

## **Board of Township Trustees of Anderson Township**

**May 13, 2025**

Township Elected Officials Present: Trustee Dee Stone, Fiscal Officer Brian Johnson

Committee Members Present: Paul Sheckels, Nicole Hunter, Dan O'Rourke, Karl Sieber, Duane Donohoo, Phil Kiley, Matt Chaffin, John Halpin, Elizabeth Maier, Zach Peterson, Susan Wheatley, Jim Willis, Bruce Berno, Peg Fenner, Vicki Beck, Andrea Granieri, Brian Gay

Others Present: Steve Sievers (Asst. Twp. Administrator for Operations), Sarah Donovan (Asst. Dir. of Planning & Zoning), Stephen Springsteen (Planner I), Eli Davies (Planner I), Brody Smith (UC Co-op), Sarah Celenza (Exec. Dir. of Anderson Chamber of Commerce)

Members Absent: Kevin Comerford, Stephen Feagins, Lindsey Griffis, Joe Hice, Jay Lewis, Katie Buchmann, Anne Miller, Karen Schwamberger, Paul Sian, Cindy Sieber

### **4:35pm – Committee Meeting Called to Order**

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

Mrs. Stone called the meeting to order, explaining that since she was the only Trustee present, the meeting would just be a normal committee meeting.

Mr. Davies thanked Mrs. Stone and introduced himself and summarized the goals of the committee and then Township staff introduced themselves.

Mrs. Stone highlighted that Mr. Johnson was also present.

Mr. Davies said that previous feedback was that it may be helpful to have a short time for groups to reconnect, so the first 5 minutes would be used for subgroups to meet.

#### **Meeting Summary & Report Back**

2.3.1 (Maintain, monitor and plan for Township streets and overall road network including sidewalks, trails and bike lanes)

Mr. Davies brought the subgroups back together for the meeting and gave a summary of the status of the sidewalk assessment, saying that Mr. Sievers was working with Mr. Gay and Mrs. Schwamberger on the initiative.

Ms. Donovan added that there were no updates for the trails plan or METRO except that the garage at Vantage had received temporary occupancy and that METRO is testing the bus loop to prepare for service.

Mr. Davies mentioned that METRO is having open houses for their bus rapid transit (BRT) program and explained what bus rapid transit is. Ms. Donovan confirmed that it is focused on other areas of the county.

A question was asked about acquiring right-of-way for trails on Clough in the Turpin Hills area. Ms. Donovan replied that the Township was still in talks with property owners.

A question was asked about where the Anderson Center Park & Ride will be located. Ms. Donovan replied that it will use the bottom parking garage at the Vantage apartment building.

Mr. Chaffin asked whether there was any discussion about a cross-town bus route going up to Avondale. Mr. Kiley replied that there are no plans for a route like that currently.

### 3.2.5 (Promote and support the development of a skilled workforce within the community)

Ms. Donovan gave an update on the business survey, reporting that it was mailed out to businesses in the Township as well as being available online and shared by the Anderson Chamber of Commerce.

A question was asked about how many responses have been received. Ms. Donovan replied that she has not counted the number of responses online but has received about 25 by mail already.

A question was asked about whether any help is needed in promoting the survey. Ms. Donovan replied that sharing the online version would be helpful. Ms. Celenza added that she can send out the survey a second time.

Mr. Halpin mentioned that his group will use the results from the survey to inform FHSD and Great Oaks and other partners of what businesses are looking for in a robust workforce. He mentioned that he would like to see a representative from FHSD and Great Oaks at the Plan Implementation Committee meetings.

### 8.1.3 (Preserve and protect the natural and environmental resources found throughout the community)

Mrs. Wheatley reported that a native plants category has been added to the Anderson Beautification awards, and the Township was already receiving submissions for the category. She also mentioned that the group has selected a Black-Eyed Susan to be the 2025 Native Plant of the Year, and they were interested in writing an article in the Anderson Insights but weren't sure who the contact was for that.

Ms. Donovan replied that it is Nancy Caine, and staff can forward her contact to the group.

Mrs. Wheatley then summarized the Homegrown National Park initiative explaining that the group is working on a kickoff event in the next couple of months. They have contacted businesses and organizations like Native Roots, Burger Farm, and Wolfangel Plants, and that they were on board with the program and Native Roots was available to host the event, but the group was hesitant to give preferential treatment to one business. Mrs. Stone pointed out that Native Roots is a tenant of Township property, so there is a connection.

Mrs. Wheatley asked who to contact to put information on the website for Homegrown National Parks. Ms. Donovan replied that Betty manages the website and Stephen helps with mapping.

A question was asked about where to get seeds for native plants. Mrs. Wheatley replied that the Homegrown National Park Kickoff would have plants available to help people get started.

#### 8.3.1 (Encourage recycling and the safe use of appropriate disposal of solid waste and hazardous materials by all generators in the Township))

Mrs. Beck gave an update on the group's progress with the survey of multi-family residential communities to determine which have recycling available to residents, stating that only a few communities have recycling offered to their residents. She also gave an update on the survey of recycling drop-off center users and that the results are still being analyzed, but many were not Anderson residents.

A question was asked about the timeline for construction of the Operations Center renovations. Ms. Donovan answered that construction would likely begin at the beginning of 2026 since there were still permits which needed to be issued by Hamilton County before construction could begin.

Mr. Sievers provided additional information about the recycling drop-off center and how the revenue for the township is decreasing while costs have roughly doubled since 2018 which makes the center financially unsustainable. He also mentioned that many of the users of the center were either not Anderson residents, or they paid for trash through Rumpke and were not aware they could add recycling at no additional cost.

Mrs. Beck added that the group is also working with Rumpke on a mailer to township residents who are Rumpke customers who do not participate in recycling informing them that they can add recycling at no additional cost. She also mentioned that the group is also working on an article for the Anderson Insights about other recycling organizations in the region like Hamilton County Resource and the Reuse Hub.

#### **Next Steps**

Mr. Davies thanked the groups for their updates and asked if anyone had any remaining questions or comments.

Mr. Chaffin asked if he could work with the METRO group since he is already advocating for a cross-town bus route. Mr. Davies said that would be great.

Mr. Davies reminded members that the next full group committee meeting would be on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 4:30pm.

### **Work Session**

Mr. Davies stated that the remaining time was set aside for groups to discuss their work if they felt the time would be productive for them.