

Mill Creek Partnership Meeting MINUTES

Initial Meeting of the Mill Creek Partnership, formed in 2013

Jan. 16, 2014

Garfield Heights Civic Center

1. Welcome

- a. 10:00 AM meeting began
- b. Mayor Vic Collova welcomed participants

2. Introductions

- a. Elaine Price (EAP) led participants through instructions, each giving some background on their Mill Creek history

3. Recognition of Partner Resolutions

- a. EAP listed, in chronological order, organizations which have thus far adopted the Resolution of Participation and thanked each

4. Watershed Action Plan (WAP)

- a. Since Dereck Schafer, West Creek Conservancy, had a tight schedule, Derek led the group through a discussion on: value and purpose of a WAP; process for engaging communities in the development of the list of needed projects; the State approval process; funding advantages.
- b. Derek led brief conversation and answered questions

5. Highlights of Recent Projects

Anya Kulcsar (AK) and EAP have compiled a slide presentation of various projects and programs which have transpired over the past few years within the watershed and (several) because of partner collaborations

- Stream Sweeps –Anya & Elaine
(Johnston Mill River Sweep; Tri-C)
- Restorations – Meiring, Matt, Elaine
(Highland Park, Bear Creek, interceptor)
- Conservation: Highland Hills Wetland – Meiring
- Trails – Pat, Anya, Terrell, Elaine
(Johnston Mill, Kerruish)
- Mill Creek Meet Up @ Kerruish Park – Elaine G., Linda, Michele
- Teachers & Students: Warrensville - Elaine
- Tree Planting at Kerruish Park - Jane, Elaine G., Linda
- Union-Miles Projects - Anya

6. Discussion about issues and opportunities for improving the Mill Creek Watershed

- a. Jane Goodman (JG) briefly explained the Cuyahoga River watershed; Mill Creek's position and significance within it; the work and activities of CRCPO with emphasis on Mill Creek activities of the past.

- b. Councilman Contipelli (RC) also recounted much of the history of efforts to make improvements in the Mill Creek Watershed and affirmed that it's critical to unite this group and move forward in a strategic manner
- c. Councilman Pruitt (TP) commented on Kerruish Park, the Johnston Mill trail and raised a few questions about watershed group operation.
- d. RC shared successes in use of and economic development firm in securing funding for several projects

7. Next Steps - Set date and time for future meeting

- a. RC offered to host mtg. #2 and suggested that Silverlode, the economic development/fundraising firm present on sources and methods for securing funds.
- b. EAP and RC will identify a few date/time options for a March Meeting #2

Noon – Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Price