

First Suburbs Consortium Meeting November 29, 2023 Minutes

November 29, 2023

Hosted by the City of West Carrollton

In attendance

REPRESENTATIVES

J. Tim Gorman (Clayton)
Steve Byington (Oakwood)
Anita Kitchen (Huber Heights)
Yvette Page (Trotwood)
Norbert Klopsch (Oakwood)
Georgeann Godsey (Harrison Twp.)
Jacque Fisher (Kettering)
Leigh Turben (Oakwood)
Dale Berry (Washington Twp.)
Tyna Brown (Trotwood)

OTHER

**Jessica Jenkins – Director Human Services
Planning & Development**
**Geraldine Pegues, Asst. County
Administrator – Human Services**
**Jenny Lesniak, Program Coordinator
County Human Services**
**Tawana Jones – Director Montg. Cty.
and Economic Development**
Jack Jensen – FSC Executive Director
Judy Cook – Chair Emeritus
**Jessica Jenkins – Director Human Planning,
Montgomery County**
Jack Jensen – FSC Executive Director
Brad Townsend – West Carrollton

Yvette Page opened the meeting

Brad Townsend, West Carrollton City Manager, gave a presentation on the future plans for their River Project. This will be a \$75 million dollar investment by private investors. The City will be investing in a White Water park. We have been working on this for 16 years.

Jessica Jenkins gave a presentation on Homelessness and Affordable Housing in Dayton. It is currently taking 56 days to find rental housing, the goal is 30. Homelessness exists throughout our County. We have two congregant shelters one at St. Vincent for families and Gettysburg for men. There is an imbalance of income to the housing available in our community. They may have shelter but it does not have plumbing or proper space. About 46% of households earn less than \$30,000 which means they are spending more than they should for housing (Ideally 30% of their income, not 70%). The Housing Advisory Board is one of the tools used to provide this information. Tax credits come from the State – this is helping sustain our goal of affordable housing. Where do we see investment in affordable housing? The Home program is a federal program with several in Kettering and in Trotwood.

Once they create a case, they have the ability to refer them to support services. We also use case conferences to help those struggling with losing their housing in an effort to assure they do not come back into the system. We will search for the housing that best suits the client. The best tool is to prevent them from losing their housing. In 2021 we started a federal program to help them stay in their homes.

Strategic planning – We will be suggesting some modifications to our by-laws. We discussed the programming – what do we want to be. Do we meet and share ideas or do we want to focus on advocacy. Perhaps going to Columbus and focusing on what is happening in Columbus. Each community is different and what is a priority for one may not be for another. Can we find topics that are important enough to the group as a whole that we are willing to contribute the time to provide advocacy. We plan to meet before Christmas and report back in January. This group provides a level of networking that we do not have in Mayors and Managers.

Nominating committee reported that we have Anita as Chair Person, Brenda as Vice, Georgeann as Secretary and Tina as At Large. We need to secure someone to do the Treasurer's position. This could be our first point of business in January.

We have several people leaving the Executive Committee because they became Mayor's. Congratulations to Yvette and Rick. Some people are leaving due to retirement. Thank you Dale, thank you to April, Richard Shaw and Bruce Duke.

Clayton announced that Jack Kuntz will be leaving and is taking a position as City Manager with Brookville.

No business was conducted due to lack of a quorum.

All were reminded of Dale Berry's retirement event on December 5th and Bruce Duke's on December 12th.

Next meeting: City of Trotwood, January 24th. It is important for us to have a quorum.

A motion was made by J. Tim Gorman to adjourn – approved.

Approved: January 24, 2024