



January 9, 2024 **MAYOR'S UPDATE**

Coming up in Bexley:

January 10, 5:00 pm:	Civil Service Commission
January 10, 5:30 pm:	Recreation Board
January 11, 6:00 pm:	Architectural Review Board
January 16, 5:30 pm:	Board of Health
January 17, 4:00 pm:	Tree and Public Gardens Commission
January 18, 6:30 pm:	Public Workshop - Skate Park Design
January 23, 6:00 pm:	City Council Meeting
January 24, 5:30 pm:	Commonwealth Park Workshop
January 25, 6:00 pm:	Board of Zoning and Planning
February 2:	Bexley Poker Tournament
March 2:	Jeffrey Woods Festival
March 7:	State of the Community Address

Some of What I've Been Up To:

- One Bexley Meetings and Follow-up regarding Coordinator and next steps
- OEC Strategic Planning meetings and follow up
- Mayor's and Solicitor's Party Planning and Facilitation
- Hosted and facilitated December MORPC Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
- Finance Director Interviews, follow up and hiring work and communications
- MORPC Board Member luncheon
- OEC Office Space meetings and follow up
- Skate Park Committee Design Draft Review
- Service Department holiday breakfast
- Year of the Parks work, follow up, and site visits,
- Initial FOP Negotiations Meeting
- Communications work including emails, calls, and more relating to resident input and questions
- Follow up meeting on AED Ordinance
- End of the year PO and invoice work
- City Hall Holiday Party
- Attended Bexley Public Library Board Meeting
- Meetings and emails regarding 2200 East Main
- Extensive work on Bexley Top Ten of the Year posts and video
- Onboarding preparation and facilitation for Megan Meyer
- Planned and facilitated New Council Member training
- COMMA Meeting
- New Year PO work and review
- Code Enforcement Meeting
- Initial police interviews
- Work with HR on personnel issues and preparation for annual performance reviews
- Columbus Regional ESID Board Meeting
- Land Use Strategy meeting preparation, facilitation, and follow up
- Meetings and work with Monique for new Council year.
- Work and planning related to City Hall workspace reconfiguration

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CITY OF BEXLEY EMAIL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Is it Still "Year of the Parks"?... and Commonwealth Park Workshop

It's 2024, so is "Year of the Parks" in the rearview mirror? While many of YOTP projects wrapped in 2023, several projects are continuing in construction or planning phase into the new year. These include the pedestrian/bike bridge at Astor; the outdoor reading room at the Bexley Public Library; and the Commonwealth Park plaza and gateway features. Speaking of Commonwealth - we're hosting a workshop to discuss the plaza feature and seeking feedback on permanently connecting both sides of Commonwealth Park and closing vehicular traffic to . That discussion is being held at City Hall at **5:30 pm on January 24th at City Hall** - come provide feedback on how we can best finalize plans for the plaza at Commonwealth.

Land Use Strategy Update

The Land Use Strategy Commission held their inaugural 2024 meeting on January 8, during which the group refined their intended framework for developing new recommendations over the course of the coming year. The commission has been subdivided into six working groups representing various geographic and programmatic focus areas. Tooled with the recently adopted Strategic Plan, as well as various area design guidelines, the working groups plan to report back to the larger Commission at the February meeting with preliminary ideas and further requests for data. Simultaneously, the Commission is working to summarize feedback from the November 2023 Land Use Strategy Public Workshop and is developing a follow-up online survey (to be released later this week). The Commission's next meeting is **Monday, February 12 at 6:30 pm**.

Bexley Mural Festival - Summer of 2024

The Bexley Community Foundation announced in December that they have awarded the City of Bexley with a grant to support the proposed Bexley Mural Festival, slated for late summer 2024. The Mural Festival will bring together artists, musicians, food vendors, and community members for an event that will enliven outdoor spaces in Bexley for years to come. We're looking for energetic and enthusiastic residents to help us steer the artist and building selection and organization process, and to help plan for the event. If you'd like to help out, send an email to applications@bexley.org with the subject line "Bexley Mural Festival Planning Committee," and let us know a little bit about your background, why you'd like to help out, and in what way. More information to come soon as planning gets underway!

Skate Spot Workshop January 18

Hunger Skateparks has been working with the Rec Department and a working group of skate enthusiasts to work on concepts for a skate spot feature at Schneider Park. The first public workshop is coming up on **January 18th at 6:00 pm at City Hall** - put a sticky note on your skateboard deck to remind you!

Bexley Recognized at MORPC for Solsmart Gold Designation

In mid-December, Bexley was honored at MORPC for our achievement of the Solsmart Gold designation, recognizing our commitment to streamlining the process for onsite solar and ensuring our staff and community has access to resources to help encourage solar adoption.

Carol Kauffman Appointed as a Bexley Rep to MORPC Board

In December, I appointed Carol Kauffman to the board of the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission to occupy one of Bexley's two board seats. A Bexley resident and the Executive Director of the Ohio Environmental Council, Carol offers more than two decades of nonprofit and corporate experience advocating for environmental, community, and social justice issues as well as directing sustainability programs and strategies. From 2013 to 2017, Kauffman worked in the nonprofit sector in Cambodia where she designed development projects, helped businesses develop more responsible practices, and responded to natural disasters in the region. Since 2017, Kauffman has led environmental and social responsibility efforts within the corporate sector at The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, and most recently, at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. Within these positions, she devised sustainability strategies, led philanthropic efforts, and engaged with a diverse array of stakeholders — including a nationwide network of environmental partners. Carol was named Executive Director of the OEC in February of 2023, and has also served as a member of the Bexley Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee. Carol's keen interest in water quality and sustainable development will bring a vital perspective to the MORPC Board, where I'm looking forward to serving alongside her.



