



Executive Committee

April 2, 2012
8:30 AM–10:00 AM
Deer Park – Silverton Fire District
7050 Blue Ash Road

Meeting Summary

Attending: Todd Kinskey, Andy Dobson, Catalina Landivar, John Smith, Tom Moeller, Gerri Harbison, Dan Pillow, Amy Bancroft, Mark Weber, Joanne Gerson

1. Schedule for 2012 meetings (monthly executive committee meetings, tentative membership meetings)

Original discussion was to move meeting dates and locations to accommodate ExCom members, especially Dan Pillow (Addyston). Dan does not mind travelling to Silverton for the meetings, so a location change is not necessary. The group decided to move the meetings to the first Mondays of every month so our schedule does not conflict with Planning Partnership meetings

ExCom meeting dates will be:

May 7
June 4
July 9
August 6
September 10
October 1
November 5
December 3

2. Executive Committee Membership

Amy Bancroft, North College Hill councilmember attended today's meeting to find out more about what the ExCom does. She also works as an urban planner for Colerain Township. Tom Moeller has talked with Bill Doering, Amberley Village Council also about attending.

3. Reaching out and better communicating with member communities

The group generally discussed and came up with ideas for keeping in contact with members.

- We need an updated and accurate roster of member communities and contact people

- This roster should be mailed to all member communities, so everyone knows who is involved and how to contact them
- Along with the roster, we should send an updated Census summary of our member communities—total population, basic demographics, etc.
- Andy is going to look into a monthly newsletter or memo that could be sent to members—starting with items of interest that are on the Board of Commissioners agenda each week.
- Member communities could also send information to Andy that they want to share with First Suburbs

4. April 27 Membership Meeting: Session I of the Sustainability Series

Greg LeRoy will be at our April membership meeting to discuss economic development and tax-abatement arrangements that communities offer. The meeting will take place immediately after the Sustainable Communities Workshop. The main question he explores in his research is do these deals with private industry ultimately pay off with job growth and increased tax revenue?

This is a great opportunity for First Suburbs to talk with a national expert, and we should prepare ourselves with questions.

Andy will get another reminder out to members about this upcoming meeting.

5. Potential Membership Meetings

Robin Thomas, a consultant who has been helping establish the Hamilton County Land Bank, came to Todd Kinskey with the idea of a “roll-out” event introducing the land bank, explaining its operations, and opening up discussion about memoranda-of-understanding and other regulatory preparations communities must make to use the land bank. This could be big enough that it needs joint First Suburbs-Planning Partnership involvement. Robin’s involvement with the land bank is winding down, so this event would probably feature staff from the Port Authority (charged with administrating the land bank).

Andy discussed an idea to follow up on shared services summit earlier this year with some focused meetings with the ExCom and membership. T. J. White at Center for Local government is examining some of the popular ideas discussed at the summit and will meet with Andy to develop a proposal for the Executive Committee’s consideration. This could lead to a topic for a future membership meeting.

6. Other business

Joanne Gerson made a presentation about hydraulic fracturing drilling methods (hydrofracking) for natural gas. This is a controversial method for extracting gas deposits that are inaccessible using conventional drilling. Hydrofracking use is accelerating in certain parts

of the country including Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. There are numerous, documented problems with pollution and environmental impacts associated with hydrofracking.

Hydrofracking results in large volumes of wastewater that cannot be treated by conventional sewage plants. An option that is being used is deep-well injection to dispose of the wastewater in sandstone deposits deep underground. Southwestern Ohio and Hamilton County has many of these sandstone deposits and therefore may be the site of a large number of these wastewater injection wells. Many are concerned over the long-term impacts of injecting hydrofracking wastewater underground, including potential pollution of groundwater.

This is a complex issue, with overlapping regulations from the federal down to the local level involved. There are not any proposals for wastewater injection wells in Hamilton County to date, but the concern is our communities could be caught unawares if a drilling company wanted to construct one (public notice requirements are minimal). More study and information on this topic is required, and may be the topic of a joint First Suburbs – Municipal League meeting. John Smith and Mark Weber are interested in continuing to discuss this.

7. Adjourn (10:00 am)