

First Suburbs Consortium April 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

NEXT MEETING: May 26, 2021  
Via Zoom

In attendance were:

Willis Serr (Centerville)	Steve Byington (Oakwood)
Teri Davis (Centerville)	Leigh Turben (Oakwood)
Georgeann Godsey (Harrison Twp)	April Franklin (Riverside)
Michael Davis (Moraine)	Yvette Page (Trotwood)
Kathleen Baker (Huber Heights)	Rick Barnhart (West Carrollton)
Richard Shaw (Huber Heights)	Jack Jensen, Executive Director
Bill Lautar (Kettering)	Judy Cook, Chair Emeritus
Bruce Duke, (Kettering & NLC)	Steve Naas, President, County Corp

Willis Serr chaired the meeting, thanking our zoom host.

Minutes were e-mailed to members. Bill Lauter made a motion, seconded by Bruce Duke to approve the minutes – Approved.

Rick Barnhart presented the Treasurer’s report which was accepted on motion made by Steve Byington and seconded by Richard Shaw.

Jack Jensen presented the Financial Review report, approval was deferred until a Committee member could be present.

Steve Naas spoke on the role of County Corp in the community. Trotwood has a Community Improvement Corporation that is similar. Home Connector allows us to acquire foreclosed properties that are a problem and resell them to a developer. We set the standard to which they must renovate the property. We have done 53 homes in Trotwood. We also work in Butler, Hamilton, Clark, Greene, Miami, Preble Montgomery and Warren counties with about 70% of these homes in Montgomery County. We invested \$466,000 in 86 homes for modifications that allow them to stay in their homes. We completed 58 homes in a partnership with Oberer Development near the Riverside/Huber Heights and Dayton intersection. We have two years after a disaster to utilize \$500,000 for improvements to homes with a \$20,000 grant. There are opportunities through the second anniversary of the tornado. Direct anyone you know to be in need to me. There was CARES act money that became available. We worked with \$8.4 million dollars of grant money. We helped households get approval for mortgage loans through consumer credit counseling.

Youth Build – helping young people build a better life for themselves. It is a grant national program through the US Dept of Labor. These young people are at risk of being incarcerated and we are offering another path. We have had the program for eight years. Approximately forty young people a year receive college prep or life skills to help them move forward. We have had 270 students in our eight years. The 8200 volunteer hours these young people commit to in our Communities. They help with landscaping, clean-up, etc.

Bill Lauter asked where the referrals come from. They currently are partnering with Liberty High School to add this curriculum to theirs. We can market to anywhere in Montgomery County. Bruce Duke reminded all that Ann Higgins began this program.

Yvette thanked them for their partnership in Trotwood. Steve recognized that there are families that want to live in these neighborhoods, and by investing in these communities it encourages other homeowners to reinvest.

Update on Dayton Talent Attraction and Retention Program. Bruce reported that they had put together a small committee to reach out to Dayton Development Coalition and from WPAFB as well as the academic community. We are going to gather as much data as possible relative to the notion of attracting and retaining talent for workforce or professional jobs. TIP Strategies is helping us put together a program in September covering what we have learned from this project. Trend analysis on patterns of who have come into your town, who has left, have you done any studies like this. Why are people leaving your community? Programs you have done to address talent in your area. Richard added that they are sending out an overview for your staff to provide this information. We are going to ask each community to submit five photos that highlight their community – with a brief comment on what they are about. We have not decided on the format – virtual, versus In-person. Bruce has spoken to Dr. Stock of UD to work with TIP strategies on this data. Jack reminded everyone that we will need many volunteers for this event.

Jack presented the Revised Budget for the conference. Based on a full conference in Dayton, revenue of \$5,000 from grants from organizations with the total cost being \$11,740. As we move closer to the conference date we will need many more volunteers. The date of the conference is September 15<sup>th</sup> – one day. Georgeann Godsey moved and Yvette Page seconded a motion to approve – approved.

DIVERSITY – What is your community doing?

Oakwood has board members and approximately 100 residents meeting to discuss what they can do to be more welcoming as a community and to look at national issues. It is going to be a community driven event. \*We are going to review a TED TALKS Video – the Danger of a Single Story.

Huber Heights has established a nine- member committee to look at reform to education. Kettering reported that they formed a Board of Community Relations dealing with housing discrimination in 1974. That group has evolved and has sponsored the Martin Luther King breakfast and the Tenant/Landlord activity and recently the Board is doing a community survey as to attitudes, beliefs – what is going on in Kettering as well as putting a statement together on racism in America. Bill stated that their Planning and Development department partners with the Home Ownership group as well as Miami Valley Fair Housing. Bruce said that they have the discretion of disbursing their CDBG dollars themselves. Jacque Fisher helped with the questionnaire.

Trotwood - Yvette reported that Trotwood practices this through their efforts to attract diverse talent in their community.

Bruce praised the efforts made by the religious community in Trotwood and Harrison Township. He asked for additional information from Trotwood on their recruiting efforts. How do we work together “better”.

Jack thanked Centerville for hosting our meeting. Our next meeting is May 26<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your input on the conference. Jack asked Bill and Bruce to share their study so that it could be distributed to the group.

Bruce Duke moved to adjourn, Bill Lauter seconded – approved.

Executive Committee meeting on May 5th at 4:30, the first Wednesday of the month.

NEXT MEETING: May 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

Approved: May 26, 2021