

**Fire Services Efficiency Project
Community Relations Team Meeting
2/16/07**

Present: Bernard Benedict, Nick Condon, Eric Fingerhut, Mike Geraci, Sean Gilmore, Pat Pell

Project Update (Eric Fingerhut)

- At the 2/2 Strategy Team meeting, the idea of having co-chairs for every committee was agreed upon (Sean Gilmore and Pat Pell having taken these positions for the CR team)
- Carol Haslett is on board as project manager, and will meet with Nancy Lesic to help get caught up on all project happenings
- Tony Sinagra is working on a fundraising budget for the project (Eric Fingerhut has obtained approval for this budget)
- The goal for the near future is to raise \$475,000 in additional funds (making the total \$600,000)
- Currently, \$100,000 is to come from the FMCS grant, and \$75,000 each from county, state, and federal governments. The request for federal dollars has already been sent in accordance with a deadline to do so
- Additionally, a request for a \$250,000 grant from The Cleveland Foundation (as a joint request from the seven cities) is being planned
- It is important to note that requests for funds must be supported by showing commitment to keeping communities up-to-date on project developments
- The Operations Team is still looking for a firm, and Tony Sinagra is at work procuring the services of a law firm
- It is important to note that in order to contract with these firms, funding must be adequate and in place
- The idea of having one progress sheet being filled out for every committee has been advocated. This will allow all project members to fully understand where the project stands

Meeting Discussions

- Much discussion concerned the upcoming speaking engagement with the Parma Area Chamber and Brook Park Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, March 22 at 11:30 am
- This is expected to be a large event, as three mayors are expected to be there, in addition to an unknown number of council members
- Eric Fingerhut and Pat Pell both agree that there should be attempts made to gain press coverage for the event to help spread the word even further
- It was agreed that it would be advantageous to the project to hand out feedback forms at all speaking engagements. It would give the teams a sense of how the project is being perceived
- There was inquiry into whether the team should pursue speaking engagements with other groups
- Pat Pell agreed to inquire into the possibility of speaking to the Parma Area Rotary, and Sean Gilmore will look into holding engagements at senior centers in the seven cities
- Mayor Zanotti has recently spoken to the Parma/Parma Heights Kiwanians
- Eric Fingerhut also reminded the groups of the Council Briefings that have been discussed for consecutive nights in May

-Mr. Fingerhut felt that it was important to get dates for these briefings ASAP so council members and interested parties could plan to attend

-Pat Pell agreed to contact Mayor Zanotti to see if he has spread word about the project's desire to hold these briefings

-Eric Fingerhut expressed concern of whether there would be June election/primaries in any of the seven cities. If so, he felt that effort needs to be put into informing all incumbents and challengers about the project so the project cannot be "boxed-in" politically

-It is noted that it is especially important to inform mayoral candidates because they will undoubtedly be asked where they stand with regards to this project

-Eric Fingerhut concludes by emphasizing the role of this committee is not only inform as many parties as possible about the project, but also to head off potential problems (like with the elections) before they can harm the project

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