

February 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Commissioners Present: Cabral, Dyszel, Weber, Watkinson, Leppert, Grinch. Commissioner Russel arrived at 7:07pm.

Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien, guest speaker. Presented a brief history and description of the department (handles criminal and civil issues). Represents Franklin Township as well. Divergent Program takes offenders on a probation like program without as a path to rehabilitation, done with the consent of the victim. Helps to avoid a felony conviction that might have permanent life impacts. This is case dependent. Overview of drug court program (without felony conviction and might lead to a record expungement with successful completion of the two year program). Special units: gang, drug, and special victim (adults, child abuse [both physical and sexual], child pornography, and guns).

Questions:

Commissioner Leppert asked about the large amount of unserved warrants, if it was a problem.

Response: Mr. O'Brien said that it was a multi-department issue but that Gov. Mike DeWine is forming a committee to understand and address the issue. Said that he thought that the main focus should be on serious crime warrants and present a risk to the public. Better record keeping, electronic warrant tracking and consideration as to what triggers a warrant would be things that will be considered. There will be a pilot project to remind people about court dates by cell phone and texts to follow up for missed court dates.

Mr. Grinch asked about LivePD.

Response: Mr. O'Brien said that he was generally not a big fan because of the risk and the general liability. Sheriff's office has a time delay to dump footage if necessary. Commissioner Weber asked about the enforcement of failures for developers to complete the approved area plans, has the department been involved in these sorts of measures? Yes, as city attorney in the Short North, these cases were breach of contracts. There might be withdrawals of abatement benefits that were associated with the project. Not within the county wheelhouse.

Commissioner Cabral asked what changes Ron O'Brien would like to make in the criminal arena.

Response: taking small amount drug offenses out of the criminal courts. Targeting career criminals. A very big issue is the presence of fentanyl on the streets and the opioid epidemic. Felt encouraged by declines in juvenile crime rates. Thought that this was due to the increase in juvenile court programs and other programs directed at youth (ex. truancy programs to keep kids in school).

Commissioner Cabral asked if Mr. O'Brien was a supporter of the medical marijuana legalization in OH. How does he think that the legal system would handle it.

Response: Medicinal is a different issue but he is not a supporter of recreational use. Said that Nebraska could be used as a case study and that they have had issues with traffic violation enforcement.

Bob Vance: What level of cases does Mr. O'Brien handle, what amount of time is spent doing admin verses actual case work.

Response: There is a lot of administrative work but he still does court cases on occasion, at his discretion, no more than 10 a year but they tend to be more involved cases.

Bob Vance asked about Mount Carmel investigation.

Response: Currently a large investigation, lots of records and people to interview. Three people in the office working on it to plus 4 officers.

Please contact the office if there are additional questions.

robrien@franklincountyohio.gov or presecutor@franklincountyohio.gov

Brad Westall from Rec and Parks. Works on trails and greenways also works on land acquisition for the City. Is seeking a letter of support. Clean Ohio Fund buys land for preservation. There is one piece of property that they would like to write a grant application to acquire 1.5 acres on the east bank of the River at Dublin Rd (33) and W 5th. This is the privately owned piece of the river bank that the owner is willing to work with the City on acquiring. Would be considered as part of trail connectivity to the Quarry.

The property has not been appraised yet. That negotiation hasn't taken place. Owner is willing to negotiate in good faith on the property with the city. Grant is apportioned by district.

Commissioner Leppert made a motion to write a letter in support of the a letter for the purchase. Commissioner Weber seconded. Commissioner Russel wanted to have a better understanding of the cost of the property. Mr. Grinch mentioned that Brad Westall.

All commissioners present voted Yes, none dissented.

Review of the proposed Area Commission:

There are a number of sections that needed additional clarification. Some sections that have issues: terms limits, election dates, and officer term limits.

Hari Ruiz (E&A board member) wanted to include that by-laws, calendars, forms, and other documents would need to be changed.

Commissioner Cabral motioned that the commission approve the comments as written with previously mentioned changes. Commissioner Russel seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

8:30pm Commissioner Cabral motioned that the meeting be extended for 15 minutes. Commissioner Russell approved. All in favor.

Treasurer's report.

Zoning, no quorum at the last meeting.

Elections and Appointments: introduction of new student commissioner applicant.

Communications, survey results.

Planning, met with the greater Southeast AC one of the first commissions that had a C2P2 land use plan developed. Sought a lot of community feedback during the process.

Commissioner Cabral motioned that we extend that meeting 10 minutes. Commissioner Russell seconded. Commissioner Grinch and Dyszel dissented. All others were in favor.

Bob Vance mentioned that the Commission needed to foster opportunities for collaboration with other area groups and other area commissions.

Have a new logo! Waiting on final files then we can add it on anything.

Commissioner Leppert motioned that the meeting adjourn. Commissioner Dyszel seconded.

Adjourned.