

January 2023

Mr. William Lutz, President of Council
Members of Troy City Council
City Hall
Troy, Ohio

Dear Mr. Lutz and Council Members:

2022 has retreated rapidly behind us, and it is time for my annual report. In retrospect, it was very good year, and I look forward to 2023 continuing that narrative.

Serving on several boards keeps my calendar busy on a monthly basis, along with the non-routine meetings that come up almost daily. I also take any opportunity to meet our business owners, to visit the facilities and share with the community pictures from my visits.

Maintaining communications (via meetings, phone calls, email, and/or hand-written letters) with our employees, our businesses, residents and visitors also consumes much of my time, but is something I enjoy very much. Every employee gets a hand-written note from me on their birthday, and I love celebrating every five-year milestone of employment with them.

Attending many different events on behalf of the city also takes much of my time. In 2022, most of our large events were back in full-force... the Home Show at Hobart Arena, the Strawberry Festival, the visiting GOBA event, the Tour de Donut, PorchFest, plus the Summer Concert Series, the Painted Pianos and many other activities. Our partnerships with these events and their organizers remain **strong**. They have communicated to me how much they appreciate the city and our staff for the cooperative working relationships that have been cultivated. Our city staff deserves much thanks.

This year has seen much international activity. In September, I hosted a short visit from Mayor Bogdan Kelichavyi from the city of Kopychyntsi in Ukraine. This connection happened by chance via Facebook, and has **continued**. I was happy to show him around Troy and to facilitate a meeting with the Troy family of Aka Pereyma, a Troy resident and artist whose family is from Kopychyntsi.

Spring and fall 2022 has seen much continued networking with the Japanese Western Language School (located outside the city limits, but in Troy), JETRO (Japanese External Trade Organization) based out of Chicago, JASI (Japanese Society of Indiana, and JASCO (Japanese Society of Central Ohio). As we have nine Japanese companies in Troy, these are very important networking relationships.

I have toured the JWL school and met with their principal and two board members, as they are attempting to find a new location. Mr. Koichi Yoshinaga and I have formed a warm friendship and continue to work together on school issues.

In April I attended a JASI event in Indianapolis, and in June spoke at a JETRO meeting with mayors at the OML Annual Mayors Conference. At the JETRO meeting, I was introduced and seated next to the Consul General of Japan (Detroit), Yusuke **Shindo**. I invited him to come visit Troy, and in July, he and his wife, Seiko **came**. We enjoyed lunch at the Boathouse, toured F&P America, and that evening they met with the Japanese companies here in Troy.

Additionally, I am working with JASCO on a grassroots summit that will take place in September, with Troy hosting approximately ten Japanese nationals for several days. You will hear more about this soon.

In September, in conjunction with the TDC (Troy Development Council), Patrick and I hosted the three Ecotek corporate principals from Sweden, as they look at an expansion of their U.S. facilities, including Troy. This was a direct result of the weeklong trade mission that Patrick and Joseph Graves took in June. (Note: Another visit to one of our companies based in France is also resulting in an expansion this year.)

Aside from all the international activity, we are seeing much business success which in turn results in greater good for the community of Troy as a whole.

We are seeing...

- Four new restaurants are on the horizon and open in 2023.
- The Mayflower has been the subject of several meetings in 2022 and we are seeing it beginning to transform. Looking forward to its final adaption and opening.
- Streetscape and safety enhancement discussions for the downtown have begun and will continue in 2023.
- W. Main St. reconstruction dominates as the "big" topic for 2022-2025. The project is proceeding at a good pace (with favorable weather so far). The communications from the contractor and the project manager have been well received.
- Other community improvements and projects include:
 - Headstone cleaning workshop at the cemetery was well attended and very popular.
 - Robinson Reserve at Duke Park opened and continues to mature.
 - Shelter rebuilds at Community Park began.
 - Monarch Habitat at Treasure Island had its first full summer and is quite popular.
 - New parking and canoe launch area on St. Rt. 41 is complete.
 - Extension of WiFi at Treasure Island Park is complete.
 - Kidder Ditch project is ongoing.
 - The traffic light at Kings Chapel Dr. FINALLY became operational.
 - The first phase of work on South Stanfield Road is complete.
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion is begun and ongoing.
 - \$1.2M in road-paving over the summer was completed.
 - Low dam removal is still in the works. It has been a lengthy process.
 - SE corridor plans are progressing and taking shape.
 - Fire Station 11 was opened and dedicated, along with the Safe Haven Baby Box.
 - The Sculptures on the Square Committee has been working for several months on the 2023 event, and those efforts continue.
 - The DORA has been in place for a year now, and we've experienced no issues out of the ordinary. In fact, an expansion is on the table for 2023.

Troy continues to be a wonderful place to live, work and play, and I'm happy to be a part of the team that makes it happen. Job opportunities are plentiful, as are recreational pursuits. Our business and residential growth is exciting, and brings much to the table for all of us. Our downtown is known as a popular gathering place for residents and visitors alike, and I couldn't be prouder of the reputation our city has in the region.

Looking forward to continuing serving this community in 2023.

Very sincerely,

Robin I. Oda
Mayor