

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION

February 7, 2017

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, February 7, 2017.

Present were: John O'Grady, President
Marilyn Brown, Commissioner
Kevin L. Boyce, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Denise DePalma, Director of Labor and Employment Unit, Prosecutor's Office; Kenneth Wilson, County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; and Antwan Booker, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

President O'Grady called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

President O'Grady: February is Black History Month and we would like to bring up Dr. Charles Wash, Director, National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, OH. Welcome.

Dr. Wash: Thank you. I really appreciate you for allowing me to be here this morning. I think Black History Month is really important for all of us to recognize and appreciate and I appreciate what the Commissioners do to celebrate Black History Month. We have said this many times that African-American history is American history. It is completely interwoven into the history and culture of this great nation. I think it behooves all of us to contextualize and appreciate what that means. I have done a lot of speaking over the years for Black History Month about African-American history and culture, so I am not going to talk about some famous African-Americans we can look up on the internet. I do want to talk about an institution in the state of Ohio that a lot of people have forgotten or never been introduced to it. Next year we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary. (round of applause) In saying that, some people get confused with the National African-American Museum in Washington D.C. Our institution is similar to the new institution run by the Smithsonian, in that it is a national institution that celebrates African-American culture. An interesting story about our museum, we were supposed to be what the National African-American Museum is back in 1988. During the Carter administration, a feasibility study was done of having a national African-American museum in Ohio. The feasibility study that was done said that Wilberforce is a good location. It is historic. We have Wilberforce University and Central State University. There is Payne Theological Seminary. At the eleventh hour, the federal government pulled out. It said that it was not a good location. Not enough foot traffic. The state of Ohio took over. I want to introduce you to some of the things we do at our institution that really pushes Ohio history than a national narrative. I think within the last fifteen years or so, we

have focused on what we do more toward Ohio. The Ohio story is phenomenal. In studying more Ohio African-American history, there is such deep history that many of us do not know anything about. When I had the opportunity to become the Executive Director, I was blown away. The material that we have that relate to Ohio. We have things that relates all over the country. We can tell hundreds of stories specific to Ohio that no other institution can tell. For example, the brand new museum in Washington D.C., we have a number of our archival pieces on display. We have some military and art that are world renowned. I like to talk specifically to school age children about having pride in Ohio. Being a part of the original Northwest Territory. We have in our archives African-American communities that were created before Ohio became a state. We have that material in our archives. That tells such a deep story that we do not hear about, definitely not in February, and the rest of the year.

Commissioner Brown: Dr. Wash, can you tell a story that would resonate with our audience now? That would be helpful because there is so much history here.

Dr. Wash: One story that comes up is Colonel Charles Young. He made Ohio his home. He was internationally known. He was the third African-American that graduated from West Point. He was the original commander of the Buffalo Soldiers. Just as a recent example, President Obama invoked his authority under the Antiquities Act. We made his home in Wilberforce a national monument that is now part of the Department of the Interior run by the National Parks Service. Colonel Charles Young was a real renaissance man. I can go on and on about his art and jewelry. He wanted to command troops in World War I. He would go from Colonel to Lieutenant General. He was told that he was not fit for command. In order to prove his superiors wrong, he rode his horse from Wilberforce, OH to Washington D.C. He took meticulous notes. He talked about his route, the number of miles. He arrived at Ohio proving him wrong. He never became General. He was originally from Kentucky, but made Ohio his home. Another part of his story, some of his friends were Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois, and were in Wilberforce with Colonel Young consulting with him on issues of the time. Colonel Young's military time took him to Haiti and Liberia twice. His notes from his travel around the world are written from the perspective of an Ohio African-American. In our institution, we have by far the largest collection of his material in the world. There is material in West Point, Haiti, and Liberia, but we have the most inclusive of his material. The national monument that is half a mile from the National Afro-American Museum we help them tell his story. If you have not visited our institution or have not done so in a while, I would insist that you take a look. We have a lot of programs this month and throughout the year. Kojo Kamau, he is a world renowned photographer from Columbus. We have his material on exhibit. Unfortunately, he passed away not so long ago, which makes his work that much more important. If you are interested in archival material, we are digitizing as much of our collection as possible. It can be found online at ohiomemory.org. It is a website that is run by the State Library of Ohio and the Ohio History Connection. We are one of the many contributing institutions, but we have a few thousand images online that you can view. We are focusing our energies on the Ohio narrative. Are there any questions? Anna Hedgeman was a civil rights leader who helped plan the march on Washington. We have her material.

President O'Grady: Dr. Wash, thank you for coming. We also have the first African-American County Commissioner in Franklin County, Commissioner Boyce.

Commissioner Boyce: I wanted to welcome Dr. Wash to the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. The work that you have done has been incredible. As a legislator, I had the opportunity to become very familiar with that work and the history of Wilberforce. Many folks do not know that Wilberforce University is the first Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in America. I think this is a rich part of Ohio history that is often overlooked. I am so grateful that you are here in Franklin County sharing the great work that you all have been able to accumulate over the years. I am so glad that you brought up Colonel Young because he is really an unknown hero in many ways. He is not a common name, but he should be. One other name that I will throw out to you is that the first known African-American citizen of Columbus is Arthur Boke. There is a small bridge named after him. I would encourage you to learn his story and I think he would be someone that would be fitting in the museum, if he is not already. Congratulations on the thirty year anniversary. That is incredible.

Dr. Wash: One other thing I wanted to mention. I think over the years, we have lost touch. As an institution, I do not believe we have done a good enough job over the years to show what we do. One of the things that I really regret over the years is that our ties with Columbus City Schools have been severed. One thing that we are doing is taking a charter bus, from the Ohio History Connection this Saturday, to Wilberforce for tours. It is geared toward children. What we have been trying to do the last six years is to reignite that passion with students in history.

Commissioner Brown: I am also glad that you picked Colonel Young because I have read about him. He was a renaissance man. I want to thank you. If you could give the contact information for the museum, to get in touch with you that would be very helpful to our audience.

Dr. Wash: Our museum is located at 1350 Brush Row Road in Wilberforce, OH. You can go on the Ohio History Connection website at www.ohiohistory.org/naamcc. The online repository for our images is ohiomemory.org. We have had responses from all over the world about our images online. We have professors from all over the country that visit the museum.

On the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the January 17, 2017 General Session and the minutes of January 26, 2017 Briefing Session. Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 62-17, resolution accepting the annual bridge inspection report for 2016 (Engineer), presented by Dean Ringle, County Engineer and Cornell Robertson, Chief Deputy Engineer, Engineer's Office.

Mr. Ringle: Good morning Commissioners, Dean Ringle, County Engineer.

Mr. Robertson: Cornell Robertson, Chief Deputy Engineer.

Mr. Ringle: This is our annual bridge report that we are pleased to submit to you. We have 366 bridges in Franklin County that we inspect. We have 98% of them that are in fair, good, very good or excellent condition. The few that are remaining are either planned for replacement this year or we have design ready to go for near future year or working on design currently.

Commissioner Brown moved for passage of Resolution 62-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 63-17, resolution pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5543.06, setting Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Berwick Manor Restaurant for the Annual Meeting of the Franklin County Engineer between Township and County authorities (Engineer), presented by Mr. Ringle.

Mr. Ringle: Commissioners, this is our annual meeting that we have per the Ohio Revised Code to meet with the townships concerning road conditions. We also are combined with public health's annual meeting. It is a cost saving measure to have them at the same time because of the number of people attending both meetings. I hope the date is on your calendar and able to attend.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 63-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 64-17, resolution authorizing the County Engineer to submit an application, sign documents and enter project agreements on behalf of Franklin County for the 2017 Scrap Tire Grant Program offered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Engineer), presented by Mr. Ringle.

Mr. Ringle: Commissioners, we have done this project before. We have been awarded the Scrap Tire Grant Program money before. We are applying once again. We were one of the first ones to be able to do this on a road where they have pulverized ground tire remnants added to the asphalt mixture for pavement. We have promoted it so much that we started getting shut out of applications because everyone else was going for it. We are trying to get it for another road this year.

Commissioner Brown: Mr. Ringle, since you have been doing this, have you seen any differences in the wear on the roads that you have done it on?

Mr. Ringle: No, it is a good additive. We are hoping the roads will last fifteen years on the resurfacing. Some of those are still in that time period, but they are holding up very well. We try to do it in different environments like high traffic.

Commissioner Brown: It works well.

Mr. Ringle: One is Frank Road.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 64-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 65-17, resolution for plans approved for the rehabilitation of the structure on Big Run Road 0.27 over Big Run, Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Mr. Ringle.

Mr. Ringle: Actually Commissioners, that amount is not an amount on the resolution.

President O'Grady: What number did you have?

Mr. Ringle: There is no amount.

Commissioner Brown: It is on our resolution.

Mr. Wilson: The actual resolution does not have the dollar amount of \$98,239. It just carried over to the print agenda that we see. The resolution is correct.

Mr. Ringle: The amount has nothing to do with the resolution. The title is correct.

Mr. Wilson: There is no appropriations tied to this resolution.

Mr. Ringle: Thank you. It is just submitting the plans for the bridge. We have an estimate of \$517,000 to put together for a bid.

President O'Grady: I like the mistake on the agenda better. It is just printed on the agenda incorrectly and not the resolution, so it is not a big deal.

Mr. Ringle: This bridge is going to be replaced this year.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 65-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 66-17, resolution to contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc., consulting engineers appointed to assist the Franklin County Engineer in performing preliminary engineering for the Rohr Road at SR317 improvement project, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer) (\$98,239), presented by Mr. Ringle.

Mr. Ringle: Commissioners, this is an intersection near Rickenbacker Port Authority that we are scheduling for improvement. This is Rohr Road at SR317. We will be working in conjunction with the state of Ohio and the Village of Groveport. Parsons Brinckerhoff was selected through the qualifications process.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 66-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 67-17, resolution establishing, altering and widening of Reynoldsburg New Albany Road, County Road No. 6, Jefferson Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary (Engineer), presented by Mr. Ringle.

Mr. Ringle: Commissioners, there is a new subdivision being proposed on the west side of Reynoldsburg New Albany Road. This is a portion between Havens and Clark State Road. This is going to be for some widening that is necessary for that intersection.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 67-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 68-17, resolution establishing, altering and widening of Melrose Avenue and Lamont Avenue, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary (Engineer), presented by Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Robertson: Commissioners, this is a resolution for a project requested by Clinton Township for drainage improvements along Melrose Avenue and Lamont Avenue.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 68-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 69-17, resolution establishing, altering and widening of Audrey Road, from the City of Columbus corporate boundary to Cleveland Avenue, Clinton Township, Franklin County, Ohio, declared necessary (Engineer), presented by Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Robertson: Commissioners, this project was also requested by Clinton Township. It is for a roadway improvement along Audrey Road.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 69-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 70-17, resolution authorizing contracts with Follow the River Environmental and Stone Environmental Engineering & Science, Inc., to provide consulting services (Engineer) (\$95,560), presented by Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Robertson: Commissioners, this resolution is for professional services contracts with the firms mentioned. These folks will help us with environmental issues including erosion control inspections and water testing at our capital improvement projects this summer.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 70-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 71-17, resolution authorizing contracts with Trans Associates Engineering Consultants, Inc., Lanham Engineering, LLC and Transmap Corporation, to provide consulting services (Engineer) (\$65,000), presented by Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Robertson: Commissioners, this is also a professional service contract resolution with the firms mentioned. These consultants will help us with traffic studies, traffic safety studies, travel demand forecast and the like.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 71-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 72-17, resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on a portion of Dublin Road, Rohr Road and Stimmel Road, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Robertson: Commissioners, as stated, this resolution is for speed limit reductions. Based on our traffic studies from our traffic department, we would agree with these requests. First is in Norwich Township, along Dublin Road, would request speed limit reduction from 55mph to 45mph; in Madison Township, along Rohr Road from London Groveport Road to Pontius Road from 55mph to 45mph; in Franklin Township, along Stimmel Road from Brown Road to west of Harmon Avenue from 55mph to 40mph.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 72-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 73-17, resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Central College Road, Orders Road and Stringtown Road, Franklin County, Ohio (Engineer), presented by Mr. Robertson.

Mr. Robertson: Commissioners, this is a similar resolution for speed limit reductions based on traffic studies. We agree with these requests. In Blendon Township, along Central College Road from east of Hamilton Road to east of High Rock Drive from 55mph to 35mph; in Blendon Township, along Central College Road from west of Bethany Drive to west of Harlem Road from 55mph to 35mph; in Jackson Township, along Orders Road from Harrisburg Pike to east of Harrisburg Pike from 45mph to 35mph to match Grove City; in Jackson Township, along Orders Road from Old Haughn Road to Grove City Corp limits from 45mph to 35mph; in Jackson Township, along Stringtown Road in sections adjacent to Grove City from 50mph to 35mph.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 73-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 74-17, resolution authorizing the settlement of legal claims brought in Grievance #2015-922, which was advanced to arbitration, FMCS Case #160107-52198-6, known as AFSCME Local 2049 (on behalf of Kendall Turner) and Franklin County Dog Shelter & Adoption Center, and Franklin County Commissioners (Animal Control) (\$7,500), presented by Kris Long, Deputy Administrator.

Ms. Long: Good morning Commissioners, Kris Long, Deputy Administrator. This resolution settles a grievance from a former employee. The settlement has been reviewed and approved by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 74-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 75-17, resolution authorizing a non-general fund supplemental appropriation and payment to the Board of Elections for expenses related to the May 2, 2017 election (Office On Aging) (\$1,343,000), presented by Zak Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Talarek: Good morning Commissioners, Zak Talarek with the Office of Management and Budget. Historically the Board of Elections charges back political subdivisions for odd year elections in the following year's property tax settlement. Due to a law change in 2015, the Board of Elections requires prepayment of special elections from the political subdivision. Even though this is on the same date as the primary, based on the definition the Revised Code, this is considered a special election. The payment will need to be made this year, rather than next year. The \$1,343,000 is the total cost if this was the only issue on the ballot. Based on the anticipated primary elections in the Columbus City Schools and the City of Columbus, the anticipatory cost would be between \$800,000 and \$900,000. Final certification will come from the Board of Elections after the election, in which 30 days the reconciliation will happen.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 75-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 76-17, resolution authorizing an agreement with Heritage Ohio to continue the Franklin County Downtown Revitalization Services Program, "Downtown Works" (Economic Development and Planning) (\$54,000), presented by James Schimmer, Director, Economic Development and Planning and Mark Paxson, Interim Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning.

Mr. Schimmer: Good morning Commissioners, James Schimmer, Director, Economic Development and Planning. I am joined at the dais with Mark Paxson, Interim Assistant Director. We are bringing this resolution forward as a result of some work we have done over time. As you recall, the SmartWorks economic development program has three specific areas of focus: energy, infrastructure and workforce. The Downtown Heritage Ohio program that we are working with (Downtown Works), is a program that we have been pleased about from the standpoint that Dr. Wash talked about this morning. History tells stories. Besides downtown Columbus, we have at least ten other business districts in Franklin County that are small business related, but are downtowns. Traditional historic downtowns. Working with Heritage Ohio, we have been able to really look at the Main Street approach. We are one of the few counties in the nation that has adopted the Main Street program as a mechanism to work with our historic downtowns. As a result, we want to enter into a contract with Heritage Ohio this morning to do the Downtown Works program. Franklin County and Heritage Ohio have been doing the Downtown Works program since last year. It has been focused on developing healthy and vibrant downtowns throughout the county. One of the things I would like to mention is that we have been really focused in on the idea that there is tax revenue creation that occurs in a lot of different places in Franklin County. We believe our retail sales tax is one of the important things and our downtowns really do generate money along those lines. These are special places and they need to be recognized and worked with. They have their own special problems. One of the things that Heritage Ohio has done with us is be able to identify through the Main Street program direction. Joyce Barrett, Executive Director, Heritage Ohio, is in the audience. I want her to say a few words. I want to acknowledge her of being one of the finest non-profit directors in Ohio.

Ms. Barrett: Our mission at Heritage Ohio is helping people to save the places that matter to build community and live better. Here in Franklin County, we have very strong suburban circumference around the City of Columbus, all with commercial centers. Whether it is a small village like Lockborne or a more thriving city like Westerville, we believe that improving the building and finding good uses increases property taxes. Having a program of business retention, expansion and recruitment increases jobs, income tax, and revenues. Having a good program of image development, marketing and promotions increases sales tax revenues. I am delighted to have two business owners from Westerville, whom we have been working with. We have Doug Winbigler, Amish

Originals, and Nicole Harrison, Pure Roots Boutique and Gallery to tell you about how Uptown Westerville has seen improvements.

Mr. Schimmer: Commissioners, I would say that Westerville has been one of the shining stars and these two business owners have two very recognizable businesses. I know Mr. Winbigler has been up there a number of years.

Mr. Winbigler: Good morning Commissioners. About 18 months ago, we took a look at our business community and residents and decided that things were pretty good. Good only stays good if you continue to work on them and make improvement. In cooperation with the city, we reached out and began a relationship with Heritage Ohio. We just hired an executive director this week, as we begin our path to join Main Street full accreditation. We mentioned the unique things of our small community, historic preservation being among them. I have had my business for over 25 years. The community has been super, but over that 25 years we have seen the economic cycles. It has not always been peaches and cream in our small towns. The larger developments like Easton and Polaris are competition with our small towns. Our economic vitality means so much. Property values depend on it. The sales taxes. We cannot do it without help from the outside. We are trying to run our own businesses. By following their approach, it is going to make such a big difference for us.

Ms. Harrison: I second that. I grew up in Westerville. I have seen the ups and downs. I have owned my business for four years. This is something that we really needed. I am sure that I would have given up a long time ago if it wasn't for Heritage Ohio answering every phone call that we made to them. It has been great working with them.

Commissioner Brown: It is a great program. I remember hearing about the Main Street program years ago when I was the Chamber Director in Pickerington. This was twenty years ago. I am shocked that there are so few counties that take advantage of what you are doing because it makes so much sense. I love your testimony and I think it makes a lot of sense what we are doing to invest in what you are doing to help your community. Without these strong vibrant communities surrounding Columbus, we are never going to be as successful as a region as we want to be.

President O'Grady: Ms. Barrett when you were here on Thursday we talked about the impact I have seen in the Hilliard area. Since Thursday I have been in both Grove City and Gahanna and was able to see firsthand the impact that Heritage Ohio has on a community. It is fantastic to see. It is going on all over. I have not been to Westerville in a few months, but I notice that every time I'm there I see the impact. It is infectious as well. As these things start happening, the other communities talk. Keep it up.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 76-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 77-17, resolution entering into a Service Agreement with the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens for a Community Garden grant program (Economic Development and Planning) (\$25,000), presented by Mr. Paxson.

Mr. Paxson: Good morning Commissioners. This contract provides grants for the construction and rehabilitation of community gardens in low income Franklin County neighborhoods. The services include the construction of gardens themselves, provision of healthy foods to low income residents, and education on agricultural techniques. This contract is funded with \$25,000 of the Community Development Block Grant fund by way of the Department of Housing & Urban Development. Part of this contract is also related to this County's Local Food Action Plan. Just recently, the County was awarded a 2017 Audrey Nelson Award for the National Community Development Association for the plan. In conjunction with that, we have a couple of guests here who would like to speak in support of the program. We have Bill Dawson, Program Manager, Conservatory's Growing to Green program and Beth Miglin, International Harvest Coordinator, Franklin Conservatory.

Mr. Dawson: Good morning Commissioners. Your support of this program for the last few years has helped a lot of folks get gardens started. What these gardens do is provide local food access to fresh local food. The Franklin Park Conservatory has been helping with community gardens since 2000. We started out with about twelve gardens in Franklin County and currently we assisted around 300 projects. This grant and others locally have really sparked this movement. It has done so much. The gardeners are the ones that are effected so much. Ms. Miglin has done so much to provide all of our population of Franklin County.

Ms. Miglin: At our garden, we provide space for residents across Franklin County to grow food for themselves, their families, neighbors and to contribute to local food pantries. We have strong participation in our gardens from the Somali Bantu and Burmese refugee communities. As part of our local food system, we are producing delicious, healthy, significant foods. We are connecting and sharing and learning from each other through our food production, environment and nature. In 2016, we had over 150 gardeners who produced over 7,500 pounds of food. We expanded our garden size, we were able to provide some educational workshops, gave garden tours, and shared our garden knowledge with the community. With the garden expansion and grant, we were able to provide accessible water, tools, soil and supplies which allowed our gardeners to become effective and productive in growing healthy and affordable foods. We would like to thank the County Commissioners of their leadership in support of this garden and the grant collaboration that support food justice issues and gardens across the county.

Mr. Dawson: They are doing amazing things. What the conservatory does is provide education. It does not make sense to hand somebody money and spend it in whatever manner they want. We want to make sure they are spending their money correctly, wisely and with assistance. We will go out to make checks and make sure the soil is good and

any environmental issues. We help administer the grant and then provide resources and education.

President O'Grady: With all this nice weather, how do you keep the spring flowers from coming up in February?

Mr. Dawson: You don't. Mother Nature is going to do what she does. They are coming up now. Be patient and it seems to take care of itself.

Mr. Schimmer: Mr. Dawson has been such an inspiration to a lot of people in the community. You can tell that his knowledge is right there.

Mr. Dawson: It really has helped a lot of folks out there. Gardening becomes secondary to what these community gardens do. It brings people together. We are getting back to that front porch mentality of looking out for each other. The safety issue. The nutrition and health and wellness. Gardening is exercise. Getting outside is good. Getting our kids active in the neighborhoods to be active and grow their own food.

President O'Grady: I'll take two seconds to tell you something. I have a thirteen year old who would prefer to spend all of his time in the basement playing video games. Commissioner Boyce has a thirteen year old who likes to do the same thing.

Mr. Dawson: They influence the decision makers. I want to grow these vegetables. If they grow it, they will eat it. I am happy to take any of your teens to a community garden to get them the full experience. Maybe they will create a gardening application.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 77-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 78-17, authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding providing support for the lease of space for the operations of The Ohio State University Extension Service, Franklin County, Ohio (Public Facilities Management) (\$65,000), presented by Darla Reardon, Assistant Director, Public Facilities Management.

Ms. Reardon: Good morning Commissioners, Darla Reardon, Assistant Director, Public Facilities Management. The OSU Extension office in Franklin County offers diverse programming for Franklin County residents in the areas of 4-H youth development, family and consumer services, community development and horticulture. This Board supports these activities by providing funding for lease of office space. After many years at the same address, this month the Extension Service is relocating to a new site better positioned to better serve its large client base. Joining us today is Dr. Laquore Meadows, Director, Franklin County OSU Extension Service. Dr. Meadows would like an opportunity to speak on the many programs and new offerings that will be available at the Extension's new Spring St. location.

Dr. Meadow: Good morning Commissioners. It is a pleasure to be here today. On behalf of my colleagues in the Franklin County office as well as the 55,000 residents we serve each year, we want to thank you for your continued investment. We really appreciate you supporting us in so many different ways. In less than seven days we will be transitioning from our 2105 South Hamilton location to 530 West Spring St. Our new location is centralized with easy access from Interstate 670 and SR 315. Our clientele has asked for this for years. They are excited as well. In addition, due to some strategic investments over the past number of years, our office staff has grown pretty drastically, specifically as it relates to federal funding. We became a little bit crowded in our space and this will provide us with additional room. We will have an office area where we can fit over 75 participants in our programming. We will also have an opportunity to do demonstration cooking in our new space and also host various urban agricultural events. Needless to say, we are excited and thank you for your continued support.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 78-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 79-17, resolution authorizing an Employee Training and Recognition Event on February 24, 2017 (Child Support Enforcement) (\$1,500), presented by Lori Torreiro, Assistant Director, Child Support Enforcement.

Ms. Torreio: Good morning Commissioners, Lori Torreiro, Assistant Director, Child Support Enforcement. I am here requesting approval for authorization for us to spend about \$1,500 for an employee recognition and training event. This has become an annual event that our staff really looks forward to. We take everyone offsite to do some state of the agency address as well as update them on various programs that we are doing and any changes at our federal office. Then we mix in some fun employee recognition things. This year our theme is super heroes.

Commissioner Brown: It is important to do these kinds of training and work with the staff in order to retain good staff.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 79-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 80-17, resolution approving Personnel Actions (Human Resources), presented by Sue Hamilton, Assistant Director, Human Resources.

Ms. Hamilton reviewed the list of personnel actions in the Resolution and requested the Commissioners' approval.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 80-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 81-17, resolution approving purchases for various Franklin County agencies (Purchasing) (\$3,321,121.76), presented by Karl Kuespert, Director, Purchasing.

Mr.Kuespert: Good morning Commissioners, Karl Kuespert representing the Purchasing Department. The resolution before you requests your approval of 138 purchase orders. These purchase orders have been pre-certified as to the availability of funds by the County Auditor.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 80-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 82-17, resolution in support of immigrant and refugee families in Franklin County and calling for the rescinding of Executive Orders banning immigrants and refugees based on religion or nation of origin and the suspension of the U.S. Refugee Program (Board of Commissioners), presented by Ms. Long.

Ms. Long: Good morning Commissioners. The story and promise of this nation has always been one of hope and opportunity, from the time of its inception and in the centuries since for the scores of millions of immigrants and refugees who have come in search of protection, freedom, and opportunity. The American refugee system is robust and safe, and to suddenly stop trusting in it out of fear and xenophobia, or to apply national or religious tests to would-be refugees and immigrants, is un- American, ineffective, and weak, and it cheapens the work that generations of our immigrant ancestors did in building this nation. Franklin County is a proudly diverse and welcoming community that has only been made stronger by the tens of thousands of immigrant and refugee families who call Central Ohio their home, and who work hard, attend school, own businesses, and pay taxes every day in this community, and a ban on them or others like them is a bad solution to a problem that doesn't exist. Franklin County and the residents of Central Ohio will not allow our newest neighbors to be bullied because of their language or religion, skin color, or nation of origin, but will support them and stand up for them because that is the American thing to do, and because it is right. Therefore, this resolution specifically resolves the following: To express the Board's support for, on behalf of all Franklin County residents, the immigrant and refugee families in our community, and calling for the rescinding of executive orders banning immigrants and refugees based on religion or national origin.

Commissioner Brown: I think the resolution speaks for me and I do not want to say anything more. The resolution states my feelings exactly.

Commissioner Boyce: I am so honored to sit with two colleagues that really understand the value and importance of inclusion. The definition of what Central Ohio has represented for a long time is inclusion and diversity. On Friday I was fortunate to host a community meeting. When I say community I mean every agency and part of our community was well represented to discuss not only the role Franklin County can play in ensuring that all of our citizens thrive, but also on how we can work together with our cities, our suburban, villages and township partners to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to experience the American dream that this country was founded upon. I think this resolution is a great display of our collective perspective, but the work is ahead of us. We are committed to that and looking forward to rolling up our sleeves and digging in to ensure that.

President O'Grady: There is a lot more that could be said on this subject, but the resolution speaks for itself. The statement that Ms. Long made speaks volumes. We can sit here and hash this issue out all day long. I can give you lots of opinions about why this has happened. None of it matters.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 82-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

Resolution No. 83-17, resolution reappointing Tom Fries, Sr., and Wayne B. Harer to the Franklin County Parks and Recreation Board of Trustees (Board of Commissioners), presented by Erik Janas, Deputy Administrator.

Mr. Janas: Good morning Commissioners, Erik Janas, Deputy Administrator. Pending any questions, I recommend approval of these two reappointments.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 83-17, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a summary of the Commissioners' meeting of February 7, 2017.



JOHN O'GRADY, PRESIDENT



MARILYN BROWN



KEVIN L. BOYCE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

Submitted by:



Antwan Booker, Clerk