

**Regular Meeting #6 - 2015**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**February 10, 2015**

**Review**

The Commissioners met at 9:03 a.m. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, Staci Knisley, Jason Dolin, Todd McCullough, Jeff Porter, Jeff Barron, Ray Stemen, Ron Osgood, Jon Kochis, Dennis Keller, Rhonda Myers, and Joseph Sidon.

**Meeting with Joseph Sidon, Interview for ADAMH Board appointment**

The Commissioners met at 9:04 a.m. with Rhonda Myers with ADAMH and Joseph Sidon. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, Staci Knisley, Jason Dolin, Todd McCullough, Jeff Porter, Jeff Barron, Ray Stemen, Ron Osgood, Jon Kochis, Dennis Keller, Rhonda Myers, and Joseph Sidon.

Ms. Myers introduced Joseph Sidon and stated that Marian Reitano's term is expiring. Ms. Reitano recommended Mr. Sidon to be appointed to the ADAMH Board. Ms. Reitano is a colleague of Mr. Sidon. Ms. Myers stated that the Executive Committee of the ADAMH Board reviewed Mr. Sidon's application. They recommend Mr. Sidon.

Commissioner Davis stated that Ms. Reitano's recommendation is meaningful. He asked Mr. Sidon to tell the Board about himself.

Mr. Sidon stated that he likes to help people and organizations. He is the Chairman of the Board for the Salvation Army in Columbus. He is involved in building and rehabilitation projects for the Salvation Army. He is a realtor. He is a former District Manager for Big Bear with 32 years of service with the company. For about half of the time in his career he served as District Manager. He has a strong business background, and he is a veteran. He has 2 children and 4 grandchildren, and his wife is a retired teacher.

Commissioner Kiger stated that the ADAMH Board meetings are held once a month. Additional committee meetings are more frequent. Mr. Sidon indicated he would be able to serve and understood the time commitment.

Commissioner Davis stated that he appreciated Mr. Sidon's visit. He stated that the Board of Commissioners likes to have conversations with appointees before making the appointment. Further, Commissioner Davis stated that he appreciated Mr. Sidon's willingness to serve and thanked him for serving our country.

Commissioner Kiger also thanked Mr. Sidon for his service and told him to call any of the Commissioners or Ms. Brown with any questions that may arise.

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Ms. Brown indicated a resolution for Mr. Sidon's appointment to the ADAMH Board has been prepared and is ready for the voting agenda.

**Review**

The Commissioners met at 9:10 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, Staci Knisley, Todd McCullough, Jeff Porter, Jeff Barron, Ray Stemen, Ron Osgood, Jon Kochis, and Dennis Keller.

- **Legal Update**

Commissioner Davis stated that he talked with Jeff Fix recently. In conversation, discussions among leadership in the City of Pickerington and Violet Township arose. The discussions related to negotiations surrounding a proposed annexation. The Board of Commissioners has not received the annexation proposal nor specific details about agreements, but it is thought that there are agreements in progress. For example, Violet Township has approved their agreement and Pickerington has had two readings at Council. Commissioner Davis indicated he wanted to be helpful regarding any agreements or aspects to review relating to the Board of Commissioners and the county.

Mr. Dolin stated that he made changes to a proposed agreement and forwarded the draft to Jeremiah Upp, County Engineer, who will be reviewing the agreement and will provide his input and feedback prior to the agreement being before the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Dolin went on to report that he met with Law Director Randall Ullom to discuss the cemetery at the Clarence E. Miller (CEM) property, following up on various administrative meetings. Mr. Ullom, Dennis Keller, Toby Shamblin, and he will continue to follow up to discuss the transfer of the property. Mr. Keller stated that the survey has been completed, and Mr. Dolin stated one question that remains is who will bear the costs of maintaining the road. He will be in touch with the County Engineer.

- **Administration and Budget Updates/Carri's List**

- A. Highlights of Resolutions for the Voting Agenda**

Ms. Brown provided highlights of resolutions presented for approval.

There are multiple financial resolutions (including appropriations for EMA grant funds, the repayment of an advance for the Victims Advocate related grant, account to account transfers of appropriations for the AIMS related fund, the reimbursement of indirect

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costs from Water and Sewer enterprise funds, and a draw for the Port Authority allocation). The traditional bill list approvals are proposed, as well.

There is a memo of understanding to approve related to IV-E services provided by JFS for Juvenile Court. This memo of understanding is reflective of a good partnership between the two departments. JFS will be providing case management, claims processing, and eligibility determination services for what is known as IV-E youth. These services are eligible for federal funds, if certain criteria are met.

In addition, JFS proposes the approval of a network placement contract for Child Protective Services.

There is an environmental review record to approve for a CDBG project.

The County Engineer, based on communication from the Rushcreek Township Trustees, is requesting permission to close a portion of Avalon Road in order for the trustees to properly maintain the road.

Finally, as a follow up to today's meeting the appointment of Mr. Sidon to the ADAMH Board is proposed for approval.

**B. Administrative Approvals**

Ms. Brown reported that the review packet contains a summary of administrative approvals for the week. There were no questions about the administrative approvals.

**C. Public Safety Facility and Financing Update**

Ms. Brown reported that while the bidding process cannot move forward just yet, the financial timelines associated with the bonds are still manageable. We have been in touch with the architect about design plans and will have an update shortly.

Ms. Brown reported that the current jail annex lease is to expire on September 14, 2015. We can renew the lease for 2 years if we provide the state of Ohio notice 120 days prior to the lease expiration. The cost is negotiable at that time. There is an early termination clause where we are to give written notice 120 days prior to the expected termination. We have marked our calendars for April 2015 to provide the notice about the 2 year extension.

Mr. Dolin recommended that the State of Ohio be notified a little ahead of the 120 schedule because the team that administrated the original lease is no longer there.

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Ms. Brown will notify the State of Ohio sooner than the 120 days.

Commissioner Davis stated that today there are 189 inmates in Fairfield County custody. Although the amount of inmates seems low, the county will still need space while the new jail is constructed.

Ms. Brown stated that the costs of the lease are negotiable.

**D. Roundtable – February 12 – BOC Hearing Room, 8:30 am**

Ms. Brown reported that the review packet contains a draft agenda for the Roundtable. A reminder for attendance will be sent this afternoon by email. She asked if there were any additions from the Board, and there were none.

Ms. Brown stated that a regular Commission meeting will be scheduled at 10 am following the Roundtable.

Commissioner Davis stated that he will attend the roundtable but will not be able to attend the voting session of the regular meeting.

**Meeting with Art Brate, Larry Fink, and Dave Fey regarding the Sensory Trail**

The Commissioners met at 9:24 a.m. to discuss land owned by the Board of Commissioners for future projects involving the Sensory Trail. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, Staci Knisley, Todd McCullough, Jeff Barron, Ray Stemen, Ron Osgood, Jon Kochis, Dennis Keller, David Uhl, Art Brate, Larry Fink, and Dave Fey.

Mr. Brate, a member of the Friends of the Sensory Trail reviewed their plan (see attachments) with the Board of Commissioners. The Friends of the Sensory Trail is a 501(c)3 organization. The Marten's Trust fund allowed for the latest Sensory Trail project, the wheelchair swing set.

Mr. Brate stated that the next project is to build a covered bridge or relocate one over Fetter's Run and then to extend the bike trail to the east to Countryside Drive at Fairfield Inn. If the bridge is built on county property near the Agricultural Center, there would also be a wetland and boardwalk built. The wetland would be about 1 1/12 acres. The Ohio Wetland Foundation granted \$20,000 for this project. The construction of the wetland is to be donated time by a construction company.

Mr. Brate stated that discussions with the Fairfield County Fair Board regarding donating the covered bridge on their property are happening. The Fair Board is concerned with who will be maintaining and preserving the bridge if approved. The

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Friends of Sensory Trail would like to partner with Historical Parks to maintain and preserve the bridge.

Commissioner Davis asked how the Board of Commissioners could be helpful to the project.

David Fey with Historical Parks reported that his employee, Larry Fink put together a plan and drawing of the future Sensory Trail project thinking about the potential of a future park.

Mr. Fey stated that it is difficult to maintain a covered bridge unless the Historical Parks takes ownership. The Fair Board bridge needs restored. They have also talked with the Fair Board and let them know that they are interested in ownership.

Mr. Fey asked the Board of Commissioners for consideration to transfer approximately 60 acres of county land to Historical Parks for the Sensory Trail project and a park.

Mr. Fey stated that the Historical Parks plan for a wetland is much larger than 1-2 acres. They are proposing a larger wetland and another entrance off of Granville Pike, possibly leading into property owned by Dr. Hood.

Mr. Brate stated that conversations with Dr. Hood regarding an easement have been discussed. Dr. Hood is willing to work something out and even asked why the trail couldn't be extended further.

Larry Fink with Historical Parks reported that there are still lots of Engineering issues and legal issues but the can be worked through.

Mr. Fey stated that are numerous proposed accesses to the wetland area including behind the Agricultural Center.

Mr. Brate stated that the Sensory Trail has been great for outdoor education. There will be so many opportunities for the surrounding schools if the project is expanded.

Mr. Fey reported that there are realistically 3 phases of the project. Phase 1 is expanding South of the tree line if Fairfield County ownership is transferred. Phase 2 is agreements with Dr. Hood regarding easements on his property. Phase 3 would be agreements with the developer or owner.

Commissioner Davis asked what the timeline would be for the Commissioners to make a decision.

Mr. Fink stated that 6 months would be a reasonable timeline for the decision.

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Commissioner Davis stated that the Commission is involved with various projects right now. He likes the concept of the projects but will hand over to Ms. Brown and Facilities Director Dennis Keller and other administrators for additional discussion. They will review and take a forward look of what property is owned and what property might be needed in the future.

Commissioner Levacy stated that the covered bridge at the fairgrounds needs care and attention. He thinks the project is a great concept.

Commissioner Kiger stated that the project was also a great concept. He would like to see more ducks in a row, or a verbal commitment from other property owners about easements and transfers.

Ms. Brown reported that with a previous grant application, Dr. Hood had provided a letter of support and an indication he was willing to work with the project leadership about an easement.

Mr. Fey stated that there were no problems with easements. The larger tract owned by Dr. Hood will need additional discussions. If Phase 1 is approved, the wetland project could move forward.

Ms. Brown reported that Dr. Hood is interested. He sent a letter stating to contact his attorney for further discussion.

Ms. Brown reported that there is already a draft indemnification agreement for the Construction Company to build the wetland. This would be helpful if the construction is to occur on county owned property.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Board wants to be helpful but is trying to insulate taxpayers from exposures by defining risks. He looks favorably on the concept. His reservation is only to give staff opportunities to review future utilization of county owned property.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Board will make a decision in less than 6 months about the property. Commissioner Davis stated that if it were able to allow the project to start, the Board will cooperate.

Mr. Fink stated on behalf of the Historical Parks District that it was not a good idea to start the construction of the wetland until ownership has been transferred.

Mr. Brate stated that if the Historical Parks District takes ownership of the land, they will commit to volunteer and help with the Sensory Trail. The Friends of the Sensory Trail are a voluntary group. Partnering with the Historical Parks District will be helpful for future grants.

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Commissioner Davis summarized the next steps. He wants everyone to leave with strong sense of the Commissioners being helpful. In the short term, the decision will be made on the transfer of ownership after staff reviews proposal. Also, the Board of Commissioners would like a follow-up meeting soon regarding the construction of the wetlands. The Board needs to know if the construction is planned prior to any transfer of ownership, while that matter is under discussion. In other words, if the wetland construction must begin sooner rather than later, that is something that must be known.

Mr. Fey stated that the Fair Board will meet soon regarding transfer of ownership of the covered bridge.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Board of Commissioners would be glad to have discussions with the Fair Board if needed.

**Commissioners' Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 beginning at 10:06 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Mike Kiger, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Staci Knisley, Christina Foster, Branden Meyer, Holly Mattei, Aundrea Cordle, Todd McCullough, Jeff Baird, Jeremy Grant, Dan Neely, Ursula Laveck, Kristi Burre, Corey Clarke, Jeff Barron, Bob Clark, David Uhl, Jon Kochis, Jason Dolin, and Jeff Porter.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Davis asked everyone to rise as able, and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements**

Commissioner Davis asked Ms. Knisley if there were any announcements.

Ms. Knisley reported that there were no announcements.

**Public Comments**

Commissioner Davis asked if anyone from the public who would like to speak or offer comments.

**Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, February 3, 2015, Regular Meeting**

On the motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for Tuesday, February 3, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Dave Levacy, and Steve Davis

**Approval of ADAMH Board resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following ADAMH Board resolutions:

2015-02.10.a                      A resolution to approve the appointment of Mr. Joseph Sidon to the ADAMH Board [ADAMH Board]

*Discussion: Commissioner Davis stated that he appreciated meeting Joseph Sidon in person. He comes highly recommended from Marian Reitano. Commissioner Davis stated that Ms. Reitano's personality is infectious and her recommendation is appreciated.*

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

**Approval of Auditor-Finance Office resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Auditor-Finance Office resolutions:

2015-02.10.b                      A resolution to approve fund balance and cash adjustment for a fund to fund transfer made in 2014 from fund 5046 – Utilities Water Operations fund-Utilities [Auditor- Finance]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

**Approval of Commissioners' Office resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' Office resolutions:

2015-02.10.c                      A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category – Fund# 1001, General Fund [Commissioners]

2015-02.10.d                      A resolution to approve the Environmental Review Record (ERR) for FY2014 CDBG Program [Commissioners]

2015-02.10.e                      A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category – AIMS Capital Project fund# 3815 [Commissioners]



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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

**Approval of Economic Development office resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Economic Development office resolutions:

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2015-02.10.f | A resolution authorizing a draw against the 2015 approved allocation – Fairfield County Economic Development/Port Authority [Economic Development] |
|--------------|--|

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

**Approval of Emergency Management Agency resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Emergency Management Agency resolutions:

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2015-02.10.g | A resolution to amend the certificate, update receipt line item & request for appropriations for receipts for EMA fund 2735 (subfund 8072) State Homeland Security Grant FY14 [EMA] |
|--------------|---|

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

**Approval of Engineer's Office resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Engineer's office resolutions:

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|--------------|--|
| 2015-02.10.h | A resolution to allow the Board of Rushcreek Township Trustees to close a portion of Avalon Road. [Engineer] |
|--------------|--|

*Discussion: Deputy Engineer Jeff Baird stated that 200-300 feet of the road has been flooded for about 2 months. It is a solid sheet of ice. Rushcreek Township has put emergency closed signs up that are being removed by people. This is a safety issue. The road will be officially closed by the Engineer's office until the water and ice are off of road. Commissioner Kiger stated that there should be no disruption with school busses. They are already aware of the informal closing and have used alternate routes.*

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

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**Approval of Job and Family Services resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Job and Family Services resolutions:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2015-02.10.i | A resolution regarding a contract between Fairfield County Juvenile Court and Job and Family Services, Child Protective Services Department [JFS] |
| 2015-02.10.j | A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Family Based Services, Child Protective Services Department [JFS] |

*Discussion: Ms. Cordle stated that the Juvenile Court contract is to assist with IV-E case management. This was discussed in the 2014 budget hearing with JFS. Commissioner Davis stated that he appreciated JFS directors being here for questions.*

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

**Approval of Prosecutor's office resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Prosecutor's office resolutions:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2015-02.10.k | A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer from VOCA Fund#2784 Sub-Fund 8016 to the General Fund# 1001 & appropriate from unappropriated into a major expenditure category for transfers – VOCA Fund#8016 [Prosecutor] |
|--------------|--|

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

**Approval of Utilities Office resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Utilities Office resolutions:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2015-02.10.l | A resolution to approve a reimbursement for share of costs as a memo expenditure for fund# 5044 & 5046 - Utilities [Utilities] |
|--------------|--|

*Discussion: Ms. Brown reported that the reimbursement is for the indirect costs documented within Maximus report and offset by the market rate of rent, as provided in the supporting documentation connected with the resolution. The reimbursement is from the Water and Sewer enterprise funds.*

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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

**Approval of Payment of Bills resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following payment of bills resolutions:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2015-02.10.m | A resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval [Commissioners]  |
| 2015-02.10.n | A resolution to approve the payment of a vouchers without appropriate carry-over purchase orders for all Departments that are approved by the Commissioners [Auditor- Finance] |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

Ms. Knisley announced that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

**Recess**

Commissioner Davis stated at 10:18 a.m. that the Commission would take a short recess.

**Employee Oaths**

The Board of met at 10:20 a.m. to swear in their employees that are codified by the ohio revised code to have oaths. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, Staci Knisley, Christina Foster, Branden Meyer, Holly Mattei, Aundrea Cordle, Todd McCullough, Jeff Baird, Jeremy Grant, Dan Neely, Ursula Laveck, Kristi Burre, Corey Clarke, Jeff Barron, Bob Clark, David Uhl, Jon Kochis, Jason Dolin, Jeff Porter, Ron Osgood, Ray Stemen, Christine Noland, Craig Spiller, and Christine Manning.

Ms. Brown reported that we now have an opportunity to recognize the work of county executives appointed by the Board of Commissioners. We appreciate the dedication of the leadership. Further, we recently received legal advice that indicated that the County Administrator, JFS Director and JFS Deputy Directors, the Clerk for the Commissioners, and The Dog Warden and Deputies should take an oath for their service. In addition, all EMA staff is to take a specific oath for emergency management professionals. We scheduled a time for the oaths today, with a make-up date on April 7. In the future, we will have the oaths taken during the reorganizational meeting. The oaths were provided to staff, and the oaths are filed with the Commissioners' Office.

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**Recess**

Commissioner Davis stated at 10:28 a.m. that the Commission would take a short recess. He thanked everyone for coming.

**Review continued**

The Commissioners met at 10:40 a.m. to continue review of pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, Staci Knisley, Aundrea Cordle, Jon Slater, Ray Stemen, Dennis Keller, Bob Clark, Jeff Barron, and Jon Kochis.

Commissioner Davis stated that having the employee oaths was a neat moment.

Commissioner Davis reiterated that he is not opposed to the Sensory Trail project. He just wants to make sure the board has all of the information. Emergency Management Agency Director Jon Kochis added that they had a mitigation project that helps with the flash flooding in the area.

**Old Business**

Ms. Brown reported that Bill Bradish with Palmer Energy who is an energy consultant with the CCAO partnership has the RFP ready for energy providers. The RFP ends on February 19<sup>th</sup>. We will soon schedule an appointment with the Commissioners for next steps to review the results of the RFP. Mr. Keller reported that the energy contracts will expire in March and that the RFP comes at exactly the right time.

**New Business**

Commissioner Davis stated that there was no new business to discuss.

**General Correspondence Received**

- a. *Thank you letter from Gerald Stebelton*
- b. *Letter from ODJFS regarding Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*  
*Ms. Brown reported that JFS is the lead agency for Workforce and for the Second Chance Act. Ms. Cordle reported that WIOA is an acronym that we will be hearing more often. There is new legislation expected.*

**Calendar Review/Invitations Received**

Commissioner Davis reviewed the following invitations:

- a. 2015 Baltimore State of Village Address – Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>  
(Breakfast @ 8:00 a.m., Address @ 9:00 a.m.) – Location @ Liberty Union High School

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*No Commissioner is able to attend.*

- b. Central Business District Stakeholder meeting – Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., location at the Lanc City Council Chambers

*Auditor Jon Slater reported that the Central Business District appears to be an affiliation with the City of Lancaster. Other downtown organizations include the Special Improvement District (SID). The SID meets quarterly and contracts with Destination Downtown Lancaster (DDL).*

*Bob Clark reported that the purpose of the meeting is to alleviate parking requirements.*

*Mr. Slater also reported that Lancaster Alive and Sherman Rotary also advocate for downtown.*

*Dennis Keller will attend the meeting.*

- c. 2015 State of the Pickerington Schools Address & Celebration of Excellence Expo – Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, starts at 6:00 p.m., address at 7:00 p.m. – Location at Pickerington High School North

*Bob Clark will try to attend the address.*

- d. 2015 State of the City Address – Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m., location is at Olivedale Senior Center

*Commissioner Levacy, Davis, and Kiger will attend. Also Ms. Brown will be attending.*

- e. “Meth in Fairfield County” training/lunch and learn – Friday, March 13 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., location is at the Liberty Center

*Commissioner Levacy will attend.*

- f. Meals on Wheels March for Meals Campaign – March 16-20, 9:00 a.m. – noon

*Commissioner Davis & Kiger will attend if their schedule has no conflicts. Ms. Knisley will contact Meals on Wheels.*

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- FYI

Commissioner Davis stated that the following were for informational purposes:

- a. Type II Expedited Annexation received 2.9.15 – 7.389 Acres to the Village of Thurston from Walnut Township (emailed RPC, Engineer, and GIS for comments – if everything is in line, it will be on for approval at Thursday's Feb 12<sup>th</sup> meeting; if not, we can place it on the regular agenda when things are corrected)
- b. Governors Awards Selection Committee – Barbara Hunzicker of Lancaster won the Arts Patron Award – We have a nice note for Ms. Hunzicker.
- c. 2014 Law Enforcement Trust Fund (LETf) report from Sheriff Phalen
- d. 2014 Annual Report for Law Director & City Prosecutor from Law Director Randall T. Ullom
- e. Letter from Ohio Development Services Agency regarding Monitoring report for FY12 CHIP grants
- f. Criminal Justice Update (in Newsletter Folder)

- Issues Bin

Commissioner Davis reported that there were no "issues bin" matters to discuss. The Sensory Trail project will be added.

- Open Items

Commissioner Davis asked if there were any open items to discuss.

Ray Stemen, a member of the public, stated that there is a massive push on the national scene for the Common Core. Mr. Stemen went on to explain his observations of the bill proposed at the federal level. He stated it is not a conservative bill although Republicans are voting for it. He is against putting a child in a category before they start school because this does not give a teacher a chance to help them. He stated that this bill sets it up the country for "Agenda 21". He urged everyone to contact their Senators and Representatives to oppose the Common Core push because it is, in his opinion, a step to communism in how young people will have fewer choices about what they will do with their lives. He has seen a lot of young people be very successful when people thought they would not be successful.

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**Adjournment**

With no further business, on the motion of Mike Kiger and a second of Dave Levacy the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn 11:01 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Dave Levacy, and Steve Davis

The next regular meeting for the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

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Motion by: *Dave Levacy* Seconded by: *Mike Kiger*

that the February 10, 2015, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: *Levacy, Kiger, Davis* NAYS: None

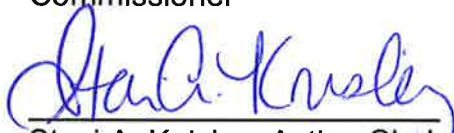
ABSTENTIONS: None

\*Approved on February 12, 2015

  
Steven A. Davis  
Commissioner

  
Dave Levacy  
Commissioner

  
Mike Kiger  
Commissioner

  
Staci A. Knisley, Acting Clerk

# Lancaster Sensory Trail

Lancaster, Ohio



Wheelchair Accessible Tree House



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Tree House

Trail



Stations

### **Project Vision:**

We have long known that individuals with disabilities learn differently than others, but research in the last several years now documents that nature and outdoor sensory stimulation and learning holds a valuable key to development. To enhance the lives of individuals with developmental and physical disabilities in our community the construction of a Sensory Trail was proposed. This Sensory Trail contains outdoor, hands-on nature stations that would stimulate all five (5) senses: hearing, vision, touch, taste, and smell.



**Musical Instruments**

### **Project Description:**

The Lancaster Sensory Trail is located on the west side of Fetter's Run in Lancaster, OH, between Forest Rose School and the offices of Fairfield County DD. The sensory spur of the trail has already extended the bike/hike trail designated at College Avenue by 866 feet, and serves 100,000 individuals each year, according to the city of Lancaster. The trail can and will serve all populations, but is designed to specifically include and engage the 1,000+ individuals with various disabilities throughout Fairfield County. The trail will also directly serve children enrolled in day care at OU-Lancaster, OU-Lancaster students and faculty, Lancaster High School students, faculty, sports teams, DD Administrative offices, Agricultural Service Center offices, the Inn at Fairfield Village residents, and the general populace of Fairfield and our neighboring counties. It is the only sensory trail of its kind in the state of Ohio, and is in an ideal location to further connect with other statewide biking trails in the future. It will be a draw for tourism to Fairfield County and the city of Lancaster.

### **Project History:**

A committee was formed in 2007, including representatives from numerous local organizations that envisioned the implementation of the Lancaster Sensory Trail in four phases:

- Phase I – Streamside Trail with Sensory Stations
- Phase II– ADA Accessible Tree House
- Phase III – Wheelchair Accessible Swing Set
- Phase IV – Covered Bridge Connecting Sensory Trail, Tree House and Wetland Boardwalk

This project extends the existing biking/walking trail along Feters Run and the adjoining property for approximately one mile. The following features and facilities have been implemented through Phases I, II, & III:

- Pull off stations or areas designed to stimulate an individual's senses through the use of a variety of colors, textures, scents, and sounds. Flowers, small trees, vines, and shrubs can all contribute to the sensory palette along the walkway.
- To enhance the hearing, vision, and touch senses, six (6) large, permanently mounted outdoor musical instruments have been installed. These six (6) instruments are custom designed and wheel-chair accessible. They include all necessary tethered mallets to allow them to be played at any time that the students and public are on site.
- A Rough Bark Tactile Display was constructed by the Baltimore Lions Club. Six different species of tree logs are displayed with Braille interpretive signage.
- Feters Run presents trail users with a number of opportunities to stimulate their senses. The mere presence of a natural water feature can have a soothing effect and invites folks to sit and enjoy the sounds and look of the stream. Temperatures will be cooler under the tree canopy and light will be less harsh. These opportunities can be enhanced by the construction of benches, an accessible ramp to the edge of Feters Run, placement of rocks or a small dam to create splashing water, signs (including Braille) to identify various tree and plant species.
- A wheelchair accessible swing set along with additional bucket swings and typical swings has been installed so children requiring a wheelchair can participate along with their peers.
- The topography of the project area lends itself to the design and construction of a facility that will both delight and inspire users of the trail. Along the trail, an elevated wheelchair accessible tree house was constructed. The tree house is fully accessible from the trail and provides a wide range of sensory opportunities for visitors. They feel an almost constant breeze; hear the rustling of leaves and birds singing along with enjoying the smells of the forest. Additionally, the tree house serves as the focal point for the use of this trail area as an environmental learning center with interactive sensory equipment. The tree house was constructed next to the trail in order to not detract from or interfere with the general use of the trail.



Location Map....Lancaster, Ohio



Site Map





**Signage**

The wetland area is owned and maintained by Fairfield County.

Other ideas for continued maintenance include local church groups, fundraising such as 5K runs, bike races, and possible foundation (in memory of an individual with a disability) that would go toward the trail maintenance.

Ohio University-Lancaster is a committed partner and has agreed to assist in the trail maintenance that requires heavy equipment.

For more information contact members of the Sensory Trail Executive Committee:

- Perry Orndorff, Executive Committee (740-497-8982) [pmonds1@frontier.com](mailto:pmonds1@frontier.com)

- Art Brate, P.E., Executive Committee (740) 862-4821 [habrater@gmail.com](mailto:habrater@gmail.com)

- Gaynor Pfeffer, Fairfield County Board of DD (740) 652-7220) [gpfeffer@fairfielddd.com](mailto:gpfeffer@fairfielddd.com)

-Jodi Blais, Fairfield County Board of DD (740-652-7225) [jblais@fairfielddd.com](mailto:jblais@fairfielddd.com)



**Paved Trail**

- Recycled content benches and trash receptacles have been donated and are on site, donated by the Fairfield County Commissioners, Solid Waste District, and the Lancaster Fairfield County Litter Prevention and Recycling Program.

The following features and stations will be added in Phase IV:

- An authentic covered bridge based on an 1800's design will provide access from the trail to the Wetland and Boardwalk. This bridge provides safe handicap accessible access away from vehicular traffic. The bridge could also offer an observation deck for the riparian corridor. The bridge has been designed and construction is planned for the near future.
- The natural areas along the trail extension will provide numerous opportunities for viewing a variety of wildlife species. Habitats include the stream corridor, the CRP wildlife planting, grasslands, and the upland forest. Viewing habitats can be enhanced by the addition of bird houses and feeding stations, selection and planting of desired wildlife food plants, and construction of accessible viewing platforms. Walking through the various plant materials in the different habitats with the chance to see some wildlife will stimulate interest and awareness. As the trail winds into the woodland area, tree species can be identified and trail users can experience the various textures associated with bark, leaves, and the leaf litter on the forest floor. Plans have been developed for a two acre constructed wetland along the trail with a handicap accessible boardwalk.
- The trail will also be extended north to the assisted living facility so that the residents will have access to the sensory trail.
- Educational materials will be developed that will be appropriate for all grade levels and learning capabilities. A trail map will be developed, as will an interpretive guide, a teacher's workbook of activities, and a stewardship activities guide that will be suitable for people of all ages.

### **Project Administration:**

The Friends of the Lancaster Sensory Trail Committee is the local sponsor and the Fairfield County Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) who serves as the fiscal agent for this project.

### **Project Leadership:**

The Trail Executive Committee, public and private partners and contributors are committed to making this project successful.

### **Trail Executive Committee:**

- *Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities - John Bosser, Jodi Blais, Gaynor Pfeiffer*
- *Fairfield County Resident, Art Brate*
- *Fairfield County Resident- Perry Orndorff*
- *Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living - Pam Patula*
- *Lowe's Home Improvement-Lancaster – Gwen Haywood-Seifert*

### **Public Partners:**

- *Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities*
- *Fairfield County Commissioners*
- *Natural Resources Conservation Service*
- *Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District*
- *Ohio Division of Forestry*
- *Fairfield Heritage Trail Association*
- *Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living*
- *City of Lancaster Parks and Recreation*
- *Ohio University-Lancaster Campus*
- *Fairfield-Eastland Career and Technical School*

### **Private Partners & Contributors:**

- *Run for the Rose*
- *Jerry Nauman*
- *Froebe! Study Group*
- *Lones Excavating Service*
- *The Shelly Company*
- *Spiles Paving*
- *Wildernuth Foundation*
- *Knights of Columbus*
- *Right on Excavating*
- *American Arborist*
- *Dan Needs*
- *Lowe's*
- *Keller Farms*
- *Andy Seals, Seals Construction*
- *CrabbyFatGuy.com*
- *Seed Center*
- *Fat Willie's Pizza*
- *Sally Grimm*
- *TimberTech*
- *Martens Charitable Trust*

*Listed below are estimated costs for the completion of Phase IV of this project;*

| Estimated Cost  |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Bridge (engineering, material, installation),.....</i> | <i>\$100,000 – \$150,000</i>        |
| <i>Wetland Construction.....</i>                          | <i>\$ 15,000 - \$ 20,000</i>        |
| <i>Boardwalk and Connecting Trail.....</i>                | <i>\$60,000 – \$ 75,000</i>         |
| <i>Total Estimated Cost of Phase IV.....</i>              | <i><u>\$175,000 – \$245,000</u></i> |



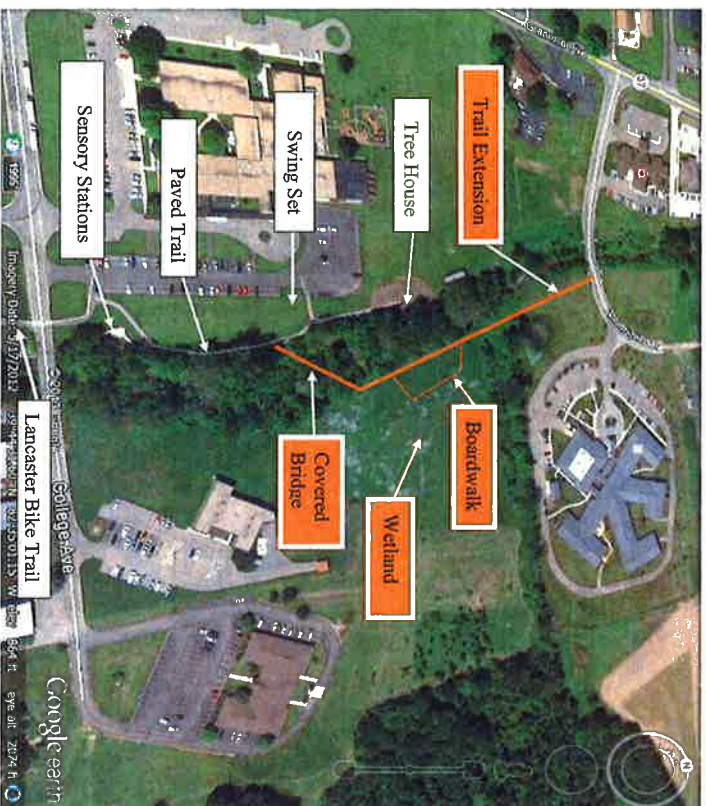
**Proposed Covered Bridge**

***Inclusive of all items and the opportunity to dedicate the covered bridge and/or wetland in the name of the sponsor.***

### **Project Maintenance:**

**The City of Lancaster Parks and Recreation Department has agreed to maintain the paved portion of the trail.**

The Fairfield Board of Developmental Disabilities is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance associated with the tree house, bridge and swing set.



### Features of the Lancaster Sensory Trail

Shown above are some of the features of the Sensory Trail. The features shown in white are currently in place.

The features shown in brown are planned. Designs and construction drawings are complete for these and construction is planned as funds become available.

### Community Support:

Local Support for the Sensory Trail has been outstanding. Phase I began with volunteers gathering for a clean-up day, local contractors donating time and equipment, and the actual paving of the trail. Many private businesses and individuals have been involved working to complete Phase I over a 14 month period. The table below illustrates sources of funding for Phase I.

| Sensory Trail Supporter  | Dollar Amount | Source of Funding                                   |
|--|---------------|---|
| Private Grant Funding to Project                                 | \$ 22,000     | Fairfield Foundation                                |
| Direct Local Funds Committed to Project                          | \$ 37,610     | 2008 & 2009 5K Run for the Rose & Private donations |
| Value of In-Kind Resources Committed to Project (through 4/2009) | \$ 51,010     | Volunteer time and professional services donated    |
| Total Phase I Project Support                                    | \$110,620     |   |

The table below illustrates sources of funding and approximate amounts contributed for Phase II.

| <b>Sensory Trail Supporter</b>  | <b>Dollar Amount</b> | <b>Source of Funding</b>                         |
|---|----------------------|--|
| <b>Private Donations from Community Members to Project</b>              | <b>\$ 20,000</b>     | Jerry Nauman<br>Sally Grimm                      |
| <b>Direct Local Funds Committed to Project</b>                          | <b>\$ 35,000</b>     | 2010 & 2011 5K Run for the Rose                  |
| <b>Value of In-Kind Resources Committed to Project (through 4/2009)</b> | <b>\$ 75,000</b>     | Volunteer time and professional services donated |
| <b>Total Phase II Project Support</b>                                   | <b>\$130,000</b>     |  |

**Funding for the Phase III wheelchair accessible swing set was made possible by a \$30,000 grant from the Martens Charitable Trust.**



**Wheelchair Accessible Swing Set**

### **Funding Potential:**

This project has the potential to serve as an attraction for many visitors, to provide many senior citizens with a safe place to exercise and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature, to offer citizens of Lancaster an additional mile of biking/walking and to serve as an outdoor classroom. While all of these uses are certainly important to the community and folks who live in Lancaster, those benefits pale in comparison to the potential impact of the project on the individuals with developmental and/or physical disabilities.





#### Coded Notes

- A Henry Hood Parcel #0533008400, 22.15 Acres
- B Fairfield County Parcel #0533829500, 25.00 Acres
- C The 3S and JBD Co. Parcel #0533008609, 13.00 Acres
- D New Park Entrance from Granville Pike
- E Extension of Bike Trail to Countryside Drive
- F Rolyer Covered Bridge Relocated from Fairgrounds
- G Wetland Boardwalk
- H Wildlife Viewing Blind
- I New Wetland, (6) Acres
- J Existing Detention Basin, Convert to Wetland, (10) Acres
- K Existing Woodland, (13) Acres
- L Enhance Existing Farm Field to Wildlife Habitat, (28) Acres
- M New Parking Area. (20) spaces with (4) ADA Accessible Spaces
- N Granville Pike
- O College Avenue
- P Countryside Drive
- Q Existing Sensory Trail
- R Forest Rose Training Center
- S Fairfield County Soil and Water District
- T Trail System
- U The Inn at Fairfield Village
- V DD Administration



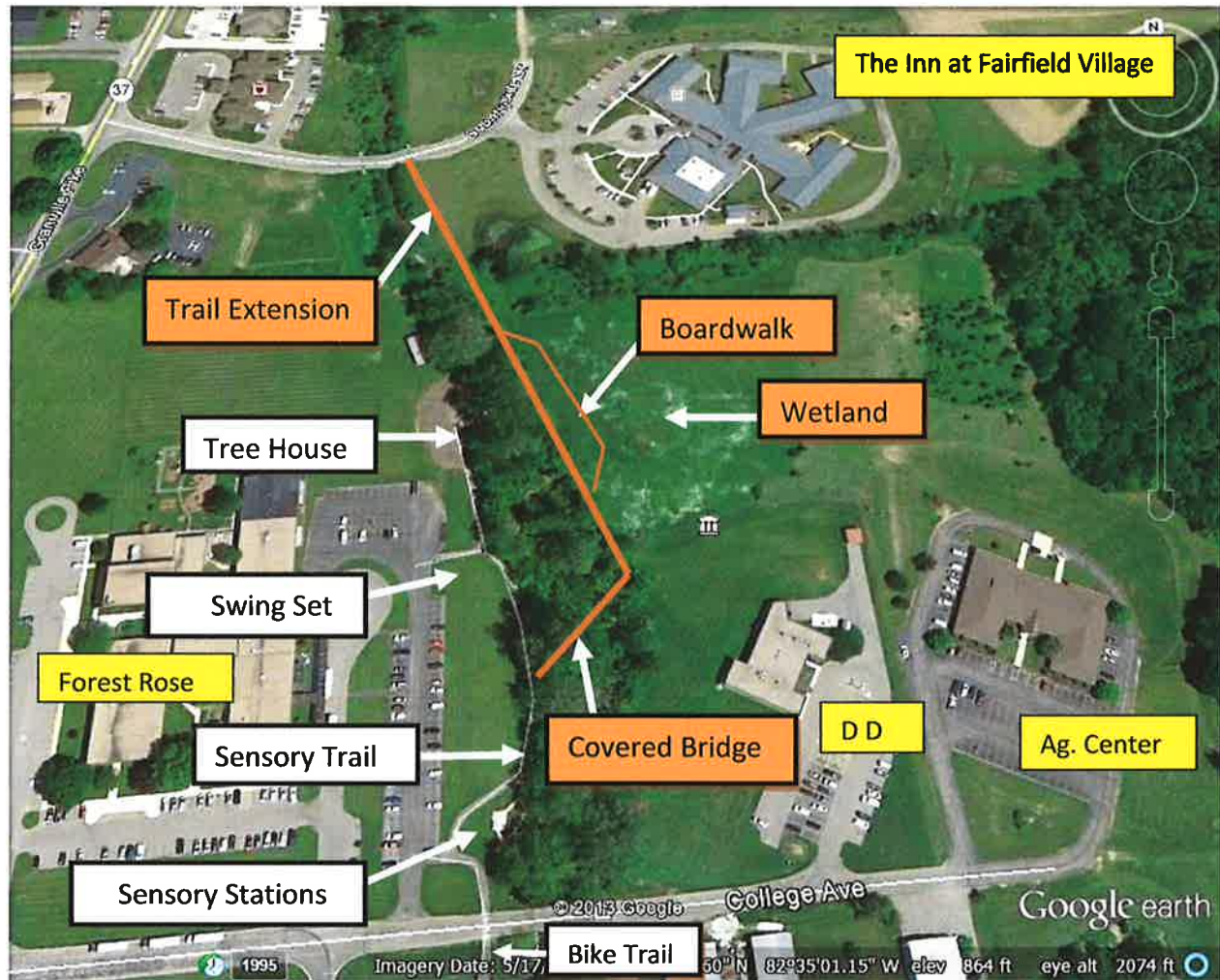
#### Master Development Plan Sensory Trail Wildlife Area

Fairfield County Historical Parks  
407 East Main Street, Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
740-681-7249 fax 740-681-4719 email: [info@fairfieldhistoricalparks.org](mailto:info@fairfieldhistoricalparks.org)

February 10, 2015







**Map showing the existing Lancaster Sensory Trail in white and the planned new features in brown.**

