

Code	517002
Subject	Tom Yablonsky
Date	6/17/2008
Interviewer	Jenny Vasarhelyi
Special Notes	

minutes:

- 0 introduction, grew up in Cleveland, near west side, background in planning
- 1 worked for EPA program; CANALWAY: chair of grants committee; founder of non-
- 2 profit
- 3 visitor outreach study; study cayohoga valley; no previous studies of river valley
- 4 valley a "forgotten place"; studied land use issues
- 5 researched whole section of Cleveland Metroparks; began to "rethink" what park
- 6 sys was
- 7 3 people involved in original planning of Cayahoga Valley Park; Jefflin Harts, Mike
- 8 Gemgrande
- 9 Pat Sweeney, state rep "liked idea"; helped convince people to organize study
- 10 followed Pat Sweeney's lead; met with Legal Aid Society for probono
- 11 had to find out who owned land along the canal; put together land-use study
- 12 land-use study cont.;
- 13 looked at resource from multiple perspectives; early wins: got Standard Oil to fund
- 14 1st study
- 15 early wins cont.: creation of non-profit org.; convinced Gund Foundation to fund in
- 16 1989
- 17 Tim Donovan started as volunteer; good as presenter of ideas; some neighborhoods
- 18 liked ideas
- 19 transition of canalway:
- 20 transition of canalway cont.: John Debo joined in 1988: saw great industrial heritage
- 21 description of canalway/original thinking/vision changed; public agencies began to
- 22 buy in
- 23 Zoar picked for link of canalway; description
- 24 1990-1991: idea of Heritage site began, originally filibustered by state reps
- 25 Description of communities joining the linkage of canalway heritage sites
- 26 Yablonsky gives details of how his role has changed; reasons for his motivations
- 27 Yablonsky describes his job in both personal and professional terms
- 28 in development, "win-win" situation occurs; Yablonsky describes the changes to
- 29 landscapes
- 30 wants to develop 24 acre riverfront development in downtown / quality greenspace
- 31 Termont: changes; redoing of public housing, still in transition, still issues; OBCA
- 32 OBCA: description; what they do; OCC role in Cleveland - local initiative group
- 33 OCC helped reclaim old steel mill; major facilitator for linking projects
- 34 Yablonsky's perspective of why project is important, how it changed people's
- 35 attitudes
- 36 Watershed moments: extension of corridor; rail network links; economic projects
- 37 Yablonsky's vision of project; defining resource - Cayohoga Valley itself
- 38 Differences in expectations: never had economic expectations
- 39 Differences in expectations cont.

31 development of canalway gives communities "hope"; key players: planning dept;
32 Key players cont.; Tim Donovan; mayoral support; county engineers
People's reactions to projects: people that "live it and see it" are most postive about
33 it
34 history of ideas about land-use
some people not able to have sense of time it takes to achieve goals; see it as 50
35 year process
36 description of trail itself; formally tow path; Yablonsky describes changes
people typically have popular reactions to trails; allows people to see distinctions in
37 envirnments
38 Yablonsky's personal perspectives on projects over long term
held parties to raise money; Tim Donovan instrumental in setting up fund-raising
39 parties
40 describes fund-raising parties
41 Yablonsky describes logic behind linking of park system
42 Heritage Tourism, Yablonsky's perspective; economic restructuring
43 Yablonsky's favorite place is the Arcade in Cleveland; Mill Creek Waterfall
44 Yablonsky describes his personal connection to trials
45 Yablonky believes in "connecting the dots" between communities
46 Yablonsky sees problems in over doing historic sites
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