

BOARD

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Leah Evans
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Kelly Scocco
David Scheffler
Tony Slanec
Scott Ulrich
Julie Walcoff
Brad Westall

Staff Support

Kerstin Carr
Stephen Patchan
Jasmine Walker
Melinda Vonstein



Central Ohio Greenways Board Meeting Wednesday, January 20, 2021 2:00pm – 3:30pm Microsoft Teams Meeting

1. **Welcome & Introductions** – *Letty Schamp, COG Chair*
 - a. Welcome new COG Board members
2. **Legislative Updates** – Joe Garrity
 - a. Capital Bill
 - b. Federal Updates
3. **Working Group Reports**
 - a. Operations & Access - *Catherine Girves, Working Group Chair*
 - i. Social media outreach – *Jasmine Walker*
 - b. Trail Development – *Laura Ball, Working Group Chair*
 - i. Regional Trail Vision Updates – *Melinda Vonstein*
 - ii. COG Trail Prioritization Project – Top 10 projects – *Melinda Vonstein*
 - c. Marketing & Communications – *Adrienne Joly, Working Group Co-Chair*
 - iii. Loop and Event Planning
 - d. Partnership – *Bill Habig, Working Group Chair*
 - iv. Impacts of Trails
4. **Other Business and Closing**

Next Meeting
March 17, 2021 | 2:00 – 3:30

The Central Ohio Greenways Board is part of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). Primary funding comes from partnerships with governmental entities through its Greenways program.

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Central Ohio Greenways Board Meeting

January 20, 2021



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



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Welcome New COG Board Members

Autumn Glover

Bertie Fields

COG Retuning Board Members



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Operations & Access Working Group

Catherine Girves*

Leah Evans

Dan Kaderly

Al Obayuwana

Julie Walcoff

Trail Development Working Group

Laura Ball*

Kelly Scocco

Ted Miller

Brad Westall

Letty Schamp

Eric Oberg

Bill Hebble

Marketing Working Group

Adrienne Joly*

Abby Rhodebeck

Scott Ulrich

Andrew Overbeck

Tony Slanec

Alex Nouanesengsy

Partnership Working Group

Bill Habig*

David Scheffler

Kacey Brankamp



Operations & Access Working Group

Social Media Engagement – Jasmine Walker



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Purpose



- To understand concerns of expanding the trails to the black business community and customers that support those businesses.

Social Media Post



Hi everyone! This isn't a business related post but it relates to our community and I need some type of feedback for a presentation at my job.

My organization is seeking to expand the trail (walking and biking) network to underrepresented communities. This gives the ability to better quality of life, accessibility to businesses (with connection to BOB per a conversation I had with my supervisor), a growth of revenue for those same business...etc. The same communities that have been red zoned for decades are going to be the primary target for the infrastructure. My question is to everyone is that if the trails were placed (which they have started the expansion of one in particular...I can verify the location once I double check) what concerns would you have? What positives could you see? Would YOU be comfortable?

- ❖ 78,138 members are within the group.
- ❖ 41 "likes" and "loves" were generated.
- ❖ 54 comments were placed onto the post.

Comments – Theme 1: Safety and Inclusion



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Depending on the area would depend on the concerns. Some areas have more crime, some not enough lighting etc. Positives would be the upgrading of the area.

Like · Reply · Share · 3w



Having multiple parking lots / access points along the trail I think not only helps with having available parking but also limits the likeliness of crime and or unwitnessed crime if people are constantly entering into the park at different areas and intervals of time. Having multiple park rangers along the trail helps too. I was just thinking to

Options for disabled folks (there are tons of elderly in wheelchairs in my neighborhood, for example), safe and accessible curb ramps, good lighting, and routine trash collection because we unfortunately still have a huge issue with folks throwing trash out their car windows or placing fast food bags outside on the ground before they pull out of a parking lot. I would also want to ensure that small alcoves that have become havens for our unhoused population are not taken over at their expense, because there really aren't enough shelters for them to go to.

This is such a great idea. Thank you for leading this!

Love · Reply · Share · 2w · Edited



Options for disabled people (the grade of the path, density of benches, path material) who have canes or walkers. Maybe some small pavilions or shelters.

Love · Reply · Share · 3w



Comments – Theme 2: Is this really for us?

Is the purpose for gentrification? Have they sent out surveys for the community. Lighting, safe trails, etc. What neighborhood. We need a lil more info. But great idea if it's truly to serve the purpose that they are saying. ljs



I went to a board meeting regarding trails in Ohio, there was no one of color there. They had a deer in the headlights look when I showed. Lots of work to do.

Like · Reply · Share · 3w



What an incredible project!! This sounds amazing. My biggest concern would be community buy-in. That the community feels trails were created "with" the community, not "for" the community without trying to understand their wants/needs/environment. The K... See More



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Comments – Theme 3: Participation & Expertise

while doing it. Creating groups on social media in regards to this I think helps foster connections in this typically untapped social setting. I have been wanting to make friends and new connections since moving here but have a lack of social connections and rarely go out to the typical weekly social settings, so a park group for me would be the perfect opportunity 😊 It's true when I've been on the trails I have very seldom seen faces like my own ❤️ For us POC something about seeing someone that looks like yourself in an area not typical for our people to frequent makes me feel included, connected and most importantly SAFE. This is why this is an awesome project and is so important thank you for listening to our/my feedback 😊😊😊

Jasmine Walker absolutely! If you want the worst ACT parking areas that I've encountered, feel free to PM me!

Actually, I can go on and on about Columbus trails for days, so if you need more feedback, feel free to PM me! 😂

Jasmine Walker AGREED! Also, if you're looking for more diverse voices, Facebook has a couple great hiking groups for Columbus. The Unlikely Hiker caters to POC, women, people with disabilities, etc. They're a great resource. It might be worth it for you to post inquiries there as well!

Like · Reply · Share · 3w



Also, this could be a business related post if you teamed up with a developer and the right visionaries to transform these abandoned malls and factory buildings into indoor walking trails. Some ideas can turn into profit!

Like · Reply · Share · 3w



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Further Outreach

How can we begin to use engagement strategies like this to expand participation in COG efforts?

THANK YOU!

Jasmine C. Walker, Graduate Student

jwalker@morpc.org

Central Ohio Greenways Intern

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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