

Merisa K. Bowers

GAHANNA CITY COUNCILWOMAN, AT-LARGE
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To: Residents of Gahanna;
Members of Council;
Mayor Jadwin;
City Attorney Ray Mularski
CC: Director of Parks and Recreation Stephanie Bernard-Ferrell;
Chief of Police Jeffrey Spence;
Communications Manager Carrin Wester;
Council Clerk April Beggerow
From: Councilmember Merisa Bowers
Re: **Constituent Update - April Report (Revised)**
Date: 05/04/2020

General Update:

Many events have been postponed, canceled, or moved to an online platform due to COVID-19 pandemic. This has shifted the need and emphasis to social media platforms and uses of technology.

We initiated our opt-in constituent contact email communication in April. Interested parties can provide their email addresses here: <https://forms.gle/PMTu8eH5Fy4bN4Si8>

Constituent Issues/Concerns:

#1 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Resident concerned about placement of beehives near to property line.

Action:

Issue-spotted with resident, reviewed Gahanna ordinance (none), looked up model beekeeping code, asked local beekeepers for feedback.

Response:

There are no statutory best practices or ordinances regulating apiaries in Gahanna. Gave some talking-point suggestions to resident about how to informally address issue with neighbor, including referral to mentorship with Central Ohio Beekeepers Association.

I am reviewing model legislation from Ohio State Beekeepers Association and have asked for feedback from Central Ohio beekeepers on this model legislation.

#2 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Resident questioned about rationale of prohibiting chickens on properties smaller than 1.0 acre.

Action:

Listened to constituent's concerns, told her I'd get back with her and her family.

Response:

Started researching suburban agriculture legislation.

#3 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Pool Opening

Received various texts, calls, and verbal questions about whether the pools would open this year.

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Action:

Sought informal input from social acquaintances as to whether they were aware of announcements or decisions.

Response:

Mayor has provided information to Council regarding delayed pool openings. Information

#4 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Received feedback from constituent regarding concerns about closure of Rathburn Woods Park.

Action:

Emailed to Mayor and Director of Parks and Rec., Mayor advised that someone would be sent out right away. Communications Manager responded via social media promptly. Walked the park to observe. Observed that park walkways were open, but were very messy with sprayed grass seed.

Response:

Followed up with constituent to determine whether her questions had been sufficiently answered. She advised they were but also noted the mess made by the sprayed grass seed.

#5 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Received request from constituent to address concerns about Creekside Island erosion/flora.

Action:

Contacted Chair of COTW Councilwoman McGregor, as she had expressed concerns prior and has subject matter knowledge/historical knowledge of the issue. Discussed the observations and concerns from the constituent.

Response:

Councilwoman McGregor met with Administration and Directors for a walk around the area. She then discussed with me the conversation and intended direction of the Administration. Council will monitor situation and respond as necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Merisa K. Bowers

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Gahanna City Councilmember, At Large

05/04/20

