

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 23, 2024

There was a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission on **Tuesday, April 23, 2024**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Commission office located at 130 West North Street, Lima, Ohio.

Mr. Doyle brought the meeting to order at 10:02 and proceeded with the agenda.

1. ROLL CALL

Alice Curth, virtual	Delphos Senior Citizens
Shane Coleman, virtual	City of Lima
Jessie Doyle, virtual	Ohio Means Jobs/Jobs & Family Services
Rose Franklin, virtual	Allen County
Joe Lewis, virtual	Marimor Industries
Charles Schreck, virtual	Citizen
Mike Hensley	Allen County Council on Aging
John Vandemark	Village of Cairo

STAFF

Tara Reynolds Bales	Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission
Cody Doyle	Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission
Adam Haunhorst	Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission
Megan Kinnear	Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission
Rebecca Phillips	Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission
Tonya Dye	Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission

2. APPROVAL OF CAC MINUTES – January 23, 2023

There was no quorum present to approve the January minutes. The order of the agenda was adjusted to allow for speaker needs.

3. HOME MORTGAGE DISCLOSURE ACT UPDATE

Mr. Doyle presented the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data that was gathered for the Analysis of Impediment report. This report on access to fair housing is required every 5 years by HUD to ensure that federal money is being distributed and used appropriately. The City of Lima, the City of Delphos, and Allen County, along with Metropolitan Housing and WOCAP, were the primary partners for the report. The Analysis of Impediments is in draft form, with a May 1st deadline to review and send for public comment before finalizing the report.

The report summarizes the demographics of the area, focusing on race, age, mobility, primary language, and income level, among others. Based on 1100 mortgage applications in 2023, the LACRPC looked at the data trends. For the most part, mortgage applications were similar to 2019 with minorities being denied at a higher rate than white applicants. The leading denial reason was credit history, with debt-to-income ratio being the second leading factor in denials. However, without looking on a case-by-case basis, the submissions did not indicate that Allen County had an issue with discrimination. One problem with the analysis was that the race/ethnicity of the applicants may not be reported due to online mortgage applications that do not request that information.

4. OTHER

Ms. Reynolds Bales introduced Ms. Megan Kinnear as the new Public Outreach and Community Program Planner. Ms. Kinnear has a background in public relations and education and has worked in the public and private sectors. She is looking for feedback on how to make this committee more effective.

Ms. Reynolds Bales also told the committee that the report from the statewide Senate hearing meetings looking at the housing crisis and giving policy suggestions had been published by the state. Common themes were the aging housing stock, lack of multiunit housing, predatory annexation, and general infrastructure. The report is divided into sections representing the various sections of Ohio.

5. LIMA AQUATIC CENTER

Mr. Kirk Niemeyer spoke to the committee regarding the Aquatic Center. The partners for the project are the City of Lima, the Lima City Schools, the Lima Community Foundation, and Charles Construction Services. The Y was part of the design process and was instrumental in helping refine the needs.

Pools are a great resource, but there is a continual cost. Plans are being developed to maintain the costs of operation. The Lima Community Foundation is helping with the ongoing endowment. It is estimated to have an operating budget of \$600 - \$650,000 year. At present, the project has received 11.6 million dollars in funding. The goal for the endowment is \$5 million, with the forecast to be that the interest should be able to cover the operating costs after 5 years. Staffing will be a major portion of the operating costs, especially for lifeguard salaries. Solar Arrays are being looked at as a means to help cover the electrical costs.

A benefit of the pool is to teach children who would not have access to a safe water environment swimming and water safety. Drowning deaths for young children are quite high. The Lima Aquatic Center will be able to serve multiple uses, from an outside activity pool “Sprayground” to a multi-use indoor facility that will enable competitive swim tournaments. There will be a traveling bridge that can adjust the length of the pool as well. The indoor pool will have a retractable room

Construction started in February, and the pool is slated to open next April. The aquatic center is located in the Lima Stadium Park area. People can access it by book or foot along the Ottawa River Bike Path. It is also near the other sports areas.

Questions were raised about the future of Schoonover Park. There is a draft plan to repurpose that park while keeping the original pool house. Part of the draft plans include pickleball courts, skateboard facilities, and rock climbing. There is also suggestions to reconstruct the dam and the island and include a floating fishing pier. That is still a work in progress and the city will be seeking neighborhood involvement in that plan.

6. THRIVING COMMUNITIES

The Thriving Communities presentation was canceled due to time constraints. It will be discussed in future meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:04.