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# FINAL REPORT FOR THE CITY OF CENTERVILLE RETREAT

The City of Centerville Council held a strategic planning retreat on January 12-13,1996. After confirming the vision statement, the council members agreed on a number of specific issues they wanted to discuss. The issues included: cultural and recreational activities, economic development incentives, city/township relations, future direction of the fire service, and external and internal council relations.

## VISION

THE CITY OF CENTERVILLE SHALL REMAIN PRIMARILY A RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY AND WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ITS EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE BY:

—PROVIDING ALL CITY SERVICES AT AN OUTSTANDING LEVEL AS PERCEIVED BY OUR RESIDENTS AND ALL WHOM WE SERVE;

—ENHANCING OUR SENSE OF COMMUNITY WITH RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES OF OUR POPULATION;

—ENSURING A STRONGER AND MORE DIVERSE ECONOMIC BASE FOR THE COMMUNITY.

Issues to be addressed in 1996:

## **CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

—Benhams Grove: There are a number of economic and political issues in which the city should be involved and should address within the next year. This is especially associated with the caterer. The council will be receiving a report on this issue. The council plans to establish a food policy. In addition, it wants to examine the possibility of linking the catering at Benhams Grove with the Gallery at Yankee Trace Restaurant. Finally, the council will need to establish a five year maintenance plan this is especially true for maintenance issues at Benham's Grove. A primary goal is determine how it can run more efficiently in the future.

—Yankee Trace: In 1996 the entire Yankee Trace operations will be subsidized by \$200,000, but by 1997 the goal is to have the food service and the golf operation to be self-sustaining. The council is committed to increasing the volume of business at the Gallery and feels this can be done with an aggressive promotional effort through advertising and other creative activities.

—Stubbs Park Development: There was a discussion of the current policy of no sledding at the Park, yet there is no way to enforce it. However, the public does sled at its own risk. The immediate need is for the council to examine how the park is being maintained and to concentrate on a move of the playground by 1997. In addition, there is a need to develop a plan for Stubbs Park especially examining other developmental

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impacts upon the park's future. In 1997 the council plans to commission a master plan for the park's future uses.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

- ---Incentives: The council needs to examine a list of economic development incentives and determine their impacts on the community. Within the next two months council plans to hold a work session on this topic. If and when incentives are adopted, there must be a plan for implementation, but all of this should be part of an overall Economic Development Plan which should be used in setting policy.
- —Enhancements: The council wants to consider having a golf outing that is especially targeted to retaining existing businesses in the community. Finally, the council agreed that consideration should be given to expanding the Christmas Walk to include businesses outside of the APD.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

- --Lot on Spring Valley: Currently the city owns one lot on Spring Valley and needs to consider purchasing the other two. The immediate need is to purchase the one on Virginia Avenue, and the members agreed to secure a six-month option to do so.
- ---Virginia Avenue: The council agreed to revisit the issue of cutting Virginia Avenue through next year.
- ---Police Station: Council agreed there is a need for a study/assessment of the future city space needs. Such a study should examine the full array of needs in terms of a 5-10 year projection. The process of constructing a new police facility would involve 2-3 years for planning and construction.
- —Landscaping Ordinance: The council agreed there is a need to adopt a landscaping ordinance, and it should address tree preservation, frontage/screening/mounding, and bonding. The need is especially apparent in commercial areas, and a number of areas will be impacted.
- -Hiker/Biker Paths: There is a need to have a more comprehensive ordinance that covers both hiker/biker paths and sidewalks. In addition, the city must enforce sidewalk snow removal. This will be accomplished by sending out reminders in early fall and when necessary the city will clean the area and bill the owner. Any hiker/biker paths above 5 feet wide the city will maintain.

Drainage Policy: The council agreed to consider the draft of the Drainage Policy Update/Refinement as submitted. This will take place in a work session within the next month. In addition, council decided that detention basins should be moved.

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- ---Loop Road: Council will instruct city staff to ask the tenants of this area to put together a proposal for a special sign designation. Members support the idea of common signage for the Auto Mall in order for it to advertise toward I-675.
- ---Main Street Project: Council needs to have a briefing on the current status and future of this project.
- ---APD Parking: Council is interested in finding a solution that will appease all. There will be 10 less spaces because of not razing the annex building but greater activity. The council agreed that it would be in the best interest of all if the Main Street Committee would get the individuals together and find a compromise solution.

## CITY/TOWNSHIP RELATIONS

---Mutual Interests: The council is particularly interested in having a joint meeting with the township trustees to discuss joint districts. Of primary interest is the joint safety (fire/police) district, but the council members also want to discuss a joint recreational district. Staff members need to be included in the discussions of joint districts. The continuation of the meetings of the elected officials of both Centerville and Washington Township is important in order to pursue agreed upon items.

Annexation: The council will continue to move forward with a feasible annexation policy. However, this is an area in which the city and township will agree to disagree on. The council members will inform the township trustees about annexations once the signatures are in hand. The primary area for annexation is in the southwest. Without knowing the outcome of HB36, the council believes it must continue to pursue annexation in the near future.

#### FIRE SERVICE

- --EMS: Council believes that the city should look into the possibly of the police receiving training and equipment for EMS. The costs will be examined with a study because of the interest in exploring the pros/cons.
- —Disaster Plan: Council is interested in reasserting action for the implementation mechanism for a disaster plan.

FEMA training: The council instructed the city manager to pursue FEMA training and have such training accomplished in 1996.

### **EXTERNAL COUNCIL RELATIONS**

—OML: The mayor needs to take an active role in OML especially on behalf of annexation. The council wants to do what it can through OML to influence HB36. There is a need to have a meeting with Senator Horn and Representative Corbin about HB 36 and other issues. There is a need to be more proactive in educating state representatives on the issue of annexation. In addition, the city needs to find other communities with

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which to align with on this issue and maintain active involvement in OML on this issue. In the meantime the council itself wants to be educated on HB36 and the Johnson Senate Bill.

- ---Committee Appointments: Council members should take active involvement on committees in which they are members, and at each council meeting there should be a 5-10 minute report to the entire council on the status of the committee. On committees in which council members serve as liaisons, the council member should use his/her judgment about the degree of involvement but should attend at least one meeting a year.
- ---Miami Valley Cable Council: The cable council is a council of governments with 9 member cities and a number of affiliates. It was originally set up to negotiate cable franchises. As of 1995 it hired a full-time director and is currently planning to hold a retreat from which decisions will be made that impact the cable council's 1997 budget. There is a need to get input for the retreat. The cable council has already gone beyond administering just cable activities and is involved in the TCSU and municipal training academy.
- —The council decided against a community wide survey or town meetings. However, the members agreed to set time limits for input at council meetings.

## INTERNAL COUNCIL RELATIONS

- —All council members agreed that the city manager and mayor should build consensus at work sessions and then move the discussion forward. Time should be managed at the meetings according to the agenda. The city manager will provide a written agenda of his report times and keep the discussion focused and move through the agenda.
- -All communication to city staff will be run through the city manager
- --- Council committee meetings will be called on an as needed basis.

ADDENDUM: Other items discussed:

Pay for performance: substitute "at any time during the year" instead of "once a year"

Railroad Parking/Bikeway: Joint ownership and split cost of both pieces of land

McCracken House: pursue litigation

DPL franchise: runs year to year and can be renegotiated in 3 years but the city is the only party that can cease it