

COPLEY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

January 11, 2018

Date: January 11, 2018 6:00 pm

Place: Copley Town Hall

Attendees:

John Duncan

Kevin Fallon

Helen Humphrys

Sylvia Chinn-Levy

Steve Panzner

Joe Saporito

Lynn Slaby

Matt Springer

Jessica Vargo

Open

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Lynn Slaby. New board member Jessica Vargo was welcomed. Ms. Vargo was appointed by the Copley Township Board of Trustees to replace Paul Hummel.

Meeting Certification

Matt Springer placed the meeting notice in the West Side Leader and the Akron Beacon Journal and on the main entrance door of Copley Town Hall.

Minutes – November 9, 2017

The meeting minutes of November 9, 2017 were approved as presented.

Motion by Steve Panzner, second by Sylvia Chinn-Levy; the motion carried.

Strategic Plan Presentation – Dr. Paul Levy, Ph.D. University of Akron

Dr. Levy received his Ph.D. in I/O psychology from Virginia Tech in 1989. His research interests include performance appraisal, feedback, motivation, and organizational justice.

SOAR is a planning strategy that addresses **S**trengths, **O**pportunities, **A**spirations, & **R**esults. Dr. Levy was invited to facilitate the SOAR exercise for the development of a strategic plan for the CIC. Dr. Levy asked all to list Copley's strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results.

STRENGTHS

What could you build on?

Diversity in income and housing and population; schools including student diversity and private schools; geographic location between Akron and Cleveland (rural and suburban); history-long and evolving, economics-debt-free, planning succession; shopping, sense of community pride, public services, open spaces, good relations with neighboring communities.

Proudest achievements?

Better Block event, Copley Community Park, collaborations with neighbors (Bath, Barberton and Norton), housing, forward looking community, progress at steady pace, stable reliable land acquisition, township staff thoughtful and creative; land acquisition program.

What can we build on?

CIC – diversity in credentials of board with diverse opinions; skills/experience to navigate space; ability to enhance infrastructure and technology; maintain look and character; work with Summit County Land Bank.

COPLEY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

January 11, 2018

OPPORTUNITIES

Advance a sense of place, recreation -connect old with the new with bike paths, trails; infrastructure; loans & financing to small businesses; federal grants; extend sewer & water with monies already available with the township; advance economic development skills and knowledge; roads and traffic; bond issue capability; Copley Circle; leadership in many of these options; set vision; coordinate CIC activities with the land use plan.

ASPIRATIONS

Attract new business into empty storefronts; Economic Development planners – CIC role; change to Copley Circle; develop identity of our interconnected community; improve working relationships with neighbors re: infrastructure; need continuing reliable funding source to get projects off the ground; Limited Home Rule government structure would have own engineer; recognize the CIC as a viable entity; make Copley Circle a destination; housing destination; “Let’s go to Copley Circle”; great parks/trail- ways/bike connections; bikeable township connectivity; make a nice gateway; improve infrastructure; market Copley-branding-identity.

RESULTS

Increase property values; physical and visual design in roads; fewer empty storefronts; removing blight reliably and consistently; improved bond ratings; managed controlled sustainable population growth; increased residential density in Copley Square; public approval of CIC; favorable view of Copley government; community engagement; increased volunteerism.

Everyone picked three from each category they felt was important. Results below.

STRENGTHS

- Diversity – income, housing, ethnicity, geography/location
- Schools
- Economics – government debt free with plentiful growth

OPPORTUNITIES

- Revitalize Copley Circle
- Set vision for community
- Connecting community through trails/sidewalks/paths

ASPIRATIONS

- Change to Copley Circle
- Connecting great park to other community assets through trails, sidewalks and paths
- Make a “nice” gateway
- Improve infrastructure
- Market Copley – branding identity

RESULTS

- Increased property value(s)
- Community engagement increases
- New businesses
- Removing blight reliably and consistently

Next step – develop a strategic plan.

Appreciation and thanks to Dr. Levy for the excellent exercise.

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January 11, 2018

OLD BUSINESS

Matt Springer reminded everyone:

- to send in their resumes for tax filing purposes
- read and sign the Conflict of Interest Policy form
- confirm their name spellings for name plates
- Open House is January 25 at 5:00 p.m.
- next meeting: February 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

With no further business to come before the board, Mr. Slaby called for a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion by Jessica Vargo, second by Steve Panzner; the motion carried.

Approved By:

Submitted By:

Mr. Lynn Slaby, President

Mrs. Susan Bishop, Secretary