

**Mill Creek Partnership Meeting #4
11-August-2014**

Beachwood Community Center
25325 Fairmount Blvd
Cleveland, OH
1:00 – 3:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chris Vild welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Mayor Merle Gorden. Mayor Gorden welcomed all and gave an overview of Beachwood and its most recent initiatives. The Mayor emphasized the importance of sustainability. He noted that Beachwood touches several watersheds. The Mayor thanked all of the Partners for their work on the Mill Creek Initiative.

2. Steering Committee Report

A. Overview & General Report-Out

Elaine Price reminded the partnership that they created a Steering Committee at the last Partnership Meeting and she then noted the members. Elaine asked Councilman Terrell Pruitt to share his thoughts and priorities from the first Steering Committee meeting. The Councilman recounted the need for signs, communications, raising the awareness of the citizens and other notable points.

B. Ohio Environmental Education Fund Grant

Jane Goodman reported that CRCPO prepared and submitted a grant application for public education and awareness to the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) on behalf of the City of Cuyahoga Heights, acting on behalf of the Partnership. CCBH assisted. CRCPO would be project manager for the \$11,940 grant project, which includes design and printing of brochures, and production and installation of signs denoting "entering/leaving the Mill Creek watershed" and "Mill Creek" where roadways cross the creek. Cuyahoga Heights would handle the money.

In-kind match would come primarily from CRCPO (Jane to design/develop and manage printing of the brochure) and CCBH (Meiring to manage signage location and placement/installation,) various partner communities' service department workers' time to install the signs, and their donations of the signposts.

The schedule for grant processing/awarding is that OEEF's Peer-Review Committee is reviewing and scoring the applications now through the end of August. Their scores, and input from OEEF staff, determine ranking of the applications/projects. Then the ranked list and applications go to the OEEF Advisory Committee, which meets toward the end of September. They discuss the applications in rank order and based on how much grant money is available. The applications that score highest and fit within the funding availability are recommended for approval by the OEPA director, who makes the final decisions by the end of October, and the awards are announced shortly thereafter. Project start dates are in December, once agreements are signed.

There was discussion around: the mechanical process by which signs are actually installed; providing communities opportunity to comment on the design and look of the signs;

investigating ahead of time code and ordinances governing such signs for each municipality. The **Partnership agreed to form a small working group** to work through these details and package up a description of the process and necessary details for sharing with each municipal partner.

Meiring Borchers will lead this working group. Chris Vild, Debra Prater and Chris Hartman (pending authorization) will comprise the working group.

C. Fiscal Agent Leadership

Elaine Gohlstein shared that Harvard Community Services Center has offered and is committed to being the Fiscal Agent for the Partnership going forward.

D. Watershed-Related Ordinances list

Meiring Borchers updated the partnership on the work that was done by Derek Schafer of West Creek and Chagrin River Watershed Partners, (CRWP) regarding Code development for all the communities in the Mill Creek watershed. Meiring then gave an overview of what the code as a tool can do for communities to help improve water quality in Mill Creek watershed. Meiring will be mailing each representative and their engineer and law director the findings from CRWP and the recommendations on updating each community's codes.

Discussion followed:

- Mayor Sellers mentioned that the building department is not necessarily the department to give codes to as they are only enforcement the codes they do not develop the rules. The Planning Department is key. Mayor Sellers also mentioned that codes should not inhibit economic development but should help promote economic development in the watershed.
- Jane Goodman, mentioned that the OEPA might make money available in 2015 for watersheds to develop strategic plans for the implementation of projects to help remove BUI's (Beneficial Use Impairments) for the Cuyahoga Area Of Concern.
- Chris Vild reminded the partners that the Planning and Zoning Commission of a municipality needs to be educated on these code developments as they are the ones developing and updating code and then they bring it to council to adopt.

Meiring then gave the partners an update on the Mill Creek Watershed Action Plan, what tasks have been completed and what tasks we are working on at present.

E. Digital Document Management

Ebony Hood briefly described how the Partnership will go as paperless as practical through digital tools. Ebony will be the point of contact for the new Mill Creek Partners Gmail account. millcreekpartners@gmail.com. This Gmail account can be used to share documents and event information with fellow partners. All current partners and support staff currently listed on the member list have been added via his/her e-mail address. If a partner needs to add/remove/update contact information for him/herself or for a new member to be added to the distribution, please send an email to the Mill Creek Partners email address and Ebony will administer any changes.

The West Creek Conservancy has agreed to house future documents for additional digital back-up. Members do NOT need to have a Gmail account in order to participate.

Ebony will develop and circulate simple instructions for use of google docs and other document management tools as needed.

3. Draft Vision for Watershed

Elaine Price described the process used by the Steering Committee at the 2-July meeting which yielded eight themes and several descriptive outcomes. She then shared with the Partnership a visual presentation displaying these vision statements accompanied by images. Partnership members were asked to note (using a worksheet) each as having High, Medium or Low importance. Discussion followed.

- What should be in the Vision? How would the visions be implemented? Vision needs to connect the dots for regular people in practical and tangible ways
- There is a gap (perhaps generational) in the valuing of sustainable practices and environmental concerns which needs to be addressed in the messaging and vision. It seems that those promoting modern, sustainable practices which help protect watersheds and water quality are in the minority as compared to the majority still following 20th century practices and behaviors.
- Vision and messaging needs to be personal - such as relating practices to drinking water safety.
- Infrastructure was noted by several Partners as a key, high priority value. The Vision for communities with updated and maintained infrastructure is critical. Some infrastructure improvements are highly visible (or can be publicly promoted) and therefore valued by the citizens and seen as real action. Other infrastructure projects are less visible and less exciting as means of engaging citizen support and enthusiasm.

New Ideas

- Joe Bergant would like to receive formulated watershed messages that can be distributed to groups like the Board of School Superintendents regarding water quality.
- Derek mentioned that the schools districts can contact West Creek Watershed Stewardship Center (WSC) which has many new curriculum and programing that they would like to make available to as many school districts and possible.
- Derek will contact Baldwin Collage to see if they can help Mill Creek Partnership identify topics through there survey program so that messages are more targeted to the needs of the people living and working in the watershed.
- Chris Hartman made the point that, in reality, government only has control over codes that govern human behavior. Solid codes, more so than education, will be the most effective tool to help improve water quality.

Elaine asked that each representative seek methods for bringing this Vision discussion back to his/her community or organization for involvement and input. The Visions for the watershed must come from the Partner organizations themselves. Elaine offered to come out to a community and walk others through this presentation.

All agreed that all vision work cannot be tackled in one step and **agreed to focus on two areas through two working groups:**

- **Education, Awareness, Communication: Michele Brown (Union Miles), Andrea Mitchell (Warrensville) and (as time permits) Marlane Weslian (Slavic Village)**

- **Infrasatructure Improvement Working Group: Terrell Pruitt, Susan Hamilton, Chris Hartman**

Meeting Adjourned at 3:15 PM

Attendee list - embedded

Attached: OEPA Grant application for Watershed signs and brochures.

Respectfully,
 Elaine Price
 13-Aug-2014

	Partnership Attendees 11-August-2014		
11-Aug.	Leadership Roster - Mill Creek		
	Alvarado, Chris	chrisa@slavicvillage.org ;	Slavic Village
	Bacci, Jack, Mayor	j.bacci@cuyahogaheights.com ;	Cuyahoga Hts.
	Brancatelli, Tony, Ward 12 Councilman	TonyB@slavicvillage.org ;	Cleveland
	Collova, Vic, Mayor	vcollova@garfieldhts.org ;	Garfield Hts.
	*Contipelli, Renato, Council Pres.	r.contipelli@cuyahogaheights.com ;	Cuyahoga Hts.
X	*Gohlstin, Elaine, ED	goldy715@aol.com ;	HCSS
X	Gorden, Merle , Mayor	Mayor.Gorden@beachwoodohio.com ;	Beachwood
	Gordon, Eric, Superintendent	Eric.Gordon@clevelandmetroschools.org ;	CMSD
	Jones, Marva Kay, Superintendent	marva.jones@whcsd.org ;	Warr. School District
	Lah, Andrej, Director	alah@clecem.org ;	Catholic Cemeteries
	Lansky, Jeff, Mayor	jlansky@mapleheightsohio.com ;	Maple Hts.
	Leiken, Earl, Mayor	mayor@shakeronline.com ;	Shaker Hts.
	Marcus, Woody, Council Pres	wmarcus@northrandall.com ;	N. Randall
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	Piasecki, Jerry, Mayor	majorjerry@valleyview.net ;	Valley View
X	*Pruitt, Terrell, Ward 1 Councilman	tpruitt@clevelandcitycouncil.org ;	Cleveland
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		-	
	Support Staff Roster - Mill Creek		
X	Bergant, Joe	jbergant@cuyhts.org ;	Cuyahoga Heights Schools
	Boag, Bill, Director Public Works	Bill.Boag@shakeronline.com ;	Shaker Hts.
X	**Borcherds, Meiring	mborcherds@ccbh.net ;	CCBH
	Drayton, Jeune	jdrayton@vhhohio.org ;	Highland Hills
	Evans, Tom (School Principal)		Cuyahoga Heights Schools
	Finch, Larry	lefinch@prodigy.net ;	Highland Hills
X	**Goodman, Jane	goodmanj@cuyahogariverrap.org ;	CRCPD

X	Hall, Kristen	khall@city.cleveland.oh.us;	Clev. Sustainability
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X	*Jordan, Linda	ldgjordan@aol.com;	HCSS
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	Oliver, Michelle	michelle.harvardcsc@gmail.com;	HCSS
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	Pierce, Jane , Admin/Coordinator	jpierce@vhhohio.org;	Highland Hills
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X	*Schafer, Derek	dschafer@westcreek.org;	West Creek
X	*Scharver, Matt	scharverm@neorsd.org;	NEORSD
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X	*Vild, Chris	chris.vild@beachwoodohio.com;	Beachwood
	Wade-Lyles, Terri	Terri.Lyles@Clevelandmetroschools.org;	CMSD
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	Woodruff, Donald	Donaldw@unionmiles.org;	Union Miles
	Engineer Support - Mill Creek		
	Beirut, Don	Bierut@cvelimited.com;	North Randall
X	Hamilton, Susan	shamilton@hovancsek.com;	Highland Hills
X	Hartman, Chris	hartman@cvelimited.com;	Maple Heights, N. Randall
	Todd Sciano, engineer	tsciano@dgbassoc.com;	Cuyahioga Heights
	Dave Krock, engineer	dgkrock@krockesser.com;	Garfield Heights
	Ed Hren, engineer	hren@cvelimited.com;	Maple Heights
	Guests/Representatives		
X	Dey, Paul (for Todd Sciano)	PDey@dgbassoc.com	Cuyahoga Heights
X	Brown, Michele	Michelleb@unionmiles.org	Union Miles
X	Mitchell, Andrea	amitchell@cityofwarrensville.com	Warrensville Hts.
X	Trill, Trina		Beachwood