



Fredericktown Community Development Foundation, Monthly Meeting – Minutes for Thursday, March 3, 2016, 7:30 a.m., Fredericktown Local Schools Board Room.

Trustees in attendance were: Matthew Crispin, Jeffrey Harris, James Hobson, and Joan Stout.

The monthly meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

Mr. Hobson welcomed those in attendance and asked that any guests be introduced. Guests this day included Randy Canterbury of the Knox County solid waste authority, who is the county's liaison for industrial and commercial recycling programs.

Mr. Hobson opened the floor for a motion to approve the minutes of the Foundation's Monthly Meeting of February 4, 2016. Chief Rick Lanuzza moved to approve the minutes and Andy Fox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hobson turned the floor over to the attendees for community resource updates.

Bruce Snell noted the Village submitted a grant plan for the Owl Creek Trail, with construction planned to occur during summer and fall 2016. The work will include the installation of benches, bike racks, dog waste stations, as well as open up greenspace around the community. State Representative Margaret Ann Ruhl asked if the improvements could include lighting; Mr. Snell responded that they would look into that opportunity.

Police Chief Roger Brown stated that 117 calls for service had been received thus far in 2016, with 12 arrests and 14 citations. His department is using grant funds, including assistance provided by the Burgett family, to purchase equipment. The police department also is conducting ALICE (i.e., active shooter) training at local schools and churches. Further, training is being offered to local seniors on how to avoid scams as well as improve their safety.

Chief Brown continued, noting the quarterly neighborhood watch meeting will occur April 16 at 11:00am with an active shooter training program.

Mr. Hobson remarked the FCDF has approximately \$300 donated from the police levy campaign to assist with the neighborhood watch program. Ms. Stout noted she would set up the transfer of funds.

Jim Wagner moved to provide a gift to the Fredericktown Police Department funds from the levy campaign to support the neighborhood watch program. Aaron Veyon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hobson asked about the upcoming National Night Out. Chief Brown responded it would occur sometime in August, with information to be provided in the future.

Rep. Ruhl noted the Ohio General Assembly has received requests totaling twice the amount of State Capital Bill funds available in this year's legislation. She will review the requests submitted for her district and forward the top two to three such projects; her office's decision will be made in April. Rep. Ruhl also noted the availability of State Safety Cap grant funds to assist first responders in obtaining assistance to purchase vehicles and equipment. Further, she noted her work to allow permissive license plate fees that would allow drivers to provide an additional \$5 with their plate fees to pay for street funding for counties, cities and townships. Finally, Rep. Ruhl encouraged all attendees to vote the following Tuesday in the primary.

Chief Lanuzza noted the EMS department had experienced an increase in runs, 25, over and above that number during the similar period in 2015.

Mr. Canterbury from the Knox County Commissioners stated he works for the waste management district, and he is attempting to get out and meet stakeholders in Knox County to promote available recycling programs to industry and residents. He can perform waste assessments for industry and schools; help keep waste from being dumped in the landfill; and provides grant funding (including a grant to the Ariel-Foundation Park for new recycling containers, and the Village of Gambier launching an e-waste program).

Rep. Ruhl commented the recycling containers at the Fredericktown Police Department are often full. Can additional containers be provided? Mr. Canterbury noted they are emptied every Tuesday and Friday, but that he would assess their use and determine if more emptying needs to be performed during the week.

Carol Grubaugh noted the Knox County Chamber was turning 100 years old this year. Events to help mark the occasion include a golf outing on May 26 at Table Rock. She is working with the WorkDev team to complete a survey of employers in Knox County to assess hiring expectations and their types of jobs for the coming year. The survey is short and is being conducted via SurveyMonkey; she encouraged the attendees to complete the assessment if they have not yet done so.

Ms. Grubaugh continued, noting that Mark Maxwell, the Knox County Emergency Management Director, will conduct a training on active shooters for employers, which will be open to the public on May 10 at 8:00am at the Knox County Career Center.

Ms. Grubaugh noted the Knox County Career Expo will occur on April 20, also at the Knox County Career Center, and will have space available for 70 vendors / employers, with free registration. Adult job-seekers and students are invited to walk through the half-day event.

Katie Frazier noted that year-to-date 2016, 24 families had been served with financial aid via Interchurch-Fredericktown (this is up for the year). She has 109 families receiving items from the food pantry (this is relatively low). In addition, area churches provided Christmas gifts and

food baskets. In February, Interchurch-Fredericktown purchased 35 dairy / bread vouchers to the Village Grocer for clients with children; this is a pilot program being run on donated funds.

From April to June, on the first Wednesday of each month, Ms. Frazier will be working with the Opportunity Knox mobile unit. Further, she has a job opening for a truck driver to obtain food from Mid-Ohio Food Bank on the south-side of Columbus; the job would be up to 25 hours per week, paying minimum wage, and would involve some heavy lifting.

Mr. Crispin provided a report on the Fredericktown Local Schools. He stated enrollment has increased by 20 students and the following week would see the approval of the school calendar through 2018. The third grading period would be ending soon. As for the State report card, there was some good, some bad, with full results to be discussed at the following meeting.

Mr. Harris gave updates on the Foundation's sister organization, the Area Development Foundation. First, Siemens Energy has announced by that the year-end, it will permanently eliminate 300 jobs at the complex in Mount Vernon. Second, Mr. Harris submitted the Burgett and Diveilbiss families' respective properties to the State of Ohio to be included in the SiteOhio program for marketing to future industrial prospects looking for land. Third, Mr. Harris noted that the USDA statewide team was visiting Knox County this very same day – after the FCDF meeting – and encouraged all in attendance to join at Kokosing Construction Co.'s board room to meet the officials.

Mr. Hobson initiated a discussion of a façade improvement-type program that could be employed by the Village for the downtown, central business district. Brad Ebersole, with Consolidated Electric, noted his organization has a revolving loan fund that could help with funding such a program; the utility's program is not heavily subscribed and offers a substantial amount of funding with base rate loans. To participate, Mr. Ebersole continued, a borrower would have to show good financial history and undergo board review by the utility.

Mr. Hobson opened the floor to discussion. He stated the program would need the entire team to assist. Mr. Snell noted the business community must get behind such an initiative, and that word was beginning to circulate about such a program. Mr. Hobson noted that an area of concentration could be from the Riteaid (on the south side) to the mill on the north side. Properties that would be improved could be highlighted as success stories. He stated that a run-down central business district is problematic for newcomers.

Mr. Hobson stated that Mayor Jerry Day had mentioned his interest in placing a business incubator in space at the old Village police station; the Village is paying for the space anyway. He noted that it could serve as office space for home-based workers – the space could accommodate a handful of such businesses and grow them in Fredericktown. Mr. Harris noted he would assist in scheduling a trip to visit Mansfield's Braintree incubator to better understand such an approach.

Mr. Hobson further noted that the Village of Fredericktown should understand and get involved in Community Development Block Grant funding opportunities. He spoke with the State and understands that CDBG funds are often relegated to communities with 51% low to moderate-

income earners; Fredericktown had 46% in 2010 (the year used by the State for such measurements). Perhaps Interchurch could assist Fredericktown in conducting an income survey to truly determine if the Village could, in fact, qualify for CDBG funding opportunities. Mr. Harris noted a wage survey would also suffice. To that, Mr. Crispin noted his own schools have free and reduced lunch application data that may prove useful to showing CDBG eligibility.

Mr. Hobson asked for Officers' reports. Ms. Stout provided the attendees with two separate reports showing February's financial activity for the Foundation; one report for the Foundation as a whole, and the other showing the Tourism Committee's activity. There was no income – only a webpage expense was recorded. The upcoming Quilt Show to occur April 23 will incur various expenses.

Mr. Wagner moved to accept the financial report as prepared. Rep. Ruhl seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hobson asked if there was any further Old or New Business for the meeting. Judy Divelbiss stated that the Tourism Committee's work continued on the annual Quilt Show to occur April 23, from 10am to 3pm, at Fredericktown High School. The public is invited, and Ms. Divelbiss noted this event brings in many people from outside Fredericktown. In fact, in 2015, the quilt show had 350 attendees, with vendors located from outside the community. Ms. Divelbiss encouraged those at the FCDF meeting to attend the quilt show, even if they were not particularly fond of quilting, per se. She will be submitting a final budget for the event in the near future.

Mr. Harris noted he had contacted the Neighborhood Design Center to provide an estimate to engage their help in conducting a downtown assessment of the Village's central business district for purposes of the façade improvement initiative.

Chief Lanuzza moved to adjourn, which Mr. Hobson so did at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffrey Harris  
Secretary