



Fredericktown Community Development Foundation, Monthly Meeting – Minutes for Thursday, July 6, 2017, 7:45 a.m., Fredericktown Local Schools - Board Room.

Trustees in attendance were: Matthew Chrispin, Jeffrey Harris, James Hobson and Paul Mayville.

The monthly meeting was called to order at 7:45am.

President Hobson welcomed those in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Hobson asked for a motion to approve the minutes prepared for Foundation’s Monthly Meeting of June 1, 2017. Mr. Chrispin so moved and Margaret Ann Ruhl seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mayville provided the attendees with a financial report. Mr. Mayville noted he now was using Microsoft Excel to better track revenue and expense activities, and the Tourism report was now structured into three (3) separate tracking reports.

The Development Foundation’s general account began June 2017 with a balance of \$2,843.01. Only expenses were recorded during the month, including payment of the final Neighborhood Design Center invoice. This left a balance at the end of June of \$208.01. He noted this is a bit skinny, but a \$1,850 reimbursement was expected from USDA.

Mr. Mayville described the Tourism account, now split among three discrete uses: Farmers’ Market, Fredericktown Merchants Association and the Tourism Committee. First, the Farmers’ Market account received \$400 in transferred funds and recorded vendor fees as income, as well as expenses for yard signs, banners and tote bags; the account ended the month with \$288.27. Second, the Fredericktown Merchants group recorded deposits totaling \$980, which was the account balance at the end of June. Finally, the Tourism Committee reported very modest activity, ending June with a balance of \$2,553.48.

Mr. Harris moved to accept the financial report as reported, Mr. Chrispin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hobson noted he has had conversations with Bill Van Nostrand and he seeks to move forward, with all groups working towards improving Fredericktown. In that way, the Foundation serves as the “clearinghouse” of all things development-related in the Village.

Mr. Mayville reported for the Fredericktown Merchants, noting the upcoming Christmas in July event, to be held Saturday, July 8, from 5 to 9pm. This event will feature a dunking booth, an outdoor movie (“Elf”) and kids’ games. Katie Frazier thanked Kokosing Construction Co. for sponsoring the tent, Rep. Carfagna for his donation, as well as the work of all the volunteers preparing the event.

Mr. Hobson suggested a logo for the Foundation could be developed with the help of the Goodwill Industries of Knox and Licking Counties. He noted the successful programming of the Owens Corning Park in Newark as an example of Goodwill's resources and skills.

Colleen Gregg then presented on the new Farmers' Market, which occurs today from 4 – 7pm. She asked that area residents frequent the Fredericktown Farmers' Market as new produce and items will be featured each week, including ice cream today. Ms. Gregg noted her appreciation for the vendors that attend, but stressed that customers must patronize the Farmers' Market. She will continue to use Facebook and intends to order lamppost signs for downtown Fredericktown to spread the word.

Mr. Hobson asked if there was a Tourism Committee report. Mr. Van Nostrand noted Judy Divelbiss was not in attendance, but her Tourism Committee would be blended with the Fredericktown Merchants. Lisa Pfouts of noted the Quilt Show has been scheduled for April 14, 2018, to last from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mr. Hobson asked the attendees for an open dialogue on how to move forward with the completed study by Neighborhood Design Center. He stated the downtown study is complete, has been paid for, and should not fall to the wayside.

Mr. Harris apologized to the attendees that he had provided incomplete information during the previous year, thinking Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") funds would be available to implement the Downtown Revitalization study by NDC. Although the State had offered that CDBG would be available, Knox County's CDBG consultant has advised that funding is not available in the case of Fredericktown's downtown.

Bethany Celmar asked, whatever happened with the funds raised for the proposed Fredericktown community center? She continued, asking, couldn't those funds be used for streetscape improvements and to implement the NDC study?

Mr. Van Nostrand noted a substantial sum of money is on deposit with the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon and Knox County, and the community center funds were raised by a separate nonprofit entity with several board members, several of whom are no longer active with the group.

Mr. Hobson stated he would be interested in using this Foundation to work with the community center board members. Mr. Harris reiterated that position, noting the remaining active board members ought to be approached and invited to an upcoming FCDF meeting to discuss the completed downtown study.

Brad Ebersole agreed, stating the FCDF is the central organization for Fredericktown's development and it has completed the downtown master plan with NDC's help. Mr. Chrispin further stated the NDC study has left, given the consultants' obtained substantial input from residents who were surveyed as to their wishes for downtown Fredericktown.

Andy Fox asked where other communities get funding to improve their own downtowns. Ms. Celmar stated the Mayor of Bellville told her they first received a grant to improve the Village's sewer system,

which included funds for sidewalks. After the sidewalks were repaired, individual property owners then made improvements to their own buildings. Mr. Harris noted that in his experience, funds are first sourced from government programs (like CDBG), and then look to nonprofit foundations. He further stated the size of the community center fund in Fredericktown is quite large and sufficient to implement a great deal of the downtown revitalization plan.

Ms. Frazier stated the community center board members should be made part of the downtown revitalization solution for Fredericktown. Mr. Fox noted his concern for the feelings of original donors for a community center; those donors have not yet seen their donations put to use. Mr. Hobson noted the Village does have a community center located in the School Board building. Mr. Hobson continued, noting the community center board members should be weaved into the FCDF discussion to improve downtown Fredericktown. Mr. Fox suggested that Sam Barrone could be invited to discuss the matter with stakeholders in Fredericktown.

One attendee asked where the Neighborhood Design Center's plan was located. Mr. Harris offered to include the link in the minutes [Author's note: please see link to the downtown study: <http://fredericktown.net/Fredericktown%20Downtown%20Revitalization%20Plan%202017.pdf>]

Mr. Chrispin stated there is a soreness in the community as to the lack of use of the community center funds that were raised. Mr. Ebersole suggested it would be best for the Village leadership to inform the community center board members that the Village is neither in a financial position to accept, nor to afford the upkeep to, a community center.

Mr. Van Nostrand stated the community center board members do not know whether their bylaws allow for the funds to be directed to other purposes, like downtown revitalization. Mr. Harris responded that community resources could be found to either engage a volunteer attorney or else offset any legal fees for such research, should the need arise.

Mr. Van Nostrand stated he was open to inviting the community center board members to a FCDF discussion. Ms. Ruhl noted she also could discuss the matter with the active board members. And Mr. Harris stated he would discuss the issue with one of the active board members' family members, with whom Mr. Harris has regular business contact.

Mr. Mayville suggested the NDC plan and its implementation become a permanent agenda item for FCDF meetings. Mr. Ebersole noted the group's meetings could be used to prioritize the NDC plan's action steps.

Mr. Hobson asked if there were other matters to be raised for the good of the order.

Ms. Ruhl noted Lt. Governor Mary Taylor will be in Knox County on Monday, July 10, beginning at 5:30pm in the Memorial Theater's ball room in Mount Vernon, to meet residents and discuss issues.

Lt. Kyle Johnson stated the police department's second National Night Out would occur on Tuesday, August 1 from 6pm to 10pm. The event is intended to build relationships between the community and the Village's law enforcement personnel. Lt. Johnson noted he is seeking merchants' donations of items for raffle prizes.

Dick Gray stated the Fredericktown Goodwill store will participate in text message coupons sent to residents of the Mansfield and Marion areas to build further awareness of the new store in the Village. He further noted the new scholarship program created at the Community Foundation by a large donation from Goodwill Industries of Knox and Licking Counties. His organization has deposited approximately \$500,000 with the Community Foundation for scholarships for four-year college and two-year certificate programs. The most recent funding round awarded \$27,500 in total scholarships in Knox County.

Mr. Chrispin shared some key data points regarding the 2017 graduating class from Fredericktown High School:

- 108 Total number in graduating class (includes 2 juniors)
- 47 Attended Fredericktown Local Schools the entire K-12 journey (44%)
- 44 Enrolled in a 4-year school next year (42%)
- 22 Enrolled in a 1/2-year school or training next year (20%)
- 9 Enlisted in the armed forces (8%)
- 33 Attended the Career Center (30.5%)
- 31 Took College Credit Plus courses (29%)
- 68 Participated in band or athletics this year (64%)
- 33 Took a minimum of one online course (30.5%)
- 96.2 4-year graduation percentage (highest since 2006)

Mr. Chrispin further noted he has worked with a group to erect an Ohio Historical Marker in Fredericktown to commemorate its birthplace of the FFA jacket design.

Bruce Snell stated the Village has several Ohio Public Works Commission grant-funded road and traffic projects under construction or planned. First, Columbus Road / High Street / Taylor Street is being actively repaved as of today's meeting. Second, sidewalks will be repaired along Levering Drive in the near term. And finally, the remaining portion of Columbus Road and Mound Street will be repaved later this year. Mr. Snell noted that many grants are available, but the challenge remains to provide sufficient "match" from the local community to pay for the balance of projects (beyond the grant amounts).

Mr. Snell noted the Village's roads are in better condition than many other similarly situated villages in the area, and the Village Council has made road conditions one of its key priorities. To that point, Mr. Hobson thanked the community for passing the policy levy, which allowed additional general revenue fund dollars to go towards road repair.

Hearing no further business, Mr. Hobson adjourned the meeting at 8:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffry Harris  
Secretary