

ANDERSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
March 11, 2025

The Board of Township Trustees of Anderson Township (“Board”) held a Special Meeting duly noticed, on March 11, 2025, at 4:30 p.m., in the Anderson Center Community Meeting Room to take part in discussions with the Anderson Plan Implementation Committee (APIC). Present were the following Board members:

Lexi Lausten
R. Dee Stone

Also present were Assistant Township Administrator for Operations Steve Sievers, Director of Planning & Zoning Paul Drury, Planner 1 Eli Davies, and University of Cincinnati Co-op Logan Vaughn.

APIC committee members in attendance were: Bruce Berno, Mary Ellen Knaebel, Peg Fenner, Brian Gay, Lindsey Griffis, John Halpin, Jay Lewis, Elizabeth Maier, Karen Schwamberger, Karl Sieber, Cynthia Sieber, Susan Wheatley, Jim Willis.

Mrs. Lausten called the meeting to order

Mrs. Lausten moved to adopt the agenda. **Mrs. Stone** seconded the motion. Vote: Mrs. Lausten, yes; Mrs. Stone, yes.

Mr. Drury welcomed the committee members and explained how all the programs overlapped with the Townships’ goals in the Comprehensive Plan.

Sidewalk Assessment

Mr. Gay stated that he, along with Mrs. Schwamberger, were focusing on the Township’s sidewalk assessment process. He also remarked that a shared assessment policy, where costs would be shared between residents and the Township for a resident-initiated project had been drafted as part of the 2023 Trails Plan Implementation Group but was never adopted.

Trails Plan Implementation

Mr. Sievers stated that most Trails Plan Implementation Group members were not present, but that staff had prepared a status summary of all the Trails Plan projects from 2023, 2024, and 2025. He commended staff for the work on these projects and the Board of Trustees for their support and efforts that allowed for the tremendous push in the project.

Mrs. Lausten discussed how the Trustees’ arrangement of alternating meeting attendance could cause APIC to lose traction on projects. She added that the meeting summaries were very helpful in bridging gaps and knowing the progress they had made.

Coordination with METRO

Mr. Sieber discussed the existing five bus routes in the Township and the Eastgate area, and METRO's openness to having the Eastgate route stop in Anderson. There was discussion on where these routes go, including METRO's looking into creating a stop and turnaround in the Target area along Beechmont. Committee members asked how METRO tracked interest in new routes. **Mr. Gay** explained that METRO was looking at APIC to promote the available services and help gauge interest in a route from Eastgate that would connect to Anderson. **Mr. Drury** stated that Emi Randall with METRO was looking at ridership and bus frequency. METRO noticed a trend of early morning ridership and is looking into adjusting the express routes. He also mentioned that Ms. Randall has a population density map around the routes and is seeing an increase in ridership. **Mrs. Lausten** asked how the Township could reach out to residents regarding METRO's routes and suggested a possible digital survey as METRO did with the streetcar project.

Business survey

Mr. Drury stated that members from this APIC group were planning on using the 2020 Business Survey, updating it, and releasing it to area businesses. Ms. Donovan is working with this group and hoped to get the survey released in early April with a May deadline. With previous surveys, staff and committee members could then identify trends and individual businesses that may have questions or concerns. **Mr. Sievers** stated an example from the 2022 survey was workforce hiring, which was a huge issue, therefore a targeted outreach was conducted to 20 different businesses, ranging from daycare facilities to veterinary clinics, to ascertain what they were experiencing and how the Township could assist.

Connecting with Local Schools

Mr. Halpin stated that the APIC planned to connect with Great Oaks Career Campus, Forest Hills Local School District (FHLSD), and the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce (AACC) to identify partnership opportunities. **Mrs. Lausten** noted that Melanie Hartong, the Workforce Development Specialist with the FHSD, had created workshops for high school students to learn about area businesses and local government. The group did a project with the Planning and Zoning Department and the elected officials and AACC judged them.

Homegrown National Parks

Ms. Fenner stated there was a sustainability team at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church that promotes native plants and the value that those plants bring. She asked if there was a to work with APIC to broaden that message. She presented information regarding Homegrown National Parks, noting that the Township had an abundance of Greenspace and also a large number of private yards. The subgroup hoped to encourage homeowners to create wildlife habitats. Homegrown National Parks is a grassroot movement created by Professor Doug Tallamy at the University of Delaware. She explained that the motivation behind the program was that the

nation could not rely on the National Parks system to do all the work with nature, so they encourage homeowners to grow more native plants and to add wildlife habitats to their yards.

She indicated that if the Township was supportive, the subgroup could spread information through Anderson Insights and Facebook about wildlife and invasive species. The Homegrown National Park website has links that are tied to zip codes and provides information on getting started.

Beautification Awards

Ms. Fenner announced that it was under consideration to add a category to the Beautification Awards for native plantings and would like to submit the category for Township approval.

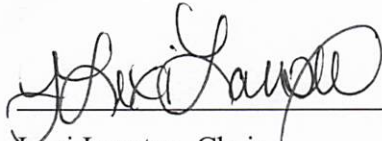
Mr. Halpin stated that the Beautification Awards tied in with the Tree Committee and would like to see more coordination on projects by possibly getting someone in the subgroup to participate in the Tree Committee.

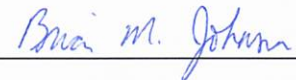
Recycling

Ms. Griffiths addressed two specific areas of interest including a new recycling drop off center in Anderson Township, given the potential changes at the Anderson Operations Center. The subgroup is hoping to get a survey in April or May to see what the usage is. The last survey was done in 2017 and had an interesting result with people who did not have trash collection. There has been a development since that study given Clermont County is opening a drop off center in Batavia that might better serve Clermont County residents who usually used the Township's recycling drop off. She also mentioned Rumpke's developing a mailer for their customers who do not use their recycling service, reminding them it was a free service with trash pickup. Rumpke would not release the addresses to the committee members but is working closely with the Township on the mailer's design. **Mr. Sievers** mentioned that Rumpke was the only residential waste collection provider in the Township. **Ms. Griffiths** stated that the APIC subgroup hoped to encourage larger residential communities (condominiums, apartments and senior housing) or larger businesses who did not have on-site recycling to implement the service. **Mr. Sievers** commented that 86% of Rumpke's customers in the Township used recycling, 16% did not. Rumpke charges one fee for both trash and recycling. Rumpke is willing to provide recycling for individual customers in the neighborhoods that had a joint contract, paid for by a homeowners' association. He explained that curbside recycling customers subsidize the drop-off center as the Township received funds for recycled material volume (90% comes from curbside recycling). Those funds no longer pay the amount the Township spent on the drop-off center, and it is not sustainable. He added that the survey **Ms. Griffiths** mentioned was set to take place on May 2nd, May 3rd and May 4th, and the Township needs volunteers. **Mrs. Stone** asked how much recycling was going into the containers. **Mr. Sievers** responded that the contamination was the lowest it had ever been based on the number of complaints staff received and time to clean up the site, but there are no statistics. **Mrs. Stone** asked whether Vantage was going to have recycling. **Mr. Sievers** responded that it was under consideration, but no decision has been made.

At 5:34 pm **Mrs. Lausten** moved to adjourn the meeting. **Mrs. Stone** seconded the motion.

Vote: Mrs. Lausten, yes; Mrs. Stone, yes.

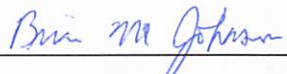

Lexi Lausten, Chair


Brian M. Johnson, Fiscal Officer

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, duly elected and acting Fiscal Officer of Anderson Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true excerpt from the minutes of a regular meeting, including the roll call votes thereat, of the Board of Township Trustees of said Township held on the 11th day of March 2025, and that said minutes have been duly entered upon the Journal of said Township.

This 26th day of June 2025.


Brian M. Johnson, Fiscal Officer