

**MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
DISASTER RECOVERY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

Sinclair Park
685 Shoup Mill Road, Dayton, OH 45415

**June 3, 2022
9:00 AM**

Attendees Present

Cassie Austin, Harrison Township
Adam Blake, County Corp
Danielle Bradberry, Harrison Township
Kevin Burch, Martin Transportation Systems
Mike Crist, Harrison Township
Merle Cyphers, Harrison Township
Brad Daughtry, Harrison Township
Georgeann Godsey, Harrison Township
Tom Gunlock, Community Member at Large
Sarah Hackenbracht, Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association
Rap Hankins, Community Member at Large
Jeanne Holihan, The Dayton Foundation
Ken Jarosik, Harrison Township
Julie Liss-Katz, Dayton Business Committee
Mark Lynch, Harrison Township
Kris McClintick, Harrison Township
Laura Mercer, Nautilus Strategy
Ton Ortiz, Community Member at Large
Charlie Powers, Commissioner Lieberman's Office
Eric Sauer, Fiver Rivers MetroParks
Joel Smith, Miami County
Woody Stroud, Chairperson, MVRPC Board/Greene CATS
Julie Sullivan, Dayton Development Coalition
Roland Winburn, Community Member at Large

Staff Present

Brian Martin
Elizabeth Baxter

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Disaster Recovery Board met on June 3, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at Sinclair Park located at 685 Shoup Mill Road, Dayton OH 45415.

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Stroud called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and self-introductions were made. Mr. Stroud thanked Harrison Township for allowing us to use Sinclair Park for the meeting space today.

II. Lead Agency Updates

- **The Dayton Foundation**

Ms. Holihan provided an update on the status of the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund. There is currently \$754,000 in the fund with approximately \$293,000 committed to projects for community recovery, individual recovery, and RETREET. Ms. Holihan indicated they are still receiving inquires on a daily basis to donate to the fund and will continue to accept those donations.

- **MVRPC**

Mr. Martin reminisced the establishment of the Disaster Recovery Leadership Board three years ago. He praised the quick action from Sinclair Community College to partner with MVRPC to being the recovery work with individuals and the jurisdictions. Mr. Martin discussed the development and success of the [Disaster Recovery Dashboards](#) to aid the jurisdictions and Sinclair in monitoring the recovery status. In just three short years after the tornado property recovery is at just over 90%. He thanked everyone for their continued commitment to the recovery and region.

Mr. Stroud provided honorable mentions to all of the jurisdictions that participated in recovery and continue to help update the dashboard. It is a huge accomplishment to have a high rate of recovery so quickly. The cooperation of neighboring communities coming to the aid of the impacted jurisdictions so quickly after the tornadoes shows unity and commitment to the region.

III. Sinclair Park Restoration Efforts

Mr. Cyphers provided an update on the Sinclair Park Restoration effort since the tornadoes. He thanked everyone for joining the township for the meeting at the park. He recounted a conversation with Laura Mercer and Stacy Schwiekhart regarding long term recovery early in the recovery process and the dedication it would take. Mr. Cyphers reiterated the strong commitment this group and the impacted jurisdictions had to ensuring our communities are restored.

Full recovery of the park will be a long road. The park lost over 330 trees, shelters were damaged and the lodge was fully destroyed. There has been significant progress in restoring the shelters and following the meeting there will be a ceremonial tree planting of the 100th tree replaced in the park.

IV. Foxton Court Project Update

Mr. Sauer thanked the Leadership Board for the funding to complete the Foxton Court project. An overview of the project intent was provided. The funds will aid in the acquisition and demolition of the Foxton Court Apartments which took a direct hit from the Memorial Day tornadoes. Once the property is demolished it will be converted into natural habitat as part of an expansion for Wegerzyn Gardens.

The property is currently under an environmental inspection and once complete, demolition will move forward. That process is expected to start at the end of August.

Ms. Liss-Katz commented this was a great example of how the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund can be leveraged as part of a larger project with state and federal dollars. She asked if there were any current reports on how much the fund was able to leverage in total dollars to secure additional state and federal funding. Ms. Baxter and Ms. Holihan advised there were no such reports at this time, but the request could be accommodated.

V. RETREET April Planting Review

Ms. Baxter provided an update on the RETREET planting that occurred on April 30th. Trees were planted in Brookville, Clayton, parts of Englewood, Harrison Township, Trotwood, and Perry Township. Ms. Baxter praised the commitment of city staff members which assisted

MVRPC staff and RETREET members to deliver trees and mulch to the homesites. This aided in a successful planting event the next day. Overall the planting was a success and increased the interest in the program. Work has been done since the planting to ensure all the trees remain healthy and thriving.

Mr. Hankins commented on how important the RETREET program is to individual recovery. He said many residents wake up every day to the reminder of the tornadoes and are forced to relive that experience by seeing the damaged trees at their homes. This program helps restore and rebuild the landscape.

Ms. Baxter offered a reminder there would be another planting held in October during Make a Difference Day. Plantings will occur in the remainder of Harrison Township, Trotwood and Old North Dayton. Details for this planting will be shared with the board closer to the event date.

VI. Long-Term Community Recovery Proposals & Ad Hoc Committee Review & Vote

Mr. Stroud reminded the board of the intention of the Community Recovery Projects and the Ad Hoc Committee's role in reviewing applications. The Ad Hoc Committee members were thanked for the dedication and support they provided to community recovery in reviewing these projects.

Mr. Stroud provided a review of projects which the Ad Hoc Committee recommended for funding during the second application cycle. Two projects were selected for funding, the Beaver Creek Park Restoration which will provide new roofs on historical cabins, replace trees damaged by the tornadoes in three community parks and replace park amenities that were destroyed. The second project was for acquisition and demolition costs to a multi-family housing unit that took a direct hit from the tornadoes in the Northridge Community. Once the property is cleared it will be turned into a community garden in partnership with a local non-profit to improve access to healthy food options in the community.

The Ad Hoc Committee members present at the meeting provided additional comments on supporting reasoning for which projects were recommended to the full board approval for funding. Ms. Baxter explained the application process for the communities to seek funding through the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund and how the Ad Hoc Committee reviews and score proposals for full board consideration.

Mr. Stroud asked for a motion to approve the two projects recommended for funding in the amount of \$125,391. Mr. Stroud asked for a motion to approve funding. Mr. Winburn moved to approve the two projects recommended for funding and Mr. Hankins seconded the motion. The full board voted to approve project funding for the recommended projects.

VII. Pathways to Homeownership & Affordable Housing

Ms. Mercer offered information on the Pathways to Homeownership Program which offers an opportunity for tornado survivors to become first time homebuyers within the communities that took a direct hit from the tornadoes. This program was recently awarded the 2022 National VOAD Innovative Program of the Year Award. The program is geared toward those who were long-term renters that lost access to affordable housing in the area. She noted over 1,500 affordable housing units were lost due to this event. This program will allow for new investment in housing stock and will provide neighborhood stabilization in the impacted jurisdictions.

VIII. Sinclair Park Welcome Ceremony

Mr. Stroud welcomed Mr. Cyphers back to host a brief welcome ceremony to “officially” reopen Sinclair Park to the public. The 100th tree was planted in honor of the park opening.

IX. Adjourn & Pathways Open House, 4080 Fleetwood Drive, Harrison Township, OH

Mr. Stroud adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m. and invited board members to participate in an open house to view a Pathways home under construction. Additional home locations under various stages of construction along with driving directions were provided to the board.

Future Meeting Dates:	Friday, September 2, 2022	9:00-10:30 AM
	Friday, December 2, 2022	9:00-10:30 AM