

Mantua Village Business and Property Owners Meet to Learn About Certified Local Governments

- Terri Vechery

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Mantua Village business and property owners met at Jake's on Saturday, March 24, 2012 to listen to the information and facts gathered by DMRC sub-committee members Aaron Snopek, Linda Ehlert and Terri Vechery regarding the implementation of a Certified Local Government (CLG) for Mantua Village. Nathan Bevin from Ohio Historical Preservation Office and Nathaniel Kaelin from the Ohio Department of Development attended as well as Ron Lowe, CLG representative for the City of Aurora.

Seven areas of discussion were presented; 1. Who are we as a committee and how did we get here? 2. What is a Certified Local Government? 3. Are there potential benefits? 4. What about regulation? 5. Can a CLG operate by written consent? 6. Questions and discussion. 7. Follow up date.

The sub-committee was organized to gather the information necessary to give property owners an overview and definition of the CLG and how it would benefit Mantua Village. Upon research for

historical grants, the committee found that every grant application started with the question "is your city, village, or township a CLG?" This led to more research on why you need to be a CLG and then to providing this information to this meeting of property owners.

A CLG is another layer of government, enforced by an ordinance from council and a Landmark Commission consisting of at least 5 qualified members to review any changes to the historical structures participating in a CLG. Participating is the key word. An ordinance could either create a whole district such as all downtown Mantua Village or individual property owners can pledge to become a member of a CLG. In Mantua Village what would work would be membership by consent of the property owner and could be started with as few as three or four properties.

However, the benefits are numerous for a CLG. Showing a commitment for preservation and a unified approach to revitalization, can result in numerous grants the

Village and DMRC can apply for in all areas such as sidewalks, signs, parking lots, curbs, trees, parks, hike and bike trails, etc. Dollar amounts can be as little as \$500.00 or as much as \$100,000 or more. This could make a significant impact on the future of Mantua Village.

The information was given to those attending and a return date of April 14, 2012 for those owners interested in moving forward was set.

At the meeting on April 14, 2012, five property owners returned and decided to move forward with becoming a CLG. The next step in the process is signing a commitment letter to council, and contacting the City of Kent to discover how they became a CLG within a two or three month period. A review of language from ordinances in other villages closely resembling Mantua Village can facilitate the process, also. It was decided to meet on May 21, 2012 to review the research and information.

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