbus and the Columbus Chamber developed the Young Professionals Initiative, an economic development strategy designed to attract and retain young professionals to our area. To date, research for the project has been completed and recommendations have been presented and approved. Program implementation is now ready to begin. Ordinance 0305-2010, sponsored by Development Committee Chair Priscilla R. Tyson, authorizes the expenditure of \$70,000 from the General Fund to support the Young Professional Initiative. The money will be used to partially fund the employment of a manager who will implement the program.

| City of Columbus Legislation Report | | Office of City Clerk 60 West Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215-0101 columbuscitycouncil.org |
|--|--|--|
| File Number: 0062-2008 | | |
| Emergency | File Type: Ordinance | Status: Passed |
| File Number: 0962-2010 | Controlling Body: Recreation and Parks Committee | Version: 1 |
| File Name: Appropriation of \$1,266,554.50 from Fund 222 for supplies and services in 2010 and to declare an emergency. | | |
| Requester: Rec. & Parks Dir/tee | Cost: \$1,266,554.50 | Final Action: 1-11-2010 |
| Author/Clerk #: _____ | Author: "I have signed as Justice Committee Member 1, the City Auditor, hereby certify that this is in the interest, or advantage to confer with the treasury, and are appropriated for any other purpose, the amount of money specified herein, to pay the within Ordinance." | |
| Certified Name/No.: Gail Collins 910-9422 | | |
| Floor Action (Clerk's Office Only): _____ | | |
| Mayer's Action | | |
| Council Action | | |
| Mayer: _____ | Date: _____ | Date Passed/Adopted: _____ |
| Voted: _____ | Date: _____ | City Clerk: _____ |
| Title: To authorize the appropriation of \$1,266,554.50 from the unappropriated balance of the Recreation and Parks Special Purpose Fund in the Recreation and Parks Department to continue purchasing supplies and provided services through 2010, and to declare an emergency. (01-288-268-20) | | |
| Sponsor: _____ | | |
| Subject: _____ | | |
| Attachments: _____ | | |
| File of Ordinance | Page 2 of 4 | Printed on 1/11/2010 |



COLUMBUS RECREATION AND PARKS 100 YEARS AND GOING STRONG!

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department is delighted to celebrate 100 years of being green, serving the community, and facilities offer a variety of activities, classes, and programs for all ages to enjoy.

This year is our 100th anniversary in which we will have events and ceremonies dedicated to our mission and goals. We invite and welcome everyone from the Columbus community to celebrate along. For more information and scheduled activities, please visit parks.columbus.gov or call (614) 645-3300.



Arts Alive



With many arts organizations struggling to obtain funding during these tough economic times, The PNC Foundation is stepping up with a significant new investment to help residents in Columbus and central Ohio gain access to the arts and help organizations expand and engage audiences. The PNC Foundation, which receives its principal funding from The PNC Financial Services Group, announced in April that it is providing a three-year, \$1.5 million investment through the PNC Arts Alive initiative.

performances are regularly sold out, our music scene is among the most diverse in the country, and our original artists have earned us the reputation of indie capital of cultural assets through the PNC Arts Alive initiative. Investing in the arts delivers a valuable return to our community.

I am so excited about PNC Arts Alive. This program is going to energize our community around the arts. As we all know, the economy has been down and so funding to the arts has been down. Because of this, the \$1.5 million grant will be so important for our local arts organizations to move forward - for them to be able to reach out to diverse audiences - to be able to expand programs - and to be able to work with our education system, our social service agencies, and to help our emerging artists bring fresh ideas to the community. Overall, the program will truly be a catalyst for the arts in Columbus.

To Support Visual and Performing Arts in Columbus Area, PNC has collaborated with community arts partners - the Columbus Cultural Leadership Consortium, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Ohio Arts Council, the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA), and the Columbus Foundation - to bring the PNC Arts Alive initiative to the area.

PNC Arts Alive builds on the success of PNC Grow Up Great, a 10-year, \$100 million investment in early childhood education.

For more information, please visit www.pncartsalive.com.

LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT AND COMMUNITY PRODUCE GARDENING GRANT

On Monday, May 24, 2010, I had the pleasure of congratulating this Gardening grant award winners at Holton Recreation Center. A total of \$12,000 was awarded to 21 different landscape gardening groups that work to beautify our public parks and neighborhood right of ways. An additional \$5,000 was distributed among 13 community produce gardens located in every quadrant of the city.

I was able to allocate this money in the 2010 budget for gardeners who volunteer their time and talent in our city parks and other public spaces to buy much needed supplies, including water and plant material. The Landscape Enhancement grant program is administered through the Recreation and Parks Department. I was also able to develop a partnership with the *Institute for Active Living* this year to administer their very first community produce gardening grants. I am excited that this pilot program is off the ground for the spring planting season.



Tyson with Rachel Muha and volunteer Girl Scouts.

The grant funds were made available to support existing landscape and community garden sites. An emphasis is placed on sustainability of the garden, and the demonstrated and anticipated positive impact to the community. One grant recipient, an Eastgate neighborhood group, is working to expand upon a garden their late neighbor, Gloria Webster, had already started on a traffic island. They plan to dedicate the enhanced garden to her memory and serve to inspire others to serve in their community. And Rachel Muha, who leads the nonprofit Muha Foundation, will use these funds to continue teaching with their produce garden all youth participating in the Run the Race program about food, nutrition, gardening, and other life skills. The fruit and vegetables grown are used to help stock the food pantry located at Holton Recreation Center. I want to take the opportunity to thank all volunteer gardeners and the community organizations that help to make Columbus a more beautiful and healthy city.

Martin Janis Senior Center Reopens



More than 40 volunteers worked together April 21, just a week after the re-opening of Martin Janis Senior Center, to beautify the grounds and send a message about working safely around underground utility pipelines and wires.

I was honored to be included when The Central Ohio Damage Prevention Council coordinated activities with the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (O.U.P.S.). The council, whose members include area companies who own underground utility facilities, donated money to purchase plants and recruited volunteers to join the members of the Martin Janis Gardening Club, preparing landscape beds, pruning, installing new plants and spreading mulch.

The volunteers gathered to get the message out that Ohio law requires anyone . even a homeowner planning to put a fence or mail box or plant a tree in their yard . to call O.U.P.S. at 8-1-1 at least two business days before digging to allow underground utility lines to be marked.

In addition to highlighting the importance of calling 8-1-1, the event helped spruce up the entrance to the Janis Center, which is showcased during the Ohio State Fair. I know how much this center means to our seniors who call it their home away from home, and so in times when we all have to make our dollars go farther and lend a hand to our neighbors, I was so excited that the Ohio Utilities Protection Service and the Central Ohio Damage Prevention Council offered to upgrade the landscaping for our seniors and visitors.



Columbus Parking Code Update



The current zoning code (CC 3342). The majority of this chapter dates to the mid 1980s and has not benefited from a comprehensive review since that time. The code required minimum levels of parking based on type and size of land uses. While these requirements have been appropriate for some uses, in many cases they exceeded realistic demand. The former code did not consider such things as bicycle parking, bio-retention or limitations on impervious surface. Excess parking provision is a particular issue of interest as it results in underutilization of land, higher development and maintenance costs, and an increase in impervious surface.

In order to develop revisions, staff reviewed parking codes from many other communities, undertook in-field research of parking demand for key uses, and considered Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) case history. This work was critical in guiding the revisions. The ordinance also included substantive organizational changes including the creation of a general site development standards chapter, consolidating relevant elements from throughout the zoning code.

A public review draft of the proposal was released in May 2009 with an open comment period that extended through July 1, 2009. Two public meetings were held and comments were received from a range of stakeholders. Staff also met with numerous stakeholders to discuss specific issues. This input led to a number of modifications to the public review draft which were reflected in the ordinance. Endorsements of the proposal were received from the Columbus Board of Health, Columbus Transportation and Pedestrian Commission, and Columbus Development Commission on September 24, 2009. After hosting several additional Council public hearings, I was pleased to sponsor the ordinance before full Council, who unanimously passed the code update on May 3, 2010.

South Side Planning Effort

I recently had the pleasure of participating in a near Southside planning initiative hosted by the City of Columbus Planning Division. This effort is a collaboration among the planning division, and the Columbus South Side and Livingston Avenue Area Commissions. You can participate by attending Public Workshops or by submitting your ideas and comments to the plan website: www.tinyurl.com/NSSplan

The current Near Southside Plan was adopted by City Council in 1997. The Planning Division recommended that the plan be updated to include a land use plan, design guidelines for future commercial and residential development, and a transportation plan.

The Planning Division will be holding four public workshops and the project will take one year to complete. Prior to being submitted to Council, the community will be asked to provide input.



Tyson with South Side Area Commissioner Phyllis Holbert at the Near Southside planning event.



Columbus City Council

Office of
Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson

90 West Broad,
2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43211

Phone: (614) 364-5345
Fax: (614) 563-4345

Carl Williams, Legislative Aide
Email: cgwilliams@columbus.gov

www.columbuscitycouncil.org/tyson

Staff
Kelli Arthur Hykes
Thomas Diamond
Adam Leddy



recparcs.columbus.gov

Recreation & Parks/Development Committee Meeting

In an effort to encourage greater public involvement, I host a committee meeting each month. The date(s) for some upcoming meetings are listed below. Unless otherwise noted, meetings will occur on the third Thursday of the month in Council Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall, 90 West Broad Street, in downtown Columbus.

I encourage you to attend. Please note, if you are able to attend an upcoming meeting, a valid picture ID is needed to enter City Hall. If you would like to speak at the meeting, you must complete a speaker slip. Speaker forms are available in Council Chambers from the start of the meeting until 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming meeting date(s)

- Thursday, June 17, 2010
- Thursday, July 15, 2010

Festival Calendar

May 29-30, 2010

The 16th annual Asian Festival showcases Asian culture and heritage with free admission, free parking and free shuttle services. Fifteen Asian ethnic groups are represented in this event, which will feature performances by outstanding artists from all over the world, along with hands-on art demonstrations, interactive dance, ethnic music, Tai Chi and martial arts workshops. Performance focus for 2010 is India and China. Eat delicious Asian cuisine and enjoy art and crafts, and Asian games including Mahjong, Takraw and table tennis.

June 4-6, 2010



Discover the art at the 2010 Columbus Arts Festival in downtown's Discovery District. Surrounded by the Columbus Museum of Art, the Columbus College of Art and Design and Columbus State Community College, the Columbus Arts Festival is the city's welcome-to-summer event, pairing the finest artists and craftspeople from around the country and the world with continuous entertainment including hands-on art activities, musical performances and great food from area restaurants.

July 23-25, 2010



The Jazz & Rib Fest is a highly anticipated summertime tradition offering both jazz and rib connoisseurs the finest in music and barbeque for more than 30 years. Building off the success of our move to the premier entertainment destination of the city, we are thrilled to once again call the Arena District the home of hot ribs and cool jazz.

For more information on these, and other Central Ohio spring and summer events, please visit Experience Columbus at www.experiencecolumbus.com - proudly supported by the City of Columbus.

www.experiencecolumbus.com

