

Anderson Township Implementation Plan Committee

Wednesday September 11, 2024, at 4:30 PM

Members Present: Viki Beck, Michael Doenges Peg Fenner, Brian Gay, Andrea Granieri, John Halpin, Elizabeth Maier, Dan O'Rourke, Karen Schwamberger, Cindy Sieber, Karl Sieber, Susan Wheatley, Jim Willis

Others Present: Vicky Earhart (Township Administrator), Steve Sievers (Assistant Township Administrator for Operations), Paul Drury (Director of Planning and Zoning), Sarah Donovan (Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning), Eli Davies (Planner I), Stephen Springsteen (Planner I), Mallory Clapp (UC Co-op), Shyela Dobbs (Hamilton County Public Health)

Members Absent: Amy Broghamer, Katie Buchmann, Matt Chaffin, Kevin Comerford, Duane Donohoo, Stephen Feagins, Joe Hice, Nicole Hunter, Phil Kiley, Jay Lewis, Anne Miller, Jeff Rosa, Paul Sheckels, Paul Sian

Welcome & Introductions:

- Mr. Drury welcomed members to the meeting and thanked all for taking the time to join staff for the third meeting of the Anderson Township Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee.
- Anderson Township staff and committee members introduced themselves
- Mr. Drury thanked members for their work in their subgroups between meetings.

Meeting Summary:

- Ms. Donovan provided an overview of the meeting summary from 4.24.24 for the group.

Subgroups Report Back:

Brian Gay - 2.3.1- "Maintain, monitor and plan for Township streets and overall road network (including sidewalks, trails and bike lanes)."

- Mr. Gay reported simplifying the committee's name as transportation subgroup, and that the group brainstormed four strategies moving forward:
 - o Finalize an assessment process for sidewalks on township roads.
 - o Financial forecasting for maintenance – postponed due to the complexity of this task.
 - o Look at oversight and recommendations for potential revisions to trails plan schedule - discussing today.
 - o Fostering coordination between Anderson Twp. and METRO.
- Other ideas discussed included improving traffic flow and implementing roundabouts like the Anderson Towne Center roundabout, looking at installing turn lanes on Clough, improving pedestrian safety on Bridges Road in Sherwood, and looking at bike trails and connecting Five Mile Trail to Ohio River Trail.

John Halpin - 3.2.5- “Promote and support the development of a skilled workforce within the community.”

- Mr. Halpin reported that the subgroup is reviewing the efforts of the discontinued Economic Development Committee. Some ideas include using survey data from 2023 to inform goals including bringing skilled labor for Township businesses.
- Mr. Halpin also mentioned interest in reviving connections with FHSD, Great Oaks, and the Anderson Chamber of Commerce such as having a Great Oaks representative and FHSD representative to be involved in the committee.
- A question was asked regarding what kind of workforce the initiatives are focused on.
- Mr. Halpin replied that Great Oaks is focused on vocational programs. One goal is to lay groundwork so Township businesses can use those students as extra resources.
- Ms. Maier added that there is increased focus on workforce development at FHSD.

Susan Wheatley - 8.1.3- “Preserve and protect the natural and environmental resources found throughout the community...”

- Ms. Wheatley reported an initiative to use online mapping to show green corridors around the Township.
 - o Update a map online to show how the trails can be connected. The subgroup is working on refining the map produced by Mr. Springsteen.
- Ms. Wheatley reported an initiative to identify areas of the Township which lack open space to prioritize acquisition/protection efforts – coordinated with greenspace advisory committee.
- Ms. Wheatley suggested fostering “Homegrown National Parks”
 - o Encourage native plants and pollinator gardens on sections of people’s yards.
 - o <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>
- Ms. Wheatley expressed the subgroup’s interest in having a standing liaison between planners and the economic development committee.
 - o A standing liaison could provide increased attention to environmental concerns in the planning process when they might be at odds with economic interests.
- Ms. Wheatley suggested having a category for “native planting,” “organic”, or other similar category to the Anderson Beautification Awards to support yards/gardens which do not spray chemicals and emphasize native plants.
- A question was raised to staff about the definition of “greenspace”
 - o Mr. Drury clarified the difference between Township Greenspace, open space, and HOA maintained open space.
 - o Mr. Sievers added that there is a guide on Greenspace use for the township.
- A question was raised about trails on Greenspace property
 - o Mr. Sievers responded that existing trails on Township Greenspace are maintained, but trails are not added to existing Township Greenspace property.
 - o Ms. Earhart added that there are very specific criteria for what could become Township Greenspace.
- Mr. Gay asked about whether there are policies for invasive species within Greenspace
 - o Mr. Sievers replied that there is no policy on that topic.
- Discussion about the Kellogg/275 gateway as a pollinator garden.
- Mr. Halpin asked if there are plans for communicating the pollinator gardens to residents

- Ms. Wheatley replied that the infrastructure exists due to the existing organization and website, but it needs to be communicated to residents.

Lindsey Griffis - 8.3.1- “Encourage recycling and the safe use of appropriate disposal of solid waste and hazardous materials by all generators in the Township.”

- Ms. Griffis reported that the subgroup’s first task is looking at the recycling center in the context of the Operations Center renovations. The recycling center is highly trafficked based on the subgroup’s meeting at the center, but signage could be better.
 - Examples of improved signage included promoting the recycle and reuse center downtown and signs that there are cameras.
- There are also Issues with orange Rumpke bags being left by dumpsters and not in dumpsters. The subgroup also needs to verify whether Rumpke takes those bags from the recycling center.
- Ms. Griffis reported that education is needed to inform residents that if they have Rumpke trash, they also get Rumpke recycling.
- Mr. Sievers pointed out that the Township is paying more for the recycling center than it receives in residential recycling initiative (RRI) funds from the county.
- Ms. Earhart added that there’s a large amount of business use and use from Clermont County of the recycling center.
- Ms. Griffis mentioned that the paper mill on Roundbottom Rd might accept cardboard/paper boxes.
- A question was raised about how often the center is serviced by Rumpke
- Mr. Sievers replied it is serviced 3 days per week, the maximum Rumpke can accommodate, and it fills up one truck.

Break

Break out session

Brian Gay - 2.3.1- “Maintain, monitor and plan for Township streets and overall road network (including sidewalks, trails and bike lanes).”

- Staff shared a request from a Township resident that also started an online petition for a sidewalk connecting Whitehouse Lane to Johnson Hills Park. Staff also shared the Township’s response and the history of the sidewalk segment. The Township had previously hired a consultant to study the segment. Extensive grading and easements were needed. At the time, adjacent property owners weren’t willing to donate easements.
- The subgroup will continue to review the sidewalk assessment policy to see if it can be refined.
- The subgroup will review the implementation matrix in the Anderson Trails Plan as well as the Clough Corridor Plan.
- The group plans to meet at least once or twice prior to the next larger group meeting in December.

John Halpin - 3.2.5- “Promote and support the development of a skilled workforce within the community.”

- Staff and members shared some key parts of the Township's Economic Development Committee's (EDC) efforts related to workforce development. This focused primarily on more recent work, from 2021-2023, related to partnering with FHSD/Great Oaks/Anderson Chamber to connect students with opportunities. It also related to the outreach with the Township's 2022 business survey and follow-up conversations with several participants from that survey on workforce development and general business needs. The other part of that EDC conversation focused on ways to use technology to connect job seekers with local job opportunities.
- It was noted that as the EDC's role/presence wound down in 2023, their emphasis rested in other areas. At the same time, there has also been a leadership change with the Anderson Chamber, and the FHSD's community partnership program has continued to evolve. However, it was felt that the work of that group was a good starting point for the current subgroup's efforts.
- The following steps were recommended:
 - o Distribute 2023 business survey results to subgroup members.
 - o Meet with FHSD's Community Partnership Specialist, Melanie Hartong and Anderson Chamber Executive Director, Sarah Celenza, to find opportunities for collaboration on goals and strategies.
 - o John Halpin will work with Great Oaks Director and staff to determine partnership opportunities.
 - o Other aspects of EDC's efforts including adult education, local job forums, tapping into the expertise of retirees and stay-at-home parents were discussed as well.

Susan Wheatley and Lindsey Griffis - 8.1.3- "Preserve and protect the natural and environmental resources found throughout the community..." and 8.3.1- "Encourage recycling and the safe use of appropriate disposal of solid waste and hazardous materials by all generators in the Township."

- A desire to start working on a list of commercial businesses that could potentially increase or start recycling.
- The group has a better understanding of how recycling works for individual homeowners now, but still thinks there is an opportunity for additional educational pieces on Facebook and in Anderson Insights.
- Suggestion to have a HUB speaker come and speak to the entire group, or even the community, on what they have the capability of recycling.
- Staff is helping to assign on a map that will show trails, Greenspace and parks in order to identify green corridors.
- Potentially separate the open spaces and Greenspace properties from parks to help with community confusion on the differences between them.

Next Steps:

- Meeting schedule:
 - o Monday, December 2, 2024, at 4:30PM
- If subgroup meetings are scheduled, Township staff needs to be notified in order to properly advertise them. Groups also need to submit summaries after the meeting.