

Carnegie Library  
Meeting #2  
June 21, 2017  
107 E. Main Street  
Xenia, Ohio 45385  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Xenia

6:30 - Steve Brodsky, Xenia Development Director, welcomed everyone to the Xenia City Administration building, and welcomed the attendees. He introduced Mayor Marsha Bayless who provided childhood memories of her mother, and great uncle who worked at the Carnegie Library in the early 1900s.

6:35 Steve Brodsky welcomed and introduced Lisa Hale, Risk Manager for Greene County. On behalf of the Greene County Commissioners, Lisa Hale conveyed her gratitude to the Xenia Carnegie Library friends, especially volunteers Josephine Reno and Barb Bradfute, and to Xenia Staff person, Mary Crockett for their efforts in revitalizing the Xenia Carnegie Library, which is owned the Greene County Board of Commissioners. She thanked the Xenia Carnegie Library Friends for “taking up the torch” and reaching out into the community to creatively seek a suitable reuse and redevelopment for this beautiful building -- a goal the Greene County Board of Commissioners shares. Ms. Hale stayed for the remainder of the meeting and the Re-imagination exercises.

6:40 Ms. Reno introduced guest author and Carnegie Library historian, Mary Ellen Armentrout, writer of Carnegie Libraries of Ohio -- our Cultural Heritage. Ms. Armentrout provided a longer talk at the Brown Bag Lunch and Learn held with a small crowd at the Greene County Historical Society earlier in the day.

Mary Ellen Armentrout congratulated the attendees, the City, and the Xenia Carnegie Friends for their efforts in finding a reuse for this beautiful structure. She was thrilled that she was seeing an engaged community saying that often a community that cares is the SOLE reason a Carnegie building is repurposed rather than reduced to rubble. She said the Xenia Library was unusual in several ways from the 111 other Ohio Carnegie libraries -- the beautiful, park like setting, the deep set-back of the building from the street and potential for parking, the carved limestone garlands and friezes including the entrance frieze “Free to the People” medallion -- all make the Xenia Carnegie Library a very special place indeed. Armentrout mentioned her books, including the one she is currently writing on the memories of people and patrons of Carnegie libraries across America. Her latest not yet published book is titled, “And Her Stockings Sang,” and is about a knock-kneed, Carnegie Librarian. Ms. Armentrout gave excellent advice and encouragement, including her warning to NOT repurpose the Carnegie into a church -- those never seemed to be sustainable.

6:55: Mary Crockett introduced Lisa Schmidtke and Deborah Griffin of Heritage Architectural Associates. Principal and Historic Architect Steve Avdakov was unable to attend this re-scheduled meeting, but sent several of his team members to assist the second planning efforts. Ms. Griffin gave an overview slide presentation briefly reviewing the Historic Structures Report. She and Ms. Crockett acknowledged the County for taking care of the building for the past decades and for their continued maintenance on the long-vacant structure. And yes the structure will need all new HVAC, Plumbing, electricity, security and safety systems, as well as ADA adherence. However Ms. Griffin ended her brief presentation stating that the HSR did provide evidence that the building is structurally sound, and despite some slight water damage and some interior finish deterioration; overall the library is in excellent condition.

7:00 - Mr. Brodsky provided an overview of the conditions surrounding the Carnegie Library and the outlining properties, including the fact that the Xenia Adult Recreation and Services Center and the YMCA will be relocated to the much-anticipated Reach project coming to Xenia in the near future. This relocation could provide the Carnegie redevelopment with new options for parking, additional buildings, and increased flexibility. He urged the group to consider this change and to think big regarding this Master Planning effort for the building. There was discussion of this overview.

7:05 - Lisa Schmidtke and Steve Brodsky then led a re-imagining session by asking the audience three questions. Everyone provided 3 x 5 index cards and pens, and asked to quickly jot down answers.

1. What would **YOU** like to see happen at the future Carnegie? After a few minutes, everyone was asked to hand their cards to their neighbor on the left. After some surprised laughter, people read out their neighbor's suggested usages. This loosened up the group, and helped shy ones to get their ideas heard. Conversation flowed, and ideas were captured both on the index cards and on the easels by Reno and Crockett.
2. Everyone was asked to think about the Guiding Principles the owners and the City should take into consideration for redevelopment. In other words, what guidelines would the public want to see in the re-purpose of the Xenia Carnegie? Different thoughts were suggested, but it was also put forward that the Keep it Simple (KISS) method would also be important to encourage re-development.
3. Everyone was asked who would be likely partners in this effort? There was laughing discussion of George Clooney and Dave Chappelle, to more mundane suggestions of services groups, the City, the county, etc. Many usages and partners were discussed -- although several warned across single churches because Mary Ellen Armentrout and others felt single church-owned Carnegies had a habit of getting run down and being demolished due to lack of private sector influence and resources.

7:45: The meeting was wrapped up. Ms. Reno announced that the next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4:00 at the Henry Hudson Room of the Greene County Public Library on E. Market. Also on that same day, there will be a second Brown Bag Listen and Learn Luncheon held at 1:00 at the Greene County Historical Society featuring the Xenia Carnegie Friends' own Dr. Ryan Ireland, novelist and Ted Talk persona as well as the Media specialist for the Greene County Public Library. Dr. Ryan will discuss the significance of Andrew Carnegie, his legacy, and his impact on the building designs of early American libraries.

"Ways to Give" handout was distributed to the group (see attached.) A video donated by John Silfies of Toward Independence was briefly viewed. Ms. Crockett urged everyone to go online at either the Xenia Carnegie Facebook page or the Xenia website Carnegie pages to complete the survey for what people Wish could be at the Carnegie, to buy Carnegie Library t-shirts (\$5 of each sale goes to the Carnegie Library Friends) and complete the survey of the Carnegie Wish Campaign which must be completed by July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Steve Brodsky thanked everyone for attending.

Attached: "Ways to Give."

Notes from the input by the Attendees of the June 21<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Planning meeting.