



Fredericktown Community Development Foundation, Monthly Meeting – Minutes for Thursday, October 6, 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 guests in attendance. Wayne Dunlop and Steve Oregon, both with the Hope Now Furniture Bank, Bethany Celmar of Burch Hydro, and Lisa Snyder and Alisa Burnside of Neighborhood Design Center attended this session.

Mr. Hobson opened the floor for a motion to approve the minutes of the Foundation's Monthly Meeting of September 1, 2016. James Wagner moved to approve the minutes and Andy Fox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hobson asked for an overview of the Hope Now Furniture Bank. Mr. Oregon addressed the group, stating his organization provides household goods for people in Knox County struggling with life challenges, such as fire, unemployment and domestic abuse. The organization operates from space at 1025 South Main Street in Mount Vernon, and it accepts donated goods and distributes them to families in need. Mr. Oregon noted in 2015, the organization assisted more than 200 families. Thus far in 2016, Hope Now has assisted 232 families. Mr. Oregon continued, stating Hope Now will pick-up items on Tuesday and Thursdays, and will accept donated goods at its location.

The organization has been in existence since 2005, assisting individuals and families in Knox County below poverty levels of income; those who cannot afford to buy basic furniture items. His biggest impact is felt from keeping kids from sleeping on the floor. Hope Now has distributed 2,154 items of furniture, and it relies on referrals from other social service agencies in the county. The organization seeks to spread the word of its operations and wants to grow in its collaboration with other groups active in Knox County.

Mr. Oregon stated Hope Now operates with 25 to 30 volunteers and there exist plenty of opportunities to contribute time and money. At present, Hope Now is operating with a two to four week wait for furniture to be delivered to those in need; beds and mattresses are in short supply and are the most urgent need. He asked that attendees visit their physical location or go on-line to <http://www.hopenowfurniturebank.org/>.

Mr. Hobson took the floor to praise the Fredericktown Police Department for its recent apprehension of car tire thieves at Fredericktown Chevrolet.

Mr. Hobson invited Ms. Burnside, from the Neighborhood Design Center, to address the group. She stated the following:

- The Neighborhood Design Center (“NDC”) prepared a PowerPoint presentation of its work completed to-date. [Author’s note: a copy of the PowerPoint was distributed via email, along with these minutes.]
- NDC surveyed interested persons, which as of today had 121 responses.
- The defined downtown district has been modified somewhat to incorporate boundaries discussed at the previous meeting.
- Ms. Burnside and the team have spent a great deal of time reviewing the Village of Fredericktown’s central business district (“CBD”) **existing conditions**. Several focus points have emerged:
  - Streetscape appearances and parking
  - Sidewalks are uneven and not uniform throughout downtown
  - Street and building signage is inconsistent throughout the CBD
  - Trees are not uniformly planted in the downtown
  - Façade appearances:
    - NDC loves the potential offered by Fredericktown’s downtown
    - But the aesthetic styles are inconsistent: some are modern in appearance, others are historic
    - There is a lack of outdoor integration with storefronts (i.e., no outdoor seating), but residents are clearly stating they want outdoor seating
- The **survey responses** received have indicated the following:
  - Responses have come in from Fredericktown stakeholders who are younger than were anticipated.
  - Those who work – but don’t live in – Fredericktown have been much higher than expected
  - Respondents noted they visit downtown roughly 2 – 4 times/week, and are interested in the health of the CBD
  - Changes desired within the downtown include:
    - More storefronts and restaurants
    - More greenery / green spaces
    - More lighting solutions
    - More seating outdoors;
    - Less street parking
- **Design elements** to be planned by the NDC staff include underground utilities (where they make sense and how much they cost to bury); outdoor seating options; uniform sidewalk features; new green spaces and planters; improved signage, including linking the downtown to the bike trail; lighting features; and façade enhancement ideas (restore and polish existing facades versus create a more modern look for the downtown?)
- NDC will help plan for implementation, offering “big picture” suggestions for the overall downtown aesthetics and suggest changes to the three main intersections in the study area: Main Street and Sandusky; College and Mill.

Representative Ruhl asked if the study includes bike racks. Ms. Burnside responded, yes, as there is a definite desire for such items. Judy Divelbiss asked that bike racks be placed nearby destinations, not far down along Main Street, away from where bikers want to walk.

Ms. Celmar asked if there were limits on who could respond to the survey. Ms. Burnside said, no, so long as they have an interest in the downtown, they can respond. Representative Ruhl asked if any Amish-friendly elements had been planned for inclusion in the study. Ms. Burnside noted parking downtown could be reserved for buggies, and so forth. Paula Elliott asked if the study considered waste receptacles – their type and placement. The answer: yes.

Mr. Hobson noted the Foundation's annual meeting would occur on Thursday, November 3 at 7:30pm, with officer selections for President and Treasurer to be made during that meeting; he still needs nominations for the two officer roles. The annual meeting will be held at the Community Room off Mill Street.

Ms. Stout provided the attendees with a financial report for September. She noted the Tourism Committee had no expense activity these past couple months, but that would soon change with new expenses coming this fall. Mr. Hobson noted the Foundation may need to revisit the expense policy as it applies to the Tourism Committee, which is self-funded. (The expense policy requires any expenditure more than \$250 get a vote of approval by the membership). Ms. Stout noted the Foundation still was in its membership drive period for the year, with \$750 in dues deposits made in September. Ms. Stout noted Movers & Shuckers made a sizable contribution to the Foundation.

Ms. Stout turned it over to Ms. Divelbiss for her Tourism Committee business, the latter of whom asked for Foundation approval of \$500, payable on a reimbursement basis, likely across multiple draws, to cover the costs of the Triple Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Saturday, October 8 from 10:30am until 2pm. Mr. Wagner moved, Bruce Snell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hobson noted the ribbon cuttings will begin at Aunt Ruth's Attic (165 North Main), then move to Duffers (39 North Main) and finish at the Brickhouse Emporium (10 South Main) that day. Ms. Divelbiss stated she may have tickets to sell to the Fredericktown Quilt raffle by the ribbon cutting (raffle tickets are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5). The new, commemorative quilt will be raffled at the Christmas Walk (December 3, tentatively scheduled to begin at 3pm).

Mr. Snell stated the Village's Trick-of-Treat night will be Monday, October 31, from 5:30pm to 7pm. He further stated the paving work by ODOT will be completed by the end of October, with some work remaining on South Main Street.

Chief Roger Brown stated the Village's Dumpster Day would be this Saturday, October 8, from 8am to 12 noon. He further noted the quarterly Neighborhood Watch meeting would be Saturday, October 15 from 11am to 12:30pm.

Dan Humphrey stated the Hyatt Road Bridge in Morris Township should be open within the month.

Katie Frazier stated Interchurch is looking forward to its Fall Food Drive on October 29.

Hearing no further business, Mr. Hobson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 am. [Author's note: several attendees stayed afterwards for a local stakeholder session with NDC.]

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffry Harris  
Secretary