

The Knox County Regional Planning Commission
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February 16, 2023

The regular meeting of the Knox County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) was held on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in the Knox County Services Center at 117 E. High St. Mount Vernon.

Chairman Roger Yarman called the meeting to order. Darrel Severns, Secretary for the Commission, called the roll.

RPC recording of this meeting did not record a large portion of the meeting.

The following voting representatives were present:

Tracie Weller	Berlin Township	Brian Frazier	Morris Township
Steve Bratton	Brown Township	Curt Bechtel	Pike Township
Doug Beckley	Butler Township	Darry Frazier	Union Township
Roger Yarman	College Township	Ashton Walls	Wayne Township
Bob Elliott	Harrison Township	Shelia Adams	Brinkhaven
Jason Rogers	Hilliar Township	Greg Sands	Centerburg
Scott Dugan	Jackson Township	Ray Brewer	Fredericktown
Mark Prager	Jefferson Township	Elizabeth Bonaudi	Gambier
Marilyn Lowe	Liberty Township	Mike Hillier	Mount Vernon
Kris Caldwell	Milford Township	Ahmad Takrauri	Mount Vernon
David McMahon	Monroe Township	Matt Starr	Mount Vernon
Troy Rideniser	Morgan Township	Thom Collier	Knox Co Commissioner

Others present:

Darrel Severns	Knox RPC	Kyle Shackle	KPH
Rob Clendening	Knox SWCD	Cheryl Splain	Knox Pages
Ed O'Connell*	College Township Alternate	Larry Splain	Liberty Twp
Marta Hill	Liberty Twp		

**Alternate*

A quorum was present with 23 voting representatives.

Approval of Minutes – Roger Yarman

Ms. Adams moved to approve the January 2023 minutes. Mr. Dugan seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Marilyn Lowe

M. Lowe presented the financial report for January 2023. The expenses were \$2,200.18. Income for the month was \$35,357.25. The month began with \$119,492.60 and ended with \$152,649.67.

Ms. Bonaudi moved to approve the January 2023 financial report. Mr. D. Frazier seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Old Business

Area Development Foundation (ADF) Support – Roger Yarman

The ADF Support motion that was tabled and needs to be taken off the table.

Mr. Starr moved to take ADF support withdrawn from the table. Mr. Collier seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 22 aye votes and 1 nay. Motion carried.

There was a motion and a second on the table regarding ADF. Mr. Severns has talked to our attorney and the motion was that we wait until we find out what the attorney's recommendation is regarding it be a conflict of interest. Mr. Severns stated the RPC attorney is in a group out of Mansfield, Renwick, Welsh & Burton and John Burton is the attorney that we correspond with on this issue. He sent an opinion which is page and a half, and he sent 12 pages of Attorney General opinions from 1994. Just a summary of what he said is: The RPC is a group that is more-or-less autonomous and can spend their money as they see fit, not having to go by the county's protocol on how to spend money. It is the right of the RPC to decide if they want to support the ADF, although the other part of his opinion is that if there are any members of RPC that are also members of ADF, if we are voting on support for money, they should abstain from that vote. After our discussion at the last meeting, Jeff Gotkke, President of ADF, emailed Mr. Severns and is removing the proposal for support. We do work together really well within the community.

Mr. Starr moved to drop ADF support. Mr. Collier seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 22 aye votes and 1 nay. Motion carried.

New Business

Executive Committee Report—Roger Yarman

The committee met at 6:00 p.m. before this meeting. We went over some plans to dress up RPC and different committees. The Social and Economic Development Committee, with things happening in the townships, villages, city, and the county, we need people on these committees to help and get ready for the influx of people into our area and to be able to control it. The committee decided we would try to focus the purposes of each of these committees to a point where we could take some measurable things into consideration. If you are on that committee, you have a direction of purpose. Mr. Starr added that purpose in the by-laws was for all things regarding social improvement. We will know what is important by what is being measured and prioritize those things. There are programs like Positive Parenting, healthcare, housing, and etc.

Secretary's Report —Darrel Severns

You will notice the several page 2022 lot split report that is broken down by township and village. There were 220 total splits that were taken from parcels that totaled 2,649 acres, spread throughout the county. The largest percentage of them were in the southern tier of the county. Mr. Severns did not put together the storm water permits we had done, but they slowed down considerably. There are developments going in south of the city.

Land Use – Mike Hillier

Null

Social Improvement and Economic Development Committee – Matt Starr

Mr. Starr stated that it was good to see the handout, which is more of a position statement than a vision statement. This is a starting point and would love to have everyone's input on this. What should we be measuring on social or economic improvement throughout the year?

Education and Outreach Committee – Darrel Severns

Null

Nominating Committee – Matt Starr

We have a slate of individuals for the next year. We are taking nominations from the floor. There was a motion and second to vote, but we will vote on these at the March meeting according to the bylaws.

Transportation Committee – Jim Hughes

Null

Knox County Commissioner – Thom Collier

We had the hearings for building codes, and it went very well. There was not a consensus and it failed. It was suggested to have a first and second part with only new construction in the first, but we are not going through with the building codes. The push back was from a variety of things, but number one was a lot of misinformation about building codes and adding to the cost and etc.

Knox Public Health – Kyle Shackle

Null

Knox Soil and Water Report – Rob Clendening

March 17, 2023 at 12:00 is the Annual Pancake Luncheon held in the lower level at the Memorial Building. Call the office to RSVP.

County, City and Village Reports

Brinkhaven/Gann – Shelia Adams

We are waiting on our Community Development Block Grant.

Centerburg – Greg Myers

Null

Danville – Deb Ridgeway

Null

Fredericktown – Ray Brewer

Null

Gambier – Leeman Kessler

Null

Mount Vernon – Matt Starr

Mr. Starr gave a summary of what is going on in Mount Vernon. Because of the growth of industry in our region and the billions of dollars that are being invested in industries there is going to be a large amount of jobs created within Intel and biotech companies. With all these jobs and influx of people we are going to need homes and infrastructure.

Speaker – No Speaker

Null

Others from the floor

Mr. Starr spoke about the two committees he is heading up. There are a couple of handouts, but the PowerPoint will not pull up. Mr. Severns sent out a survey regarding the time of the day for the RPC meetings among other questions. There were 21 responses. Regarding the time, 10 stated that 7:30 p.m. was too late for them. Thursday tends to be the more popular day according to the survey. Mr. Yarman stated they had talked about the time change in the Executive meeting due to farming in the summer through early fall. This is something to think about. We will talk about it more next month. The Bylaws would have to be changed.

The update from 308 and 229, at the township meeting the other night, the village talked about the roundabout coming in. The main question the other night was, the retaining wall on the back that they will have to cut out, Kenyon wants to find out what it will look like. They don't want just a concrete wall. They want rocks or something with a design on it. Its going to be a smaller round-about than what we are really thinking. How will semi-trucks go around a smaller roundabout with other traffic in the mix? The Village of Gambier, in their office, has a preliminary

sketch and overlay and what O.D.O.T is going to do. Mr. Yarman saw a drilling rig up on the bank on the north-east corner drilling regarding on soils report for where they will be putting their retaining wall. Ashland has a bypass to avert major truck traffic from the downtown area. This will be the first roundabout in the county.

Mr. Starr moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Knox County Regional Planning Commission will be March 16, in the Knox County Service Center 117 E. High St., Mount Vernon, OH at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrel Severns", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Darrel Severns