



C/O GREENE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
941 W. SECOND STREET
XENIA, OHIO 45385

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Mary Crockett, Comm. & DT Coordinator
City of Xenia/ 101 N. Detroit Street
Xenia, OH 45385/ (937) 376-7286
mcrockett@ci.xenia.oh.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE HISTORICAL BOARD UNANIMOUS VOTE FOR DOWNTOWN XENIA HISTORIC DISTRICT!

June 26, 2014 - Xenia, Ohio

On Friday, June 20, 2014 the 17-member Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board (OHSPAB) heard a presentation for the proposed Downtown Xenia Historic District. So many interested persons came to speak in support of the Xenia nomination to the National Park Services' National Register of Historic Places that additional seats were set up to accommodate the crowd. After short attendee and Board introductions, a formal staff presentation of the nomination, and a spirited discussion of the nomination by the Board, the OHSPAB voted unanimously to support the nomination of the Downtown Xenia Historic District.

"It has taken nearly a year and a half of planning, fundraising, and educating," said DXN volunteer chairman, John Finlay, "but we think it was well worth the wait." Finlay stated that DXN took on this project because "we felt it had the most potential to leverage our funds exponentially by making it possible now for owners to apply for Ohio and Federal Tax incentives to rehabilitate historic buildings." Listing on the National Register is a requirement for such tax consideration.

Said passionate supporter and fundraiser for the District nomination, volunteer Sue Hunt, "we took a moment to celebrate this victory, but we want to keep the momentum!" Mrs. Hunt and other DXN volunteers raised \$10,000 and obtained the support of over 60% of the downtown building owners in a two-week time period in 2012 to make the District a reality.

John Faulkner, DXN Main Street Manager stated, "we obtained the new District status in part due to the damage of the 1974 tornado - now is time to put that damage behind us by using financial tools to restore more of our beautiful downtown buildings to their pre-tornado grandeur."

Barbara Powers, Department Head, Inventory and Registration at the Ohio History Connection (formerly the Ohio Historical Society Office) who assisted DXN from the beginning of the nomination process, clarified that once "the nomination has been signed and sent to Washington, DC the National Park Service has a 45 day review period...so we should hear about the official listing sometime in late September or the first of October."

The new district is comprised of 60 buildings, 3 of which are already listed on the National Register either because they are within the pre-existing Waterstreet Historic District (listed in 1980) or are individually listed. DXN-hired Preservation Architect, Steven Avdakov of Heritage Architectural Associates, prepared the nomination with assistance from DXN member and Greene County Historical Society Executive Director, Catherine Wilson. A grant through the Ohio Development Services Agency was procured to complete the nomination.

Downtown Xenia Now is a public-private collaboration to advance the economic and social vitality of Xenia by strengthening its core.

“Welcome to Xenia - We’ve got 25,719 residents who believe the future is now.”



A very happy group of Xenia supporters gather after the meeting.

l-r: M. Crockett, B. Carrico, C. Wilson, S.Hunt, S. Avdakov, M. Schlater, J. Faulkner, R. Doster, D. Griffin, K.Delecki, K. Colon.



l-r: S. Hunt and Catherine Kidd-Wilson awaiting the OSHPAB Meeting

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