

Second Public Meeting

Fairfield Beach

FY2016 Community Development Block Grant

Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP)

Location - Millersport Fire Department – Fairfield Beach Station

April 21, 2016 7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Doug Leith Chairman of the Walnut Township Trustees welcomed everyone in attendance. Doug introduced the facilitators for the meeting Holy Mattei, Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission Director and James Mako Planner also from Regional Planning.

Mr. Mako led the meeting.

The NRP Program is being administered on behalf of the Fairfield County Commissioners and is funded by the State of Ohio. Application deadline is June 17, 2016.

This grant is very competitive and we are going against many other communities throughout the State.

The input of the community is very important and that is why we have encouraged those in attendance to come and give us your input and suggestions on what types of projects should be applied for.

This year, for the first year, the amount that can be applied for is \$500,000; this is up from \$300,000 in previous years. Projects that can be applied for are capital improvement projects only. Examples are new construction, from brick and mortar structures to road resurfacing, sidewalks, drainage systems playgrounds and the like. Projects that are not eligible would be general government services and maintenance of facilities.

Mr. Mako and Ms. Mattei recently attended a workshop training session on applying for this grant and were told just how important community involvement is to the success of acquiring this grant. Mr. Mako reiterated that this is why we are here, to gather everyone's input and opinions on what we will eventually apply for.

Mr. Mako stated that the surveys that were handed out door to door by the township and several community volunteers have been collected. 637 surveys were passed out with 97 being returned. 81 of those were filled out per the instructions and would be able to be scored. Those score results were not shared with those in attendance at this meeting but would be at the third public meeting.

Ms. Mattei explained that some of the projects that have been discussed such as the "community center" and "street lighting" may not eventually be placed on the submitted project list since they

would be too costly to fund one, and secondly the on-going future maintenance cost would be greater than what Walnut Township would be able set aside for the proper upkeep and operational cost of these projects.

Andrew Young, resident expressed the need for activities for teens in the community.

An additional project idea was to illuminate the basketball courts at the "Fairfield Beach Park".

A considerable amount of discussion took place around the rehab of the Property Owner's Club house to use as a Community Center. There are significant roadblocks that do not allow this to be made a part of this Grant application. One, actual ownership is in question. The Clubhouse was built for use by all Fairfield Beach Property owners circa 1926 (it was stated). It is not clear, as no document is available to establish this ownership. Two, the cost to rehab, would probably take more than what is available in the grant.

There was a group exercise where the eight previously identified projects [1) Emergency Shelter 2) Lighting at Street Intersections 3) Parking Lot at the "Fairfield Beach Park" 4) Walking path around the "park" 5) Maple Road Drainage 6) Community Center 7) Street Paving 8) Sidewalk on Lakeshore Drive] plus a sheet marked "Additional Projects", were each separately listed on eight large "Post-it" sheets. Each person in attendance was given self adhesive dots with numbers 1-8 written on them. If someone wanted to add a project they could by placing their numbered dot on the Additional Projects sheet with a description of the project they wanted to add. Those in attendance then placed their dots according to their preference. It was also noted that even though it was discussed that two projects were not likely candidates due to the first cost and future maintenance cost that folks should still feel free to score these projects according to their preference. If the final tally shows these to score high, future efforts could be directed to try and meet these needs.

The next step will be to tally the group exercise and the surveys and present the results at the third Public Meeting. The group decided to hold the third meeting Thursday, May 19th at 7:00 PM at the Fairfield Beach Station of the Millersport Fire Department.

There were 29 total people in attendance including the presenters and five persons who did not sign the attendance sheet.



Recorded By: Walnut Township Trustee, Terry W. Horn