

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
August 12, 2014

There was a meeting of the Service Committee in Council Chambers on Monday August 11, 2014, immediately following the Finance Committee. These members were present:

Bill Cost Jr.	Ryan Bubb
Jeff Rath	Carol Floyd for Alex Rolletta
Jeremy Blake	

We wish to Report:

1. **Resolution No. 14-65** preliminary legislation for resurfacing portions of State Route 13 including portions of Mt Vernon RD, West Church St, North 3rd St/ Hudson Ave and St. Clair St as part of the SR 13D-0.00 bridge widening and two way conversion project was considered.

Brian Morehead- along with the bridge widening we have been working with ODOT to cooperate with them and to also do some resurfacing in that neighborhood. This is a standard piece of legislation that ODOT submits. All three are showing that the City is in favor of cooperating and of moving the projects forward.

Motion by Mr. Bubb to send to full Council, second by Mrs. Floyd

Mrs. Floyd- do we have a timeline when all this may start to happen?

Brian Morehead- we are still planning on the beginning of the bridge project in 2016, most likely the summer of 2016.

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. **Resolution No. 14-66** preliminary legislation for resurfacing, curb and pavement repair on North 21st St from Granville Rd to Deo Dr was considered.

Brian Morehead- again this is a preliminary piece of legislation from ODOT. The last time that we resurfaced 21st Street was in 2004. This work will most likely take place in early 2017.

Motion by Mrs. Floyd to send to full Council, second by Mr. Rath

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

3. **Resolution No. 14-67** bridge deck replacement and other repairs on Ohio St over North Fork of Licking River was considered.

Brian Morehead- the next bridge targeted for repair work is the one on Ohio Street. The work includes the outer sidewalks and outer beams that have decay to them and actually the pier caps where the ends of the concrete are deteriorating. We have some federal funding available for a portion of the design work and this will allow us to get started with that.

Motion by Mr. Bubb to send to full Council, second by Mr. Rath

Mr. Blake- Brian, I brought this up before when we had some bridge work discussion about the idea of a bridge cap. He gave Brian and committee members a copy a study that was done in May which is the Licking County Multi-Use Trail Plan which is extending the bike trails throughout the City and to connect them. I just wanted bring Brian's attention to page 27 where they are looking at two different options for going from Little Texas connected to a trail at the top of the. Option one seems like it would go along the Ohio Street Bridge so I guess I would ask that you consider this bike path proposal when you get into discussions regarding the design of the Ohio Street bridge. It seems to somewhat make sense that if it is extended on that one side we can do that option 1 for them to help with that.

Brian Morehead- we have been already working with the LCATS folks on this and yes it is definitely on our radar. There is a descent sized sidewalk on the on the north side of the bridge and we are going to see if there is some room to widen that a little bit.

Mr. Cost- is the time line for that 2017 also?

Brian Morehead- yes 2017

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

4. Health Commissioner Joe Ebel to give the mid-year update.

Joe Ebel- we had measles and a mumps outbreak this year that in both cases got national attention. We had a lot of cases of mumps in Central Ohio; we had a couple of cases in Licking County identified. The measles outbreak was mostly in Knox County within an Amish community that went on a mission trip and when they came back since they are in large not vaccinated transmitted it among their community. These diseases are preventable by vaccines and since the vaccines do such a good jobs people forget that these diseases have a real impact. We had to get out our emergency messaging to remind people that these are preventable diseases with vaccines we had almost gotten rid of these diseases but if we put our guard down those things are still out there and a plane ride away from coming back into the States.

We recently hired a Public Information Officer and we have acquired additional space on the third floor after the Education Service Center moved out. That allowed us to do some renovations and expand. We are looking forward to continuing to grow and acquire more grants.

The West Nile virus has recently been on the radar for us and if you remember last year the Ohio Department of Health kind of shut down their laboratory to test mosquitos for West Nile. With some of our associations that I am involved with we were able to lobby the legislators for the mid bi-annual budget bill to add that back in. Effective July 1st the Ohio Department of Health had money to reopen the lab. They quickly did that and started accepting specimens from us. We now have 8 positive traps around the county with West Nile in them just since the first part of July. Obviously we can't spray the whole county but this allows us to know where the disease pockets are and focus our resources there.

We are updating our Community Health Assessment. We will be doing a new survey next year of 500 residents in the county to find out what their health behaviors are. We are working with the Community Blue Print who is also going to be doing a survey with the United Way next year.

We have a new data source on our website. Now just about any health related statistic you want in Licking County you can pull up on that page. The statistics are being pulled from the CDC, the census and all kinds of sources. We are just now beginning to submit some data into that database ourselves. The Ohio Department of Health contracted with a vendor that built that whole system and is maintaining it. It allows us to quickly look at Licking County and compare it to other counties in Ohio with similar demographics.

We are really trying to take a hard look at focusing on what it is we are here to do. I told my staff to think of it as if there wasn't a Health Department and you were going to set up one what are the things that you would focus on doing as a Health Department. Inspecting mobile homes wouldn't be top on the priority list but there are a lot of things that we do because somebody needs to do them or there was a health need for them so historically it has been that the Health Department did it but if you really look at what is killing our population, what is making people die, what is making them sick, shortening their lives; a large part boils down to tobacco, being active and healthy eating. When you look at the statistics it is obesity related things which nutrition and exercise both play into. Most of the problems that we are seeing in our community are linked to those health behaviors.

Mr. Rath- I noticed one of your statics here, immunizations have almost tripled
Joe Ebel- it is cyclical and we have started accepting more insurance policies so that has helped increase the numbers and we are seeing more adults who didn't have Medicaid before that now do thanks to the expansion of Medicaid. We also started setting up appointments at the clinic instead of just people showing up and waiting their turn which people seem to like.

Mr. Rath- we all are hearing about Ebola virus on the news worldwide are you hearing anything from State or Federal levels?

Joe Ebel- I just got three alerts before I got here about Ebola but they were all about how you have to ship specimens to the CDC. So far there doesn't seem to be any reason to be concerned unless you are a doctor or researcher who has been in contact with someone who has been infected.

Mr. Blake- asked why the static had gone down for the at risk pregnancy consultation and the breast and cervical cancer program for women. Are people just not utilizing the service?

Joe Ebel- the at risk are women who are pregnant and are normally enrolled in WIC. So that varies depending on how many pregnant women there are. The breast and cervical cancer program, one of the concerns with that program was that it was really focusing on women who now should generally qualify for Medicaid. So they are looking at changing their focus a little bit.

Mr. Blake- the home health visits went to zero?

Joe Ebel- we really haven't had a home health program for a few years. About three years ago all we had was one client and basically it got to where we didn't have any clients and we weren't getting any referrals because if they have insurance there are plenty of private companies out there that are happy to take them.

Mr. Blake- there seems to be a lot of popularity or interest in food trucks, can you explain a little bit how food trucks are inspected

Joe Ebel- food trucks are what we call mobile in terms of service. Most of what we have in this county are concession trailers like what you see at fairgrounds. The rules are the same for the concession trailers and the food trucks.

Mr. Cost- under the help me grow home visits it said last year you had 167 and this year you have none and under home health visits it said you had 105 last year and this year none. Are all of those being absorbed somewhere else then?

Joe Ebel- either the wrong category is in there or that number isn't right because we didn't do any home health visits last year. The numbers for those categories should be zero and zero.

Mr. Guthrie- thank you for the good report, we are hearing in some of the national news that there is a mind set out there by some parents about not having their kids vaccinated now. I was wondering if you were seeing any statics on that and if there is anything locally you can share with us on that?

Joe Ebel- there are a couple of different problems with the anti-vaccine movement that has been around for quite a while but really got traction when a doctor in England put out a paper in the Lancet Journal stating he had shown a link between autism and some vaccines but there have been multiple studies that have come out stating that is not true. The Lancet has since basically published a retraction of article that said it wasn't thoroughly vented.

Fortunately in our county we do a pretty good job of vaccination. Kids are required to get vaccination prior to going to school unless they request an exemption. We have about 85% or so of the kids showing up to school that are vaccinated. We have some pediatrician's offices in the county that have been able to hit 90% fully vaccinated by the time the child turns 3 which is our CDC goal.

We had a church group who was going to the same place the Amish group came back

from that got infected with the measles virus. We really had to work hard to get them vaccinated before they went.

Mrs. Floyd- I am assuming that the kids who are home schooled don't have to have vaccination records. But what if in high school they decide to attend Newark High or wherever, is that checked?

Joe Ebel- as they are transferred in the schools would kind of have to check those records. In Ohio they are allowed to for religious or other reasons object to the vaccination. In Delaware County there was a case of mumps in the school which had been identified and any kids who were not vaccinated weren't allowed to come back to school for 6 weeks unless they were vaccinated because they knew somebody in the school had the disease and they weren't going to have somebody who was not protected exposed. That then caused a hardship for kids who had to miss 6 weeks of school because they weren't vaccinated.

Mr. Cost- along that same question, you have a lot of homeschooled children that are interacting as far as social events and sporting events and different events, is it possible to control that at all?

Joe Ebel- not really, even the best vaccines aren't 100% effective for everybody who gets it so the idea being that if there is only 10% of the population who might be able to pick up the disease to begin with the odds of somebody who is unvaccinated getting it are down because there just aren't a lot of opportunities for them to be exposed to the disease. We try to maintain that but the problem would be if everybody starts opting out then we lose that immunity.

Sgt. McKee- 255 Upson Downs Rd, I heard a statistic a few years ago that American are 5 billion pounds overweight. I think one of the hardest things to do is to get people to change their lifestyle, their diet, their exercise level but that is one of the most important things we need to do. I wonder if it might be something worth thinking about to be more aggressive dealing with those things. You have to get in their face. People see an article, read it and think I should do that but they don't. You have to get in their face and stick with it in order to make an impact on their health.

Bill Cost Jr., Chair