



Lake County Coastal Plan Committee Minutes

April 29, 2009

The Lake County Coastal Plan Committee hereby finds and determines that all formal actions were taken in an open meeting of the Lake County Coastal Plan Committee and that all the deliberations of the Planning Commission and its committees, if any, which resulted in formal actions, were taken in meetings open to the public in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Lake County Planning Commission conference room in Painesville.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present: Messrs. Allen, Cain, Cardina, Hilston, Rising, Webster, Welch, Zeitz and Messes. Brennan and Keneven-Zanella. Staff present: Mr. Boyd, and Ms. Myers.

Mr. Boyd welcomed Michael Scruggs and introduced Jim Cardina of the Fairport Harbor Port Authority as a new member of the Committee.

MINUTES

Mr. Welch moved to accept the minutes from the November 19, 2008 meeting as submitted and Mr. Hilston seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

OLD BUSINESS

Technical staff from ODNR, Jim Park and Amanda Wenczel, attended our last meeting in Madison on November 9, 2008 after touring some of the public beaches and parks in Lake County with Dan Donaldson of the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District and Jason Boyd. ODNR will be producing a coastal design manual with the goal of easing the permitting process for those who design coastal erosion control structures, which should be out this summer. Coastal Management Grants were applied for by the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District to produce brochures for this purpose for private landowners.

NEW BUSINESS

2009 NOAA Stimulus Application

Although this Committee has not met since November, John Loftus of the Port Authority, Jason Boyd and multiple communities have targeted and worked in an initial phase of grant proposals for NOAA stimulus funds asking for \$20 million for projects in Lake County. Though there was no request for match money, we applied using the \$1.25 million from the 2009 State Capital Budget Bill and some money that Madison Township has for Stanton Park and Madison Township Park as a match hoping to be more competitive in our request. The four projects chosen for the stimulus are in Eastlake, Mentor and Mentor Harbor, Perry Township, and Madison Townships. These communities have been asked to sit tight on their state grant applications until we hear on the Stimulus application. We should know if we will be awarded the funds in mid-May. As soon as Jason hears from NOAA, he will inform the members of this Committee.

2009 State Capital Funds Update

The coastal projects included in the second State Capital Bill were for Eastlake, Mentor, Mentor Harbor, Perry Township and Madison Township.

The \$1.25 million State funds awarded last years have not yet been allocated to the communities and there was concern on how these funds would be directed and distributed. Jason

described this process as starting through State Representatives Fende and Schindel and State Senator Grendell. The dollars are directed to ODNR for disbursement to the four communities. ODNR requires the community to fill out a grant application for the project to be done. Jason stated that a meeting was held with officials from the four communities to discuss this process and request the projects be in accordance with the Coastal Plan.

CMAG Funding

A CMAG application was filed for a Stanton Park (Madison) Master Plan for the amount of \$20,000. The Township is looking for a public/private sponsorship for this venture to develop Stanton Park to make it a more destination oriented place, i.e., rental cottages, and a new community center and/or a resort area. Rabbit Run Theater has shown some interest. Madison Township intends for this to remain a public park. They are moving ahead with an RFQ for interested developers and engineers and expect letters of intent by next week. They are looking for the public sector to do the waterside improvements in order to create a beach area.

Community Updates

Perry Township – Mark Welch - They are still waiting for the State Capital Budget dollars.

Ward Creek – Bob Zeitz – There is an opportunity for land acquisition of a piece of property consisting of approximately 1 1/3 acres on both sides of Ward Creek.

Willowick – Mark Rising – The Planning Commission is working on improving the zoning to have some control over what happens in the area between Larimar and Shoregate. A couple more meetings and this should be resolved. Jason Boyd added that they have a unique situation with vacant parcels, cottages, single-family homes and towers and would like to create more flexible zoning in order to capitalize more on the lake and define a unified pattern.

Eastlake Port Authority – Mark Cain – The project they have been working on with Chagrin River Watershed Partners for the last four years seems to be coming together. To follow up on what Bob Zeitz said, he believes the horse property is also for sale on Ward Creek. The Port Authority has been working on a joint venture on the boat launch area in Eastlake. The City of Willoughby has committed to work with them and there is also a possibility of a lease agreement with the City of Eastlake.

Anchor Island is trying to divert back to its original course. These changes are actually starting to erode North Island. To correct this situation, additional funding above the already awarded CMAG dollars will be needed. It was suggested approaching people with local City-based businesses who would have an interest in and would benefit from buying into the needed improvements to preserve these islands and possibly turn it into a good will project.

Fairport Harbor – Tom Hilston – The Village discovered (in today's News-Herald) the Corps of Engineers will be performing approximately \$990,000 worth of work for dredging and breakwall issues in the harbor. This funding was not pursued by the Village, but is welcomed and they have also pursued funding through the Corps for sand accretion on the west side of the breakwall outside the harbor entrance. The Corps may have congressional funds available to combine their water system with the County and Perry.

The American Wind Symphony Orchestra will be coming to the harbor to do a concert the weekend before the Mardi Gras, on June 24, 25, and 26 at no charge to the Village. The Village applied for two arts grants and only received \$5,800 from one. Mr. Robert Boudreau graciously extended the orchestra's services for free. Fairport will need many volunteers to help with this project. They may ask for a \$10 donation.

The Grantham property, a parcel of about 10 acres on the Grand River, is for sale. There is a problem with fly ash fill containing minute arsenic particles. Also, the VFW is looking to sell its property.

N. Perry Village – Harry Allen, at Mayor Ed Klco’s request, extended an invitation to the members of this Committee to stop by and see their coastal project as it progresses. They should start setting the stones next week.

Lake County Port Authority – Harry Allen – The Port Authority has been deluged with private property owners who are upset because of the elevated lake levels. There seems to be a huge interest in putting in barrier islands. It was suggested that they partner together and address the problem as one unit. Jason Boyd said there is a pending request with ODNR for a grant to put a landowner guide together on basic engineering and who to contact.

The Port Authority has a new member, Jim Brown. It would be advantageous to get the Port Authority, Fairport Harbor leadership and local developers in one accord with the coastal planning in Fairport Harbor.

Eastlake City – Angela Keneven-Zanella - They are near the conclusion of finalizing their Comprehensive Plan. It has been given to their Planning Commission and Zoning Commission for review and, hopefully, will be voted on within six weeks. This was a wonderful opportunity to focus on the waterfront in Eastlake, which had not previously been appropriately recognized. This project brought the Port Authority and City together as allies. She expressed thanks to Jason Boyd and Amy Brennan and CRWP for their assistance with the plan. She hopes to be able to see some of the initiatives come to fruition in her lifetime. The plan should help to get everyone on the same page. Jason Boyd said there is still a lot of work to do yet on the zoning side of the plan, but it is moving.

Chagrin River Watershed Partners – Amy Brennan – They were able to do some work through an Ohio Balanced Growth grant and, together with the Eastlake community, worked on barriers and designating some priority development and conservation areas. The accomplished work will provide a good vehicle to start additional planning in the watershed and a means to get funds in the future. The Chagrin River Balance Growth scope also included areas outside of the Chagrin River Watershed boundaries in the City of Eastlake and extended into Mentor. The State of Ohio seems very receptive.

Painesville Township Resident – Darrell Webster – He presented the suggestion that the same program that Balanced Growth did for the Chagrin River could be done for the Grand River regionally through Geauga County and Ashtabula County. He said the Ashtabula Planning Director, Al Dispenza is interested in this idea. A lot of the communities in the Grand River Basin do not have appropriate zoning. There is a lot of agricultural land involved. It would be a good regional initiative and possibly could receive Stimulus dollars or Balanced Growth funds to do a plan. Amy Brennan said she would be willing to talk to them about what they did in the Chagrin River Balanced Growth process as well as other places to help them get started. Grand River Partners will be having a meeting the 18th of May at Grand River Cellars. Donations are welcome as they are having problems financially like most other nonprofits.

Jason Boyd said he was planning to get two or three people together to speak at a meeting next month. He would like to ask Bob Amjad to give an update on Hemisphere; Melinda Huntley to speak on coastal tourism and how we can weave it into our initiative here, and also invite John Loftus to talk on Washington D.C. and Columbus financing. We will consider inviting all Lake County Development Council members to attend if Dave Gilmer presents us with names and emails. Tom Hilston offered the use of Fairport’s Senior Center for the meeting and Mark Welch suggested the Perry Township Community Center as a consideration.

NEXT MEETING: Tentatively set for the end of May, depending on the speakers’ availability.

Mark Welch moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. and Amy Brennan seconded the motion.

All voted “Aye”.