

First Suburbs Consortium Meeting May 24, 2023 Minutes

May 24, 2023

Hosted by the Harrison Township

In attendance

REPRESENTATIVES

Georgeann Godsey (Harrison Twp.)

Danielle Bradley (Harrison Twp.)

Willis Serr (Centerville)

J. Tim Gorman (Clayton)

Leigh Turben (Oakwood)

Norbert Klopsch (Oakwood)

April Franklin (Riverside)

Yvette Page (Trotwood)

Jacque Fisher (Kettering)

Matt Greeson (Kettering)

Brenda Fry (Riverside)

OTHER

Jack Jensen – FSC Executive Director

Judy Cook – Chair Emeritus

Kris McKlintick – Harrison Township

Yvette Page opened the meeting.

Next meeting June 28th at the City of Moraine.

Kris McKlintick, Administrator of Harrison Township, gave a summary of actions and plans currently being implemented by the Township. We adopted a strategic plan identifying our priorities. Ken Jarosik is our Communications Manager. He now runs Facebook and focusing on positive image in the media. We also added new events in the Township. We now have a Shred It Event, Community Clean-up, Blood Drive, Touch a Truck, Community Garage Sale, and Ribbon Cuttings. We have refined our program for Demolitions, property nuisance program, mowing – Community Meetings. We have updated the Land Use Plan as well as revising our zoning code. All these things were done to improve our image.

Due to lack of a quorum – no business was conducted.

There followed a discussion on the retreat and the future direction and priorities of First Suburbs.

Last year we held a conference on Work Force Development and wanted to see if it becomes a collaborative effort for the community.

The sum answer is that we need a strategic plan. Why are we meeting and what is our real purpose? We capture programs and topics that are relevant, but we do not have a unity of purpose as to why we are here. Workforce Recruitment was our focus which we presented to the Dayton Development Coalition. What is our mission? One of the most important aspects is the collaborative portion.

We do not have the staff to do this ourselves. As officers and elected officials change each year, we need to consider how this would affect a strategic plan. Would we contract with an association manager, how would we fund that? What is the role and mission of First Suburbs?

Our members do not invest a lot of time, so if a manager or director is needed, should we be asking our members to contribute more financially? Cleveland has a paid person, at about \$30,000, paid by the membership. Could we hear from her? This could also fall on the President and the volunteers while hiring an administrative person to assist the President.

First Suburbs falls under the umbrella of the National League of Cities. At the NLC level, first suburbs recognizing that the central cities were needed the federal government to help fund them. Legislators seeing suburbs as being rich – thus we needed to break this mindset. Infrastructure, how do you keep property up; demographics; schools and regionalism were the issues.

What is the mission of Mayors and Managers? We start with a good dinner, an opportunity to meet other Mayors/Managers. We may contribute monetarily to OML. It is an educational group, a speaker on both local and state wide topics. The networking and relationship building. Locally, the relationship with WPAFB.

There was a spontaneous response from communities coming to the aide of those hit by the tornado. As a result, we signed mutual aid agreements with surrounding communities.

Duplicating what Mayors and Managers may not be the priority – but what we can do as First Suburbs and there is no one else in the community that can meet that.

Is it talks, initiatives – what is deliverable? Are communities in this group going to be transparent in bringing everything to this group?

In the beginning we thought we would be a voice to the County or State government, addressing issues that we had in common. We were successful until the State Government Fund was cut. At that point we had common issues of money. It was one of our initial concerns. We met with Cincinnati and Cleveland, putting on lobby days, taking our issues to the legislature. This was a common issue that everyone had.

A common purpose for us through National League of Cities. To do that effectively we would have to hire someone that represented us to the legislature.

Would the executive committee consider a ZOOM with Cleveland to learn what they are focusing on? At that point the Executive Committee could present a plan to the group. How do we prioritize? I agree that commercial revitalization needs to be included. Civic partnerships where we share ways we can partner with our communities.

Do we need to do a SWAT analysis? Do we need to look at the National story?

Jefferson Township

Meetings have to have a purpose. Mission first.

Time of day? Lunch vs Dinner? Location of meeting? Do members have full time jobs elsewhere?

Vision – focusing on an area of the national trends and how we can do better.

Realistically – each community establishes their priorities. Why are members not coming?

To summarize what has come out of this discussion. We like the lead strategies and need to attack them one at a time. A separate committee from the executive committee to focus on the vision.

What did I bring back to my community? Sometimes it was something significant, you may not use this information at a later time. We always try to get somebody on a topic of interest to as many as possible.

Riverside reminded everyone about the construction in their community.

Oakwood announced there are considering a traffic circle to improve the flow of traffic at a major intersection..

City of Clayton is 25 years young.

Last Saturday Judy Cook celebrated her 90th birthday.

Jack shared that we would publish our Record Retention policy on our website.
STAR Ohio has earned us about 5% on our money.

Tim Gorman moved to adjourn – motion seconded and approved.

Approved: June 28, 2023