

RESOLUTION NO. R05-17 CMS

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EFFORTS OF FRIENDS OF OBERLIN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD CENTER, INC. (F.O.U.R.C.)

WHEREAS, Friends of Oberlin Underground Railroad Center, Inc., was issued its non-profit corporation certificate by the Ohio Secretary of State on October 1, 2003, after declaring as its purpose in its Articles of Incorporation "to solicit, acquire, hold, manage, and distribute funds, real property, artifacts, and other assets and resources in support of the establishment, development, operations, extension, and improvement of the programs, activities, functions, and administration of the Oberlin Underground Railroad Center."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Oberlin, County of Lorain, State of Ohio, a majority of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That it identifies Friends of Oberlin Underground Railroad Center, an Ohio not-for-profit corporation currently in the process of seeking determination, as an organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as the organized and formal successor to the ad-hoc citizens committee that was requested by City administration in May 1999, and which subsequently came to be known as the Museum Program Committee.

SECTION 2. That it recognizes the early and crucial roles of Mary Jo Pecek and Friends of Oberlin Underground Railroad Center in supporting the City's efforts to raise nearly \$1.2 million dollars towards restoration of the historic gasholder building into a multi-purpose facility including an Underground Railroad center. These dollars were raised between 1999 and 2004.

SECTION 3. That it identifies Friends of Oberlin Underground Railroad Center as a key stakeholder in historical and cultural interpreting of Oberlin and the Underground Railroad.

SECTION 4. That it endorses Friends of Oberlin Underground Railroad Center's further participation in and interface with government, philanthropy, business, schools, colleges, trade associations and others necessary to realize "the vision" of an Underground Railroad Center in Oberlin.

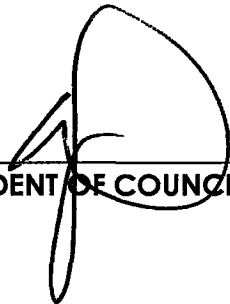
SECTION 5. That this Resolution shall take effect at the earliest date allowed by law.

PASSED: 1st Reading – June 6, 2005 (E)(A)
2nd Reading –
3rd Reading –

ATTEST:



CLERK OF COUNCIL



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

POSTED: June 7, 2005

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 7, 2005

Remarks by Shirley R. Johnson 6/7/05 (1)

I have several questions and some remarks to make. I prepared them mainly based on the previous resolution — I did not get this one until 3:30 this afternoon.

First, I agree ~~to~~ ^{with} and support Ms. Soucy's remarks and concerns and had had the same question ~~that~~ Ms. Rumics did.

The meeting sponsored by the Human Relations Committee on 5/23/05 which was advertised as a fact presentation only, instead turned into another confrontation as Ms. Bowen said over "turf issues and competition."

Unfortunately this is likely to continue to be a source of such difficulty if Council does not take proper responsibility and control of the project.

The whole community has not been included in a discussion or talked about what should be included in a multi-use building. So much time and individual plans have been developed ~~and~~ that have become

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a vested interest ³ that it may be too late to develop a consensus.

It is City Council's obligation to appoint a committee representative of the whole community not to give its imprimatur or endorsement ^{to one group} to act in its name. We are a fortunate community that has a number of people who are knowledgeable, capable and representative in the ways mentioned who could be asked to serve. Also, a city council committee should be raising the money - not a private group ~~that a city group would co. with which~~ with which a city group would be competing.

My understanding of the Underground R.R. is that it was a system of cooperation among anti-slavery people for assisting fugitives slaves to escape to Canada and the free states. As such it was, and is, a symbol of those who had the courage to escape and of those who had the courage to help them.

Council should have the courage (over)

to find ~~the~~^a way to bring ~~all~~ the
community together for this multi-use
project - and this resolution is
not the way.