

Code: 517008
Subject: Tim Donovan
Date: Thursday, June 19th 2008
Interviewer: William Boone
Special Notes: Director of Ohio Canal Corridor
Minutes:

Explanation of position of Director of Ohio Canal Corridor, non profit organization that leads efforts in Cuyahoga County to develop Ohio Erie Canalway. Also directs The Ohio and Erie Canalway Association the federal funding made available 0 by federal legislation passed in 1996 to create National Heritage Canal Area

Initial involvement in organization as consultant. Met Tom Ublanski in 1987 at a 1 fundraiser for warehouse district was working as video producer and writer, involved as community activist wanted to 2 get involved in warehouse district 3

Parties as fundraisers for warehouse district. Ublanski informed him about North Cuyahoga Corridor project which would link Akron and Cleveland. Cascade Lock 4 Association.

Connecting two great cities of Cleveland and Akron. Jeff Lineartz (planner). Mayor 5 Voinivich. Feckner. Bill Bennett.

6 Worked with Mayor Voinivich on video projects for city of Cleveland.

7 Working with Mayor Voinivich for 1990 census project involving video production

Taking on the North Cuyahoga Corridor. Raising \$10,000 for group by throwing party 8 with media coverage

difficulty of communicating idea of project, Donovan used his skills in

9 communications to develop way to explain complex idea of corridor project.

created team with various skills and advisory board, top names in city, head of RTA, 10 county planning, mayors, business and industry leaders

11 currently seventeen board members and a budget of over \$300,00

12 Rock soup analogy to fundraising

goal for organization is to find people to build and manage parks, trails, etc. utilize

13 different programs for funding sources,

14 strategic planning to ensure management of areas developed

Tom Ublanski instrumental in implementing idea of designating canalway as National Heritage Area, Donovan talked with Jerry Adelman in Illinois who had helped create

15 National Heritage Area in Illinois

How canalway was designated as a National Heritage Area. John Divo at National

16 Park had experience with Heritage Areas,

history of Cuyahog Valley National park, Ralph Regula tried to amend original

legislation to include a scenic area along the river and a recreational area along the 17 canal to Zoar.

Park began looking at Heritage area at same time as North Cuyahoga Corridor study

18 wrapping up. Park Service planners could use North Cuyahoga study in their work

advocacy group in North Cuyahoga existed, Park Service planners able to obtain

similar group for area south of the Park, Ohio and Erie Canal Corridor Coalition,

Donovan was director of North Cuyahoga group which met with new group to plan

19 strategy

legislative campaign created to create bill, support letters, booklet on how to create

law, cited benefits of designation, created binder of support, included letters from

20 students

21 Regula used one student letter in particular to create support,
easier to promote idea now that there is something to show people, National Park
Towpath trail and Scenic Railway and Byway programs useful to show people uses
22 of heritage area
Lack of support from Congress in 1993. NAFTA legislation taking. Rethinking
23 commission due to beaurocratic problems
24
25 West Creek and City of Parma.
26 considering boundaries for Heritage Area, question opened to public
27 use of GIS to map sites, areas and roads,
West Creek and City of Parma. Dave Vasarhelyi and citizens meeting to form West
28 Creek and
Tim Donovan supports West Creek as part of Heritage Area, Donovan acted as
29 advisor as West Creek project got off ground
Parma is large city with some financial resources,Golf course vs. West Creek
30 majority of people not golfers, and would like land for use for more people
31
32 proud of Heritage Designation and the ability to raise funds and interest people
33 Steelyard Commons
Tow Path Trail Partnership committee with allies from ODOT,NOACA, Metroparks,
34 city of Cleveland
35 County engineer able to build towpath
36 funding for towpath
37 the bike ride with Governor Taft and financial support.
Major obstacles for Ohio Canal Corridor in the future. The last six miles of the
38 canalway need to be finished Money always a factor.
Back porch meetings, with Mayor White's staff. Now Monday meetings at city hall
with city staff held by Donovan, current Mayor finds funding for various aspects of
39 Corridor project in Clevleand
40 extension from Rockside park to Harvard
41 option for people to lease land or donate land
The Steelyard Trail-One million dollars. Hard to explain corridor project to corporate
42 heads, target "young lions" upcoming business leaders
43
44 Childhood influences. Growing up in Cleveland.
Childhood influences. Growing up in Cleveland as urban child. Interest in corridor
due to liking for complicated ideas, deep affection for city,Donovan sees how this
45 project can help reinvigorate city.
46 recover sense of history in Cleveland.
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