



Mayors' Partnership for Progress

March 09, 2017

OU Inn and Conference Center

Athens, OH

Member	Mayor Gary Goosman	Village of Amesville - President
Attendees:	Mayor Connie Pelletier	Village of Wellston
	Mayor Mike Lorentz	City of Belpre
	Mayor Steve Patterson	City of Athens
	City Manager Eugene Greene	Village of Gallipolis
	Mayor Randy Heath	City of Jackson
	Mayor Richard Wetzel	Village of Chesterhill
	Mayor Luke Feeney	City of Chillicothe
	Mayor Joseph Matthews	City of Marietta
	Mayor Frederick Redfern	Village of Crooksville
	Mayor Kim Wortman	Village of McArthur
	Mayor Annice Erickson	Village of Zaleski
	Mayor Bryan Shank	Village of Pomeroy
Representative	Jay Edwards	State Representative - 94 th District
Attendees:	Jeanne Wilson	Office of Senator Sherrod Brown
	Jamie Barker	Office of Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel
	Jill McCartney	Buckeye Hills
	Zacch Ashcraft	Office of Ohio Attorney General
	Ian Christie	Office of Ohio Attorney General
	Wil Lloyd	Office of Ohio Secretary of State
	Mary Nally	Community Food Initiatives
Voinovich School:	Robert Gordon	Voinovich School

SUMMARY

Call to Order

Mayor Gary Goosman called the meeting to order, asking each attendees to introduce themselves.

Community Food Initiatives

Mary Nally, Executive Director, Community Food Initiatives (CFI), holds a Masters in Environmental Studies from Ohio University and a Bachelors of Arts in Social Work. Mary also serves on the Athens Food Policy Council and Athens Healthy Community Coalition.

Not everyone in Southeast Ohio has access to healthy, affordable food. CFI addresses this problem and strengthens the region with our focus on gardening, skill building, and feeding those in need.

CFI Values

- Culture & Community - We value naming our assets--soil, seeds, and an Appalachian heritage of food production and preservation--so that everyone can see their place in strengthening our assets and our community.

- Education & Empowerment - We believe that by sharing the knowledge to grow and prepare wholesome foods, people become empowered to feed their families, improve their health, and their community.
- Justice - We are rooted in the belief that equitable access to fresh and nutritious local food leads to a safe and clean environment, meaningful work with living wages, and fulfills the needs & rights of all people.
- Collaboration - We believe in the strength of collaboration and doing better together.

Local Food Solutions

Community Gardens

- Community gardens that provide` people with the space, tools, water, mulch, and opportunities to interact with other local gardeners.
- Five community gardens in Athens County

Garden & Culinary Workshops

- Workshops provide hands-on opportunities to learn about gardening, food preservation, cooking, and so much more
- 20-40 annual workshops – organic gardening (Promotes peer-to-peer education)

Donation Station

- We collect donations and purchase food from farmers to distribute to food pantries feeding those who are hungry today.
- Serving 44 food pantries across five counties

Discovery Kitchens

- Helping people to learn to cook from scratch again

School Gardens

- Gardens teach school children about the importance of healthy, fresh foods and give them an excuse to spend time outside.
- Four of five districts maintain gardens

Seed Alliance

- Long-term food security
- Loss of 93% of our heritage seeds

Youth Entrepreneurs at Hope

- Coaches low-income youth in gardening, culinary skills, money management, and professionalism
- 11-18 summer job/intern positions

SEO Food Link

- Online community created resource hub
- Empowering local communities to measure, assess and plan for their food futures.

Dates to remember:

Season Extension Workshop

- March 13th 5:30pm-6:30pm
- Eastside Community Garden

Seed Potato Give-Away

- Wednesday March 15th 12-6pm
- ACEnet 94 Columbus Rd Athens

Planning Your Planting Workshop

- March 16th 6pm-7pm
- Athens Community Center Shelter House

Annual CFI Gathering

- Saturday March 18th 6pm-8pm
- Athens Community Center

Mayor Goosman reported success with community gardens. They provide residents with recreation and quality food.

Mary Nally can be reached at:

740.593.5971

Email: cfi@communityfoodinitiatives.org

Website: www.communityfoodinitiatives.org

Approval of Minutes

The reading and approval of the February 09, 2017 minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

Financial Report

Mayor Goosman shared the financial report on behalf of Mayor Lorentz. The current balance is \$2,961.75. Two expenditures had occurred since the last report; the web domain name fee and a \$25 fee to the Secretary of State Notice of Existence.

Motion: Mayor Heath

Second: Mayor Matthews

Motion Approved

Old Business

Notification of Dues

The dues invoice is available online and will be recirculated electronically.

Local Government Funds

Letter was sent to the Ohio Congress and Governor Kasich asking for the restoration of local government funds. Mayor Goosman informed that Representative Jay Edwards has been the only individual to respond.



VISTA

Mayor Goosman provided an update regarding the VISTA placement. The VISTA position is through the Ohio Foodbank. They will be looking at our greatest needs as well as gaps of resources. The VISTA worker will also explore existing services that may help to address identified. They will begin in July, for 32 hours a week for 1 year. Mayor Goosman asked if the Voinovich School could provide occasional space for the placement. Robert Gordon will look into the possibility.

Report of Committees

N/A

New Business

Mayor Goosman announced that Graduate Assistant, Kyle Dunn had received a full-time position and has moved on. The new GA will be Bakari Lumumba. He will start on March 13, 2017.

Open Forum Roundtable

Athens – Mayor Patterson announced the new incoming OU President, Duane Nellis. The City looks to continue the MOU with the University. Athens is considering curbside composting.

Zaleski – The village is engaged in a sidewalk installation project. Zaleski is in need of a facility to provide gasoline and essentials to Lake Hope visitors.

Jackson – Mayor Heath informed that the city was making improvements to the electric substation to allow a second entry point.

Chillicothe – Chillicothe is moving toward reintroducing recycling to the city.



Belpre – Mayor Lorentz shared that the city has collaborated with the Voinovich School to develop an economic development plan. A drug dog will be added to the staff in order to aid the crack down on drugs in the community.

Marietta – Marietta College has a new President, Dr. William Rudd. The community has a new IHOP and an additional Mexican restaurant is planned.

Crooksville – The village experienced a recent cyber-attack. Cyber insurance has assisted in the recovery. The community has daily drug challenges.

Gallipolis – Central tax collections are concerning. Drug overdoses are at an all-time high, 19 to date. This is typically a year's worth.

McArthur – Paving to start on St Rt 93. They received a 250k grant for sidewalk replacements. The community is in need of a replacement police car. The village will celebrate the opening of a new grocery store, Campbell's Market, on March 20, 2017. Plans are underway for a new branch of Rio Grande Community College to be located in the community.

Wellston – Wellston received funds to fill-in community pool. They are currently interested in a splash park.

Pomeroy – Recently hired a Village Administrator but commented it was tough to find a qualified individual.

Village of Amesville – Finalizing plans for the Mayors Recognition Day on April 4, 2017.

Office of Attorney General – Zacch Ashcraft announced Ian Christie as the new Regional Director SE Ohio. Ian will replace Zacch.

Office of Ohio Treasurer – HB 40 to establish Treasurer as permanent steward of the Checkbook Program. It will not make the program mandatory.

Buckeye Hills – Buckeye Hills has completed their rebranding process. The new brand will be rolled out during the Semi-Annual Meeting in Marietta on April 7, 2017.

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown – “Working Too Hard for Too Little” Initiative: A Plan for Restoring the Value of Work in America. Suggested major policy changes:

- Raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour.
- Reduce the white-collar overtime salary threshold.
- Require that employees earn a minimum of seven paid sick days a year.

- Give workers a 12-week paid family and medical leave standard.
- Create stronger penalties for “wage theft.”

Senator Brown is also working to save the retirement and pensions of mineworkers and their widows. Communities are asked to provide resolutions in support.

Announcements

Progress News

The March issue of the Progress News was distributed to the attendees.

OEPA Ohio Materials Marketplace

April 18, 2017

Athens, Ohio

State of the Region

May 23, 2017

Baker Center – Athens, Ohio

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 04, 2017

Mayors Day of Recognition

Lunch – 12:00 Noon

Meeting – 12:30

COAD – Athens, Ohio

Future Meeting

May 11, 2017

Special Evening Meeting

Dinner - 6 pm

Meeting - 6:30 pm

Bossard Memorial Library

Gallipolis, Ohio

ADJOURNMENT