

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Winter 2013

Township Comprehensive Plan Update

The Brown Township Comprehensive Plan, underway since September, is now in the policy recommendations phase of the project.

After a very well attended public meeting in December and receipt of survey results, Franklin County planners are preparing draft policies to achieve the vision articulated by township residents and other stakeholders. After review by the Working Committee, the draft policies will be released for review and comment at a public meeting at 7 p.m. on March 12 at Brown Elementary School. Signs,

flyers, and email messages will also announce the details of the public meeting.

The twelve-month planning process, requested by the Brown Township Trustees and staffed by planners from the Franklin County Planning Department, will result in a draft plan by mid-summer.

The Comprehensive Plan will build on policies adopted by the Township Trustees in the Big Darby Accord Watershed Master Plan (2006), the Town Center Master Plan (2011), and previous Brown Township Comprehensive

Plans. The plan will address land use, transportation, general design recommendations, and other planning issues facing the community with a principal focus on development-related issues and policies.

Project information and documents may be reviewed anytime at www.tinyurl.com/browntownship.

For additional information, contact Project Manager Matt Brown at 614-525-5647 or mybrown@franklincountyohio.gov or Lead Planner Scott Ulrich at 614-525-7303 or stulrich@franklincountyohio.gov.

Hilliard Council Schedules Vote

A schedule has been developed for Hilliard City Council's consideration of Heritage Preserve, the 665-unit rezoning proposal on a 418.75 acre site on the west side of Alton-Darby Creek Road, north and south of Davis Road.

First reading of the proposal is scheduled for January 28, followed by second reading and a public hearing on February 11, and third reading and action on February 25. Hilliard City Council meetings are held at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Hilliard Municipal Building, 3800 Municipal Way, Hilliard.

The proposal, by Planned Development Co. of Ohio and Danken, LLC, was recommended for approval by the Hilliard Planning and Zoning Commission in November, after a unanimous recommendation of disapproval by the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel at its August meeting.

Questions on the Hilliard process or on the proposal should be directed to Planner John Talentino at 614-334-1176 or jtalentino@hilliardohio.gov or Public Service Director Butch Seidle at 614-334-2443 or cseidle@hilliardohio.gov.

Just a Reminder...

The Brown Township Hall is available for rent to township residents. Contact Barbara Hoover at the Township Office at 614-876-2133 or Barbara_Hoover@brown.twp.franklin.oh.us for a copy of the of the rental agreement.

Pam Sayre Retires

Pam Sayre looks forward to new opportunities and to spending time with her grandchildren after ably serving as a Brown Township Trustee for 25 years.

Her retirement was effective December 31 and was precipitated by changes to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System.

Born at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, the daughter of a career Air Force officer, Pam's family lived in the Washington, D.C. area until she was 10, followed by a move to central Ohio. A 1972 graduate of Hilliard High School, Pam Scoville married her high school sweetheart, Mike Sayre, 36 years ago. They have two adult daughters Adrienne Thompson and Aimee Denny, a granddaughter, 14-month-old Maddy Thompson and another grandchild due in August. Pam has lived in Brown Township since 1980, having married into a three-generation family of Brown Township farmers. Pam and Mike now share their home with two cats: Susie Q and Stalker.

Pam's illustrious career as a Brown Township Trustee arose out of her involvement in a zoning controversy concerning a quarrying operation directly across the road from her home on property that is now part of Prairie Oaks Metro Park. While her opposition and that of many Brown Township residents failed to convince the Franklin County Commissioners to reject the rezoning proposal, it awakened in Pam a desire to seek change from within the political system. She first ran for election in 1987, took office in 1988, and has served the residents of Brown Township with distinction ever since.

Four primary accomplishments represent her proudest moments as a Trustee. In order to assure that issues such as the quarrying controversy do not arise again, Pam was



instrumental in the creation of the Township's first comprehensive plan, which clearly defined the township's intentions regarding future land use. Pam was a member of the advisory group to design Prairie Oaks Metro Park on property formerly used as the quarry she opposed. Pam is also proud of the township's construction of the firehouse in 1999. The township built and owns the firehouse, Norwich Township Fire Department staffs it, and the contract between Brown and Norwich townships guarantees that the effective property tax rates paid in both townships will remain identical. Creating a periodic township newsletter is also high on Pam's list because it allows the trustees to communicate directly with residents on a regular basis.

Challenges associated with her long tenure centered on the dichotomy that exists in the township between residents who want as little change as possible and those who want to be able to sell their land and realize profits. These are difficult positions to reconcile, while protecting the most important natural resource in the township—Big Darby Creek.

In addition to her long and productive tenure as a Trustee, Pam worked for 25 years as a lead teacher at Hilliard United Methodist Church Pre-School and after completing a

bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in speech communication at Otterbein University graduating magna cum laude, served for four years as a study coordinator for a drug trial and parent-training initiative for children on the autism spectrum with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder at The Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University, leaving that position at the end of December.

Next steps in Pam's career path involve finding the best new opportunities to use her enthusiasm for early childhood education and her passions for planning and preservation in Brown Township. She learned to love and appreciate the Brown Township landscape and Big Darby Creek as a teenager and her enthusiasm has not waned. She recognizes the need to remember those who pioneered the Big Darby preservation and protection efforts.

As to advice for her successor, Pam believes it is critical to understand the history of where Brown Township has been and how it got to this point and the importance of understanding the limitations of being a township trustee in Ohio.

As Trustee Sayre said at her final meeting in December, "It has been a wonderful experience to be a part of this board. I have had the fortune to meet some incredible people who have had a great influence in my growth as an elected official. The township is in good hands."

Trustees Gary Dever and Ron Williams wish Pam the very best in the future and the residents of Brown Township owe Pam an enormous debt of gratitude for her unselfish service to them over the past 25 years.

*Prepared by Elizabeth A. Clark, AICP
Executive Assistant to the Brown
Township Board of Trustees*

Joe Martin Appointed Interim Trustee

Effective January 30, 2013, Joseph T. Martin became the newest member of the Brown Township Board of Trustees.



Appointed by Trustees Ron Williams and Gary Dever to fill the vacancy created by Pam Sayre's retirement, Joe will serve as interim trustee until the seat is filled through election on the November 5, 2013 ballot. Joe intends to run for the seat at that time.

A long-time Brown Township resident, Joe has served in a volunteer capacity on many township-related initiatives. Currently he chairs the Franklin County Rural Zoning Commission and the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel and coordinates the township website and newsletter. In the past, he chaired both the 1998 and 2006 Brown Township Comprehensive Plan Update steering committees, was the township appointee to the City of Hilliard 1996 Master Plan

steering committee, and served on the Brown Township Agricultural Preservation Committee, among other volunteer roles. He is a lifetime member of the Darby Creek Association.

Professionally, Joe is founder and president of Martin Control Systems, Inc., an engineering firm that designs, builds, and programs systems to automate industrial manufacturing processes.

Joe and his wife, Karen, have four children: Amy Moran, David, Jason, and Timothy, and a grandson, three-month old Patrick Moran. Amy and her family live in Indianapolis, the other three in central Ohio. All four Martin children were involved in 4-H.

In his new role, Joe looks forward to creating additional dialogue with residents, potentially involving a new electronic communication system; to increased emphasis on the implementation of land use plans; and to improved communication with neighboring jurisdictions.

When asked about his interest in assum-

ing the Trustee position, Joe said he felt it was his responsibility to step up. He believes that those who have the ability to serve have the responsibility to do so. He has a natural interest in the township, in its land use, and how the township will grow and he welcomes the opportunity to serve in this new capacity.

Concerning challenges ahead, Joe is concerned about losing control of how the township develops and not having a seat at the table in reviewing development plans of other jurisdictions whose property remains in Brown Township, which leads to his interest in improving communications.

Outside his professional and civic roles, Joe and his wife enjoy competitive ballroom dancing, participating in competitions throughout the Midwest.

Trustees Dever and Williams welcome Joe to the Board.

*Prepared by Elizabeth A. Clark, AICP
Executive Assistant to the Brown Township
Board of Trustees*

Inoperable Vehicle Regulations in Franklin Count

Zoning regulations for Brown Township are administered by the Franklin County Planning Department. An issue that arises occasionally is storage of inoperable vehicles on residential property. The Franklin County Zoning Resolution addresses inoperable vehicles in residential areas in Section 531.054.

The regulation establishes that commercial vehicles must follow regulations for commercial vehicles (Section 531.051) whether they are operable or not. The regulation also provides that no more than one wrecked or otherwise inoperable vehicle is allowed for each dwelling unit. Finally, any inoperable vehicle which is allowed by these regulations must be parked or stored inside a permitted accessory structure (such as a garage) or otherwise completely out of public view. An inoperable vehicle cannot be stored between the principal structure and a street, unless it is stored within an otherwise permitted accessory structure.

The Franklin County Zoning Resolution spells out the criteria for determining if a vehicle is considered inoperable. A vehicle is considered inoperable if it meets any of the following criteria:

- It does not meet Ohio Revised Code requirements for operating on a public street.
- It is extensively damaged, such damage including but not limited to any of the following: missing wheels, tires, motor, or transmission.
- It is not operable on the public streets of Franklin County because it is not licensed to do so.
- It is not capable of being operated on a public street due to missing or inoperable mechanical or electrical parts.

Zoning regulations in Franklin County are enforced in two ways. Franklin County employs Code Enforcement Officers who regularly patrol the eleven townships under Franklin County's

jurisdiction. Alternately, violations can be reported directly to the office by any concerned citizen. If a property is found to be in violation of inoperable vehicle regulations, the property owner will be issued a letter informing him or her of the violations on the property, and asking the property owner to take steps to correct the violation within seven business days. If the violation is not corrected, a second letter will be issued. Letters are sent by U.S. mail general delivery and U.S. mail certified mail service. If no corrective action is taken, the case is forwarded to the Franklin County Prosecutor's office for legal action.

Anyone wishing to report a violation of the Franklin County Zoning Resolution should call Code Enforcement Officer Paul Eberts at (614)-525-3094.

*Contributed by Lisa Koerner,
Planning Project Coordinator
Franklin County Planning Department*

Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS OH
PERMIT# 2609

Want to be Added to Our Mailing List or Have a Change of Address?

Please use any of the following:

- Fill out the **name, address, additions and corrections form** on the Brown Township website under “Newsletters”
- **Call** the Township Fiscal Officer (614-876-2133)
- Via **fax** to the Township Office (614-876-2421)
- Or by **mail** to the return address above.
- To have your newsletter addressed in your name instead of “Brown Township Neighbor,” please visit <http://www.Brown.Twp.Franklin.oh.us/newsletters.htm>.



L-R: Gary Dever, Greg Ruwe,
Joe Martin and Ron Williams

Brown Township Administration Office

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026 876-2133

Website

www.brown.twp.franklin.oh.us

Fiscal Officer

Greg Ruwe 876-2133

Trustees

Mr. Gary Dever 876-4768

Mr. Ronald Williams..... 876-6118

Mr. Joseph Martin..... 870-9601

Norwich Fire Department

Robert Kaufman, Chief876-7694

Brown Township Board of Trustees Meeting

When: 3rd Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Where: 2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio

For Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies, Dial 911