

# CUYAHOGA VALLEY COMMUNITIES COUNCIL

## Minutes of Regular Meeting

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

The President, Mike Kaplan, called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM at the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center. A quorum was present.

### Approval of Minutes of May 25, 2005

The motion was made and seconded and the Minutes of May 25<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting were unanimously approved.

### Approval of Minutes of Saturday, October 15, 2005

The Minutes of the May 25, 2005 Council Meeting were not approved due to the lack of a quorum at the beginning of the October 15 Meeting. The motion was made and seconded and the Minutes of the October 15, 2005 Council Meeting were unanimously approved.

### Review of Financial Statement

Our Secretary-Treasurer, Rose Mary Snell, reviewed the Financial Statement for December 14, 2005.

### Proposal to admit the Village of Brooklyn Heights as a Council Member

A motion to admit the Village of Brooklyn Heights as a Council Member was made by Dr. Kenzig and seconded by Mr. Hunt. The motion was approved unanimously and adopted.

### **“WELCOME TO THE COUNCIL—BROOKLYN HEIGHTS!”**

A Presentation was made by Mr. Kevin Skerl, Ecologist and NEPA Coordinator, National Park Service on “Watershed Health in the Cuyahoga Valley: A Case for Low Impact Development”.

Mr. Kevin Skerl is the Ecologist for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. He holds a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Ohio University and a M.S. in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development from the University of Maryland.

What is low impact development? Historically, rainwater stayed where it fell, soaking into the soil to replenish ground water. Today, rainwater runs off the many impervious surfaces of an ever-increasing urban society causing floods and pollutants to enter our streams, rivers and lakes.

Low impact development minimizes the amount of impervious surfaces by introducing pervious paving, rain gardens, bioretention cells, bioswales, native landscaping and soil quality restoration.

Under Kevin’s supervision all of the watershed in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park are being mapped and analyzed. The Parks’ goals are that surrounding communities:

1. Coordinate early development planning with the Park
2. Encourage rural/natural area transition zones near the Park
3. Promote conservation development zoning solutions
4. Protect and apply natural landscape set-backs or buffer zones to water resources
5. Increase green space, decrease imperviousness

Columbia Run is currently one of the most pristine watersheds in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. It is being threatened by the development of a subdivision at Dewey and Snowville Roads. The National Park is working with the developer and the City of Brecksville Planning Department to plan a model low impact development to maintain the quality of Columbia Run.

Want to learn more? Visit: at [www.lowimpactdevelopment.org](http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org)

Want help in your community? Contact: Kevin Skerl at [www.Kevin\\_Skerl@nps.gov](mailto:www.Kevin_Skerl@nps.gov) or call him at 330 650 5071, ext 4.

### **Report from the National Park Service**

Mr. Dennis Hamm reported that the Krejci Site Clean Up Project is underway and that there was to be an Open House from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the site on Wednesday, December 21, 2005.

The Jaite Paper Mill site will undergo demolition and site restoration with some historic items and the story of the Mill Era preserved. The work is scheduled to begin in 2006.

The waterline work on Snowville and Riverview Roads will provide water and fire protection to the Park Headquarters and is being paid for by the US Department of Interior.

The Towpath Trail has been rerouted at the Tinkers Creek Aqueduct until restoration of the Aqueduct can be accomplished. It is the Park's desire to keep this portion of the canal watered.

The Park is about ready to begin a program on Deer Management. The program is to be announced around February of 2006.

The Park is warning about the Emerald Ash Borer threat to the region. Do not transport firewood from out of the area. If an ash tree dies on your or your neighbors' property, please contact Dennis Hamm at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, [www.dennis\\_hamm@nps.gov](mailto:www.dennis_hamm@nps.gov) or call him at 440-546-5902.

### **Report from Cleveland Metroparks**

Mr. Jim Kastelic reported that the Towpath Trail Development planning has begun for the two miles of Towpath Trail north of the current end of the trail near Harvard Road. This trail extension will join with more than a mile of the Towpath Trail being developed in conjunction with Steel Yard Commons. That will leave only three miles of towpath to reach Lake Erie.

### **Communities and Visitors Forum**

Mr. Mike Lyons, Mayor of The Village of Richfield, reported that the Village is in the process of watershed mapping.

Mr. Ron White from The City of Independence announced that Independence is developing a multi-purpose trail beginning at Brecksville Road that will connect with the Towpath Trail in the National Park. Also, work is underway to develop a Master Plan for The City of Independence concentrating on the Rockside Road area. A Remedial Action Plan is underway with the assistance of Kevin Skerl of the National Park.

Mr. Michael Kaplan, Mayor of The Village of Peninsula, reported that a new Police Station has been built by all volunteer effort providing much needed space for safety and police protection work. Also, The Village is providing fire protection for the Park in an exchange of land from the Park for the Village.

### **Other business and adjournment**

As there was no other business, Mr. Kaplan adjourned the meeting at 6:12 PM.

**Next Meeting:** THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES COUNCIL  
When: Thursday, February 16, 2006  
Where: Sleepy Hollow Golf Course  
Time: Social Hour – 5:30 to 6:30 PM  
Dinner – 6:30 to 7:45 PM

Brief Annual Meeting  
Program – 7:45 PM