

COPLEY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

April 19, 2018

Date: April 19, 2018 6:00 pm

Place: Copley Town Hall

Attendees:

Susan Bishop

John Duncan

Kevin Fallon

Helen Humphrys

Sylvia Chinn-Levy

Janice Marshall

Steve Panzner

Joe Saporito

Lynn Slaby

Matt Springer

Jessica Vargo

Open

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Secretary Sue Bishop. Chairman Lynn Slaby would arrive later. Vice-chair Nancy Roesner was absent.

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 – January 11, 2018

The meeting minutes of March 15, 2018 were corrected on line 50 of page 8 to include U.S. when referring to EPA and a correction on line 2 of page 9 to include Ohio when referring to EPA. Motion by Janice Marshall, second by Jessica Vargo; the motion carried.

New Business

Strategic Plan

Matt Springer presented the draft strategic plan outline that he along with Sylvia Chin Levy, Steve Panzner and Nancy Roesner drafted in committee. Each board member had received the outline and submitted edits. The board then agreed to the below outline and the committee will meet again to continue working on the strategic plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY The Copley Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) has prepared a Strategic Plan (the “Plan”) in order to fulfill its mission to advance, encourage and promote industrial, economic, commercial, and civic development. The Plan was developed with Copley’s greatest assets in mind: its residents and the businesses that support them. Guided by the opinions of those who responded to a community survey, the Plan identifies existing community assets while recognizing challenges that have hindered progress. It considers current economic development needs and identifies the steps needed to capitalize on important Township assets. The Plan describes community and economic development opportunities and proposes ways to continue this momentum.

This Strategic Plan provides a snapshot of present conditions in Copley Township, describes the results of a community survey and the formation of the Copley CIC, and outlines the goals and objectives that will guide the activities of the CIC from 2019 to 2024. Township Identity, Community Improvement, and Quality of Life are concepts that frame the following goals identified for the CIC:

1. Project a clear and positive identity of Copley Township.
2. Provide conditions which lead to economic resiliency.

COPLEY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

April 19, 2018

3. Strengthen the quality of life for those who live, work, and play within Copley Township.

PURPOSE The Copley Improvement Corporation (CIC) is formed for the purpose of advancing, encouraging, and promoting the industrial, economic, commercial, and civic development of Copley Township.

STRATEGIC PLAN -- GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Copley CIC presents the following framework for its focus and activities over the next five years.

- **IDENTITY:** Project a clear and positive identity of Copley Township.
- **COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT:** Provide conditions which lead to economic resiliency.
- **QUALITY OF LIFE:** Strengthen the quality of life for those who live, work, and play within Copley Township.

IDENTITY Copley Township's population and geography are diverse. People are often confused as to whether they are in Copley or a surrounding community such as the Cities of Fairlawn, Norton, Akron or Bath Township. This confusion is heightened by the fact that the Township is home to four different school districts – Copley/Fairlawn, Revere, Highland and Akron. A clear identity will foster community pride and engagement and create a sense of place by:

GOAL: Project a clear and positive identity of Copley Township.

OBJECTIVE 1: Construct gateways at strategic township entry points.

OBJECTIVE 2: Identify landmark areas of the township.

OBJECTIVE 3: Provide wayfinding markers that encourage exploration throughout the township.

OBJECTIVE 4: Encourage businesses to identify with Copley Township in their advertising media.

OBJECTIVE 5: Establish a social media presence to effectively communicate with a diverse population.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT The diversity of Copley Township presents the opportunities of myriad housing choices, large as well as quaint retail establishments, and a demographic and cultural population mix that is unique among Ohio's townships. However, challenges present themselves in the forms of an aging housing stock and gaps in public infrastructure. Future community improvements will need to strategically balance the interests of all stakeholders.

GOAL: Provide conditions which lead to economic resiliency.

OBJECTIVE 1: Improve the Township's commercial corridors.

OBJECTIVE 2: Support existing businesses and provide opportunities for growth.

OBJECTIVE 3: Foster opportunities for future development.

OBJECTIVE 4: Develop and implement a strategic approach to the acquisition of land.

OBJECTIVE 5: Create economic development tools which facilitate investment based on sound business principles.

QUALITY OF LIFE A sound approach to development balances economic, cultural, and environmental interests to achieve vibrant communities that meet the needs of a variety of residents, businesses, and institutions. As housing, retail, and development trends evolve, a community must be agile and anticipate future priorities. Providing choices that enhance the quality of life attracts and retains residents and businesses under any economic condition. Forward-thinking communities make adjustments to advance the greater good.

COPLEY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

April 19, 2018

GOAL: Strengthen the quality of life for those who live, work, and play within Copley Township.

OBJECTIVE 1: Improve connectivity throughout the community that considers different modes of transportation

OBJECTIVE 2: Promote access to public and green space

OBJECTIVE 3: Pursue infrastructure improvements that are beneficial to the community.

OBJECTIVE 4: Highlight features of the unique natural and urban environments that contribute to Copley's identity and sense of place

Old Business – Nothing to report.

Report from the Executive Director

Matt Springer reported on the Ohio Basic Economics Continuing Education Course he and Lynn Slaby attended in Columbus last week. Matt said the biggest problem in Ohio right now is workforce development – not enough skilled workers. Lynn Slaby said there is a marked distinction between economic development and community development. When asked, he said economic development has 4 Ps: People, Product, Productivity and Place. Both agreed the course was well worth it and the food was great!

Matt and Janice Marshall invited CIC Board Vice-Chair Nancy Roesner to sit in a meeting with First Energy to gain basic knowledge on burying utilities within the Copley Circle Mixed Use Overlay District.

Janice Marshall has been successful working with the City of Akron on getting water to Druid Hills, the schools, and Copley United Methodist Church. The next project is getting sanitary sewer to the 84 Lumber property on Copley Road and the Schulte accounting firm on Cleveland Massillon Road at Rothrock.

Copley Township received 34 different parcels in the Little Farms area that were purchased through the Summit County Land Bank. More parcels to come and all will go toward the proposed active recreation plan. The parcels will be utilized for storm water mitigation.

Township officials are partnering with Arrowhead Elementary School to celebrate Arbor Day with a tree planting. It is hoped one day that Copley will become a Tree City USA.

Planned for Earth Day weekend is a River Sweep of Pigeon Creek. Copley is teaming up with the Akron Rugby Club at 1763 Wadsworth Road, Saturday, April 21 from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m. Volunteering are the Boy Scouts, Copley High School Lacrosse team, the Rugby Club members, and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Additionally:

- Copley's Bicentennial 2019 Committee meets the fourth Mondays of the month at the town hall.
- Five hundred CopleyOpoly games are on order and 150 have been sold to date.
- Dog Silhouettes are available for businesses to purchase and participate in a decorating contest to promote good will and enthusiasm for the Bicentennial.
- Leandra Drumm has been commissioned to develop designs for two different mugs; one historic and one modern day.
- GIG-met with a consultant to determine if Fairlawn GIG could accommodate Copley
- Storm Water Conservancy-Barberton, Norton and Copley discussing the possibility of utilizing the Southwest Summit COG for the storm water conservancy program

COPLEY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

April 19, 2018

- Met with consulting company regarding Safe Routes to School grant.
- A coffee and games shop will open in the former Buon Appetito Pizza shop.

Next Meeting: May 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

With no further business to come before the board, Mr. Slaby called for a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Motion by Steve Panzner, second by Kevin Fallon; the motion carried.

Approved By:

Submitted By:

Mr. Lynn Slaby, President

Mrs. Susan Bishop, Secretary