



CITY MANAGER • 1140 Terex Road • Hudson, Ohio 44236 • (330) 342-1700

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Hudson City Council
Mayor Shubert

From: Jane Howington, City Manager

Cc: Frank Comeriato, Assistant City Manager – Operations
Eric Hutchinson, Assistant Public Works Director

Date: December 18, 2020

Subject: Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) Follow-Up Information

Staff has been working on the DORA additions and determining what items we might be able to implement quickly. We hope to bring these back to Council on January 5th.

1. Outdoor furniture. Staff will have the type and proposed location recommendation for Council's consideration.
2. WiFi. Staff is securing estimated costs to install WiFi in the downtown and greens areas. We are also estimating costs for several of the City parks.
3. Infrared heat lamps. Staff is investigating the purchase and installation of these heating units. Some could be installed in the pavilion on the First and Main Green. We are looking at others that could be installed either on buildings or along walkways.
4. Installation of white lights over First Street. This will take a bit longer to determine feasibility and cost as the lights would run from each building across the street to the opposite building and power supply needs to be determined.

Here are some planning ideas for January.

- Lights need to be strung over First Street. White lights.
- Some type of fun lighting- either orbs or up-lights in the beds around the pergola.
- We are looking at ACE sponsoring a snowman trail:
 - a. ACE would provide wood needed to cut out 50-80 wooden snowmen.
 - b. Businesses, organizations, HPD, HFD, etc. would be given a snowman to decorate.
 - c. Snowmen would be placed throughout the downtown- in front of stores, on Green, etc. Downtown businesses could have theirs in front of the shop. Outlying businesses could have their placed within the downtown public areas.
 - d. People would be encouraged to stroll and see the snowman
 - e. Contest for best snowman
 - f. Kent recently did a snowman decorating project sponsored by their Chamber

- g. Snowmen and lights will help celebrate winter. We were also thinking of having a standing invitation for the first real snow that people come downtown and build snowmen and snow forts in the DORA.
5. Restrooms are a major need. Do you feel a restroom facility on the Green near the Baldwin Bus house would evoke major opposition? This would be an optimal location.
 6. Fire pits on Lot 7. Staff is working with Fairmount on this proposal as well as getting cost estimates. We are hoping to have both the locations and the costs associated for the Council January 5th meeting. We have also had differing opinions of whether these can be installed in frozen weather and hope to have this information as well on the 5th.
 7. Free delivery. As we look into this, it becomes much more complicated. A simpler idea may be to let the restaurants continued to use their current services but reimburse them either a percentage or a fixed amount for each delivery. We would probably have to put a cap on this. Another question would be which restaurants to offer this to: just locally owned or national franchises or pizza delivery, etc.

The following are some early comments or feedback from the merchants and Chamber.

Furniture:

- I shared photos of the furniture that Eric Hutchinson and I had chosen. All positive comments in terms of the style.
- I also asked them to provide feedback on current locations. The current locations seem logical.
- Asked if could be ordered NOW as opposed to waiting until spring. I did say that it is custom so there is a lead time. We do have the picnic tables there and would not move those until new furniture has arrived.

Firepits:

- They liked the idea of two. Felt they should not be near each other.
- Nicole Alverson (Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce) presented idea that one on Lot 7 could be more family friendly (with hill and potential playground equipment). Parents could mingle and enjoy fire while kids played.
- Having one on the F&M Green could be more of an adult spot where there would not be kids running all around. Liz Murphy (Destination Hudson) seconded that they should be in two locations to provide for distancing and different demographics.

Lights:

- All agreed we would love to get moving on lights strung over Main Street for our January lights. These would stay permanently and be used year-round; this would need to be a conversation with Fairmount.

Heaters:

- Eric Hutchinson is seeking information from an electric vendor- quote and availability.
- Nicole Alverson noted that Zeppe's has them in their outdoor room and that Oak & Embers recently installed them on their patio. She thought they were great.

Free WiFi:

- No significant feedback

Food Delivery Service:

- Kendra Altomare (Downtown Merchants) brought up Beachwood. I said that we had already begun looking at it. Options being looked at include hiring a contracted service, rebating restaurants the delivery fee they already pay . . . welcome creative ideas.
- Kendra Altomare said the Stow Mayor reached out to all restaurant owners and invited them to a Town Hall meeting to get their input on what would help. Questioned why the City of Hudson has not made an effort to do same.

I asked how we could help businesses outside of the downtown.

- Liz Murphy felt that supporting the gift card program would spread cash citywide.
- More marketing help from the City.