

South Kenton County Working Group

Minutes: June 11, 2018

Kenton County Administrator Joe Shriver called the regular quarterly meeting to order at approximately 12:00 Noon, in the Commission Chambers of the PDS Building in Fort Mitchell. He welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

Those in attendance were as follows: Andrew Aiello, TANK; Joan Bowling, Kenton County Extension Service; Gailen Bridges, Kenton County Conservation District and citizen member; Mayor John Cole, Ryland Heights; Lisa Cooper, NKADD; Kathleen Donohoue, Kenton Conservancy; Dan Doss, SD1; Rob Haney, Kenton County School District; Drew Harris, Kenton County Attorney; Susann Parker Leist, South Kenton County Citizens' Group; Chris Moriconi, Independence City Administrator; John Scheben, Northern Kentucky Water District; Tony Schmiade, Kenton County Public Works; Bill Schneider, South Kenton County Citizens' Group; Dave Schroeder, Kenton County Public Library; Joe Shriver, Kenton County Fiscal Court; Tom Sinclair, Duke Energy; John Stork, District Manager, Kenton County Conservation District; Dan Tobergte, Northern Kentucky Tri-ED; Bob Yeager, KYTC; and, PDS staff members: Chris Schneider, Principal Planner; and Lori Remley, Executive Assistant.

After introductions, Mr. Shriver asked if there were any changes to the March meeting minutes. With no changes or corrections, he declared the minutes accepted as presented.

Regional Organizations

TANK – Mr. Aiello advised the group that four out of eight of their top people have recently retired and asked anyone needing updated contact information to let him know. He stated that on the technology side, TANK has launched a real time application that shows riders exactly where their bus is. He also indicated that they are working on two pilot projects – an Uber study and a Micro-Transit study with a company from North Carolina. A brief discussion regarding the two studies followed.

Duke Energy – Mr. Sinclair stated that it is that time of year again – storm season. He noted that Duke's procedure for restoring power is available on its website and circulated a hard-copy of it (a copy of which is attached to the original minutes). He reminded the group to sign up for email and/or text alerts regarding severe weather.

Mr. Bill Schneider asked if there was an update regarding the solar field? Mr. Sinclair indicated that he didn't have any new information but would check on the status and let Mr. Schneider know via email.

Northern Kentucky Area Development District – Ms. Cooper thanked Mr. Allen and the Extension Service for their help with an ag grant application. She stated that this grant was for

eight counties – Boone, Campbell, Kenton, and five in the Buffalo Trace (Maysville) Area Development District – and that this is the second year they have applied for this grant. She indicated that they are also working with the Health Department on Medicaid Waivers with Northern Kentucky being the pilot for the State and first in the country. Ms. Cooper stated that they would begin working on Campbell County on July 1st, Boone County on August 1st, and Kenton County on September 1st. She asked that anyone with questions be referred to the Kentucky Career Center or the ADD. There was discussion regarding the requirements for waivers.

Mayor Cole asked if seniors would need a waiver. Ms. Cooper stated that most “seniors” are on Medicare and that the waiver is only required for Medicaid but asked that anyone with concerns be referred to the Kentucky Career Center or the ADD for confirmation.

Northern Kentucky Tri-ED – Mr. Tobergte announced that a federal Infra Grant in the amount of \$67M has been awarded for the Mt. Zion / Richwood interchanges project. He noted that it was the only Kentucky application submitted for funds. He stated that the Mt. Zion interchange would be the first phase and Richwood would be the second phase. The project includes the intersection with US25 and an underpass at the railroad tracks which opens approximately 1,400 acres for development. He indicated that a feasibility study is being done on this area. Mr. Bill Schneider expressed concern about the development of this area and the impact on the surrounding farms. Discussion followed.

Mr. Tobergte also noted that Amazon has still not made an announcement regarding its decision on the location of its second office facility.

Northern Kentucky Water District – Mr. Scheben stated that the Water District has been working on flow issues in Taylor Mill and that Hempfling/Sub District M is online and accessible.

Mr. Bill Schneider asked about the number of residences still unserved. Mr. Scheben indicated that approximately 61 road miles still don't have water service but that this includes the Bullock Pen area. Mr. Schneider asked how many residences were in this area and expressed concern about the lack of water to fight fires. He asked if Mr. Scheben could provide this information to Ms. Remley so that she could email it to the group. Discussion followed.

Sanitation District 1 – Mr. Doss indicated that SD1's FY19 budget has been approved. He noted that the Richwood project should be complete in the next few months and that some of the load will be diverted from the line that serves the southern part of Kenton County.

Mr. Bill Schneider asked if SD1 would be providing a ten-year growth update. Mr. Doss stated that he would check into it and get back with Mr. Schneider.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet – Mr. Yeager indicated that KYTC is working on its six-year plan for new projects and that this plan will include the 275/75 exchange. He also noted the

\$67M Infra Grant for the Mt. Zion / Richwood interchanges project and stated that, in addition to the underpass/railroad bridge, an extra lane would be added and there would be a roundabout at Richwood. He stated that work on Graves Road continues as does work on acquiring right of way for the KY 536 project.

Mr. Yeager advised that KYTC did not get an increase in gasoline tax revenue and that its plan has been balanced based on the money available which means fewer projects.

Mr. Yeager stated that they have started making pavement repairs and that the Brent Spence Bridge will be painted next year. He noted that this summer will be interesting, and the Amazon decision could change things.

Mr. Bill Schneider thanked KYTC and Kenton County Public Works for the repairs they are making. He noted that there are several slides/slips that need to be addressed and that there are several road signs missing around the area.

Mr. Schneider also expressed concern about the amount of time children are spending on the school bus and asked if that could be looked at as well. He stated that parents are concerned when their children are late getting home. Mr. Haney noted that the School District, like TANK, has a bus buddy app that will show parents exactly where their child's bus is at any given time. Mr. Schneider replied that not everyone has internet or wireless service. A lengthy discussion followed.

Kenton County Organizations

Conservation District – Mr. Stork announced that there will be a Hike Day held on July 28th from 9:00 AM to Noon at the Morning View Heritage Area. There will be two hikes, vendors, and a picnic. RSVPs are required via 859.525.PLAY (7529).

Mr. Bridges added that the Farm Harvest Tour will be a two-day event this year – September 15th and 16th.

Mr. Bill Schneider took the opportunity to thank the Conservation District for hosting students from Holmes.

Kenton Conservancy – Ms. Donohoue stated that work on the wetlands at Wolsing Woods continues and that they expect to complete the work by December. She also indicated that they are working on a list of projects.

Kenton County Extension Service – Ms. Bowling indicated that the Extension annex has been delayed by rain. She also stated that the Kenton County Fair would be held July 16th – July 21st.

Kenton County Library – Mr. Schroeder stated that the Summer Reading Club was kicked off last weekend and is now in full gear. He noted that this program has been in place since the 1930s. In addition to the reading club, they are providing literacy programs at daycares, schools, trailer parks, etc. The programs at the schools and all three branches of the library include free lunches for the kids (and for the adults at a nominal fee). These lunches are provided by a partnership between the Library, Kenton County, and the Covington and Erlanger-Elsmere School systems.

Mr. Schroeder announced that the Library has been nominated for an Ohio Valley Regional Emmy for the 150th Anniversary of the Roebling Bridge video in the Short Format Informational Program category. The video was produced by Library staff in association with the Covington-Cincinnati Suspension Bridge Committee. Portions of the video have been aired at a Reds game, on PBS, and on a television station in London, England. Mr. Schroeder stated that they are very excited about being nominated and, of course, they want to win.

Mr. Bill Schneider expressed his appreciation for the Library's help with the exchange student from France and stated that the event held at the Durr Branch was a success.

Kenton County Schools – Mr. Haney stated that there are several projects underway –

- the old Twinhofel building is being demolished and will be replaced with a bus/transportation facility;
- Scott High School is in phase 4 of renovations;
- the Fort Wright renovation is finishing up; and
- the addition to Hinsdale is underway.

Mr. Haney indicated that they have been working on a safety/security plan and are working to secure entryways with only River Ridge, Ryland, and the Academy with open entries. He stated that, with the renovations, all facilities are now rated Energy Star Partners.

Mayor Cole asked if the school district would be offering a vocational program next year. Mr. Haney stated that there are several dual-credit trade programs available through Gateway. Discussion regarding off-site classes, security, and school resource officers (SROs) followed.

PDS of Kenton County – Mr. Chris Schneider reported that the Z21 project is moving forward and that the consultants would be in town this week to discuss the first portion of the revisions with the participants.

Kenton County Government

Fiscal Court – Mr. Shriver stated that work on the new building is moving forward as is the new radio system. He noted that the FY19 budget is scheduled for adoption on June 19th and that it includes a million dollars for roads. He reminded the group that a road condition truck had

been hired to inventory the condition of Kenton County's roads and, based on its findings, the proposed roads budget is three times what it used to be. Mr. Shriver stated that they are focused on providing basic services.

Mr. Bill Schneider asked if there was any chance of Parks and Recreation acquiring acreage at the end of Rich Road by the pond. He stated that if the County would buy the land, there may be grant money available to create a playground. Mr. Shriver indicated that ongoing maintenance costs would be an issue. Discussion followed.

County Attorney – Mr. Harris stated that he had nothing to report.

Public Works – Mr. Schmiade stated that they had 150 cars through the recent monthly clean up that is held the first Saturday of every month (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM). He indicated that they are paving on South Ridge, that Cruise Creek has been drilled, and that they are working on road slides.

Citizens

South Kenton Citizens Group – Mr. Bill Schneider stated that the Community Day held last Saturday at the Goshen Church was a nice event and that he appreciated everyone's help. He provided some background regarding the old log cabin in Fiskburg that they are wanting to preserve. He asked that anyone interested in obtaining a schedule of summer classes in the Piner area to contact him.

Ms. Donohue stated that they have been working with Kenton County Public Works and KYTC on the down or missing sign issue. Mr. Yeager asked that they call KYTC any time they find a stop sign down or missing. They have also been looking at short-term rentals and industrial buffers.

Ms. Parker Leist indicated that the Agricultural Economic Growth Committee continues to meet two or three times per year. She stated that short term rentals have been a recent topic due to the tourist activity at the Creation Museum in neighboring Boone County. She also provided information regarding the Farm-to-Table program and reminded the group to support the local farmers' markets.

Cities

Independence – Mr. Moriconi announced that the City of Independence is accepting applications for safety officers. Anyone interested should contact the city. He noted that the NKY Hates Heroin 5K Walk & Run is scheduled for this Saturday at Simon Kenton and that the annual fireworks show will be on July 6 and July 7. He also stated that Party at the Park is on the second Thursday of the month from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Ryland Heights – Mayor Cole stated that they are working to make the Licking River bank more accessible to the public. A brief discussion regarding erosion concerns followed.

Mr. Shriver asked if there were any other reports or questions. Mayor Cole asked if there was any news regarding cable access in the south end of the county. He stated that with schools using the internet more it creates an issue for the kids living in the area. Mr. Shriver stated that Beth Sewell and John Stanton are working on a partnership to get access at a reasonable amount, but that lack of density is an issue.

Mr. Yeager asked that anyone wanting to contact him should contact him via email since he isn't on Facebook very often.

Mayor Cole asked how many miles of road are in Kenton County. Mr. Yeager provided background information regarding the gas tax, the number of secondary roads (70), and several hundred other roads. He explained that each lane of the road is included when calculating "miles." Discussion followed.

With no other comments, Mr. Shriver thanked everyone for their attendance. He noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 10, 2018, at noon and the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:35 PM.

Dennis Andrew Gordon, FAICP, Executive Director
Planning & Development Services of Kenton County