

COUNCIL CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Monday, April 28, 2014

At 6:15 p.m. President Joseph Suster introduced Derek Schafer, Executive Director of the West Creek Conservancy, who came to speak about the Mill Creek Watershed Action Plan. West Creek Conservancy builds parks, greenways, etc. and does watershed management. Garfield Heights is in the Mill Creek Watershed. (Mr. Schafer distributed brochures and maps to Council.) A watershed plan is a live document that is a comprehensive inventory of the watershed: ecological, recreational, etc. It gets input from the city and County. He planned to finish the Mill Creek Watershed Action Plan by the end of June 2014 and was requesting input from Garfield Heights. He was seeking storm water problems, flooding, places where the city desired Green practice, places where rain gardens were necessary, places where the city would like a park to be created, etc. His plan was neither anti-development nor anti-construction. It synthesized Green development or Green abatement or enhancement into the community. He is working with 10 communities on this. Recreational trails give people access to green spaces. Each community prioritizes its own projects.

When President Suster asked Mr. Schafer whether he intended to do anything with Garfield Park, he replied that he was a partner with MetroParks and was soliciting their input too, in terms of water quality enhancement. The Council President pointed out that a lake used to exist in Garfield Park, but it has become overgrown and unkempt. Clwn Marincic added that there was still a waterfall on the site and the little reservoir in front of it used to be the lake. Mr. Schafer said that the MetroParks might not have historical pictures and he lacked them as well. President Suster said that if something were to be done with that lake they would have to take care of the roads that used to lead to it, which are ruined. Mr. Schafer said that could be part of the wish list of Garfield Heights.

Pat Salemi said that she attends the watershed meetings and once the plan is set up, the city applies for funding and scores points. If a city has a plan in place funding is more likely.

Clwn Marincic mentioned an erosion issue on Henry Street and Mr. Schafer said that was the sort of thing to bring up.

Mr. Schafer distributed copies of his newsletter containing his contact information and said he would be glad to help with any mailings Council did concerning the watershed. Clwn Marincic requested 1,500 inserts to add to her May newsletter.

In closing, Mr. Schafer handed out literature about the Trails Conference and thanked Council for their time.

President of Council Joseph Suster called the Caucus Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

All Council Members except Clmn Dudley were present, but he was expected to arrive.

There were no communications to Council.

Clmn Burke moved to accept the Caucus Meeting Minutes of 04/14/2014 as submitted and Clmn Glenn seconded his motion. The Minutes stood approved by a vote of 6 Yes (Burke, Vaughn, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster) and 1 Absent (Dudley).

Clmn Burke would dispose of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 04/14/2014.

President Suster handed out documentation about the Turney Road Waterline Meeting to those who had not attended it.

Clwn Marincic would present the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. She suggested singing the song God Bless America as the invocation and Council agreed.

When the Council President asked about getting a computer, etc. for the Council Clerk, Mr. Tomola said he was working on it and they should talk about it.

President Suster encouraged Council to attend the upcoming Finance Committee Meeting on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Clwn Marincic moved to adjourn and the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Approved,

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Suster
Council President

Barbara Molin
Council Clerk