

## Economic Development Committee Minutes

Honorable Council  
City of Newark  
March 14, 2016

There was a meeting of the Economic Development Committee in Council Chambers on Monday March 13, 2017 after Service Committee with these members present:

Jeremy Blake  
Ryan Bubb for Jeff Rath  
Bill Cost Jr  
Mark Fraizer

We Wish to Report:

1. **Resolution No. 17-17** a resolution in support of the application for an Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit award filed by the Licking County Foundation for the restoration of the Louis Sullivan Bank building in downtown Newark, Ohio was considered.

**Mayor Hall-** this doesn't obligate us for anything other than saying that this is conducive and flows with the work that we are doing around the community. I sit on a task force board with the Louis Sullivan Building so we keep very attached that way and follow them as they go through that. They are going to be applying for grants and tax credits to fund that to put it back into its' original state. An endorsement from this body as it got an endorsement letter from myself will be very beneficial to them in their application.

**Mr. Fraizer-** is this the first resolution that we have done for the Louis Sullivan?

**Mayor Hall-** yes. We have done a couple of other projects as they have applied for tax credits. They finally have a plan for this building. You have to keep the historic character; there are a lot of challenges with that building because it is a smaller size. They needed to find a future purpose. All of this has been developed over the last couple of years so now it is time to fund the model. It will overall be a few million, it is pretty comprehensive.

**Mr. Blake-** will the funding include the elevator they have to have that will be in the next building over with an extension?

**Mayor Hall-** that is correct. The dollars are used specifically for restoration and there are some very specific guidelines.

**Mr. Blake-** I see that this is an emergency because there is a deadline in March coming up?

**Mayor Hall-** there is yes at the end of March.

**Motion by Mr. Bubb to send to full Council, second by Mr. Fraizer**

**Motion passed by a vote of 4-0.**

2. **Resolution No. 17-18** in support of efforts to secure the return of the Babe Ruth World Series to Don Edwards Park was considered.

**Director Rhodes-** we talked about this and decided if we weren't able to raise the money it wasn't fair for those dollars to come out of the General Fund when we are short on hiring firefighters and Police Officers and paving. We would like to bring the Babe Ruth World Series back to Newark. There has been a long dialogue because as you know the YMCA manages the park and we have to make the times on the fields available and in a particular condition to have this World Series. Then we had to decide how this was going to be funded and it not affect the general fund and then what are we going to do if there is profit? There is a committee being set up that will watch over those funds and we have the ability to meet with that committee and discuss the type of capital improvement that we would like to have and they would appropriate some of the left over dollars to help us with those capital improvements. None of this would happen if it wasn't for Mr. Frolic's efforts.

**Dave Froelich-** before I start I wanted to thank a few people who are making this all possible, Davis Rhodes, Doug Sassen, Don Ellington and my favorite Democrat Bill Cost who I wouldn't be standing here today if it wasn't for Bill. We met back in August and talked about preparing and repairing the fields and the conversation thereafter turns into what are we going to do to fund improvements for this and I know how tight that general fund is and I also know that there is bed tax money but everybody and their brother is looking to get that. I suggested that we try to have a Babe Ruth World Series and I agreed to spear head that provided that we would net a minimum of \$100,000.00 afterwards to be used for the improvements. We have Jim Cooper, Noble Snow and Paul Thompson who are going to be responsible for the distribution of the funds. It is a 2019 World Series for 14 year olds. There is a line to get in to have these. These are very profitable for communities. Babe Ruth owned the facility but weren't making any money but the city still brought in a very good economic benefit estimated to be around a million and a million and a quarter. We estimate that there will be a minimum of 1100 room nights which is a pretty big thing for a community our size. There is a cost of \$80-85,000.00 to put it on. Most of that goes towards flying these teams in here from around the county. We pay that to Babe Ruth League and they take care of that. I will tell you right now that I believe we are at about \$145,000.00 that we have commitments from various organizations around the area by game time in 2019 I expect we will be around \$200,000.00. The funds will be under a 501C3 at the Foundations.

**Mr. Blake-** you mentioned the costs of traveling the players here but what other costs are related to that?

**Dave Froelich -** the host city has to provide cars, two rooms for each team for the coaches, security, picking the teams up from the Columbus airport as well as taking them back.

**Mr. Blake-** in regards to the facility itself do you see any improvements that are going to be needed?

**Dave Froelich -** the main thing is the field. The city and the Y have done a good job taking care of the facility; it looks like it did when it was new. There might be some

asphalt that needs dug up but in the future I don't see much but who knows between now and 2019. We should have funds around \$150,000.00 in that kitty.

**Mr. Blake**- this is probably a question for the Mayor or Director Rhodes, what about Ohio Street? It is not in very good condition for being the only street in and out of there.

**Director Rhodes**- there is a plan to replace the bridge on Ohio Street and that will probably happen before this and then we will look at our paving dollars. We cut the weeds back from that guardrail last year and it exposed how old that guardrail is hopefully we will get a new guardrail up too. There has been a new sign for the ballpark that has been order that will go up and we are looking at getting a mural painted to welcome the teams in under the second street bridge.

**Mr. Blake**- just wanted to make sure we are giving a good impression for our visitors.

**Director Rhodes**- we will, we are going to put our best foot forward. We will also be calling on the South Newark Association to see if they can help.

**Mr. Blake**- we are neighbors.

**Mr. Fraizer**- is the 2019 World Series is that secured or wrapped up or is there still a vetting process?

**Dave Froelich** - I told them I would tell Babe Ruth for sure on April 1<sup>st</sup>. I talked to them last week and they will be sending out a press release which will hopefully get us a little more attention and a little more money.

**Mr. Fraizer**- they are waiting for us to secure the funding?

**Dave Froelich** - they are waiting for us to say go

**Mr. Fraizer**-there's not other cities waiting that they'd give it to?

**Dave Froelich** - there are other cities waiting but we have it unless we tell them no on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Mr. Cost**- Dave thank you for all you have done. I know first-hand how hard you have worked at this.

**Motion by Mr. Cost to send this to full Council, second by Mr. Fraizer**

**Motion passed by a vote of 4-0.**

Jeremy Blake, Chair