



Lake County Board of Commissioners

CONTACT: Jason Boyd, Administrator Jason.Boyd@lakecountyohio.gov

105 Main Street Painesville, OH 44077 (440) 350-2334

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: AUGUST 30, 2012

COMMISSIONERS ANNOUNCE CONSOLIDATION

The Lake County Board of Commissioners announced today the formation of a new body that will consolidate the offices of the former Planning Commission and Federal Grants departments to create greater efficiency and recognition of its mission within the community it serves.

The Board executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Planning Commission to work cooperatively in a transition that aims to ensure that the community witnesses no interruption in services on either the planning or the federal grant programs.

The newly established **Lake County Office of Planning and Community Development (PCD)** will retain the current staff which includes Interim Director David Radachy. Radachy formerly served as Senior Planner and has been with the county for 15 years.

Established in 1956, the 11-member Planning Commission will continue to provide oversight of the office's processing of subdivision plats for the unincorporated areas of the county and issuance of recommendations on township zoning amendments and district changes. The current officers of the Commission include Geraldine Hausch (Chair), Randy Zondag (Vice Chair) and Russell Schaedlich (Secretary).

The OPCD staff will provide support to the Planning Commission and will continue to offer proactive planning, zoning and land use consultation to local communities, citizens and businesses. These services will compliment the programs offered by the various state and federal grant initiatives that will be administered in the Office. These grant programs, including HOME, CDBG and NSP, are often tied to demographics, growth patterns and community infrastructure, topics that the current planning staff routinely addresses.

The Commissioners also appointed a new Community Development Block Grant manager, Rhea Benton, slated to begin September 4, to fill the vacancy that resulted from the recent move of former Planning Commission Director and CDBG Administrator Jason Boyd to the position of County Administrator on August 6. Benton previously spent seven years in the Geauga County Community and Economic Development Department.

The Office of Planning and Community Development can be reached at 440.350.2740 or pcd@lakecountyohio.org

Thank you for your attention.