

<b>Code</b>	517014
<b>Subject</b>	Scott Curtis
<b>Date</b>	6/19/2008
<b>Interviewer</b>	Andreas Johansson
<b>Special Notes</b>	n/a

**minutes:**

Intro to subject, april 3rd, 1967, grew up in BROOKLYN to 7th grade, lived in SEVEN  
0 HILLS for 30 some years, calls it hom  
2 kids, 11 year old at hatahaway brown, 5 year old, wife - admin at cleveland clinic, he's  
1 attorney by trade, typical small firm practice  
real estate development, estate plnning, etc. he likes negotioating, advocacy. Would like  
2 to apply legal skills in business world.  
connection to c valley very refined. Was on council 1997 - 2005 in seven hills. WEST  
CREEK initiative (WC). Create a rec trail to open up seven hills, esp ward four. He  
3 helped evolve their master plan.  
stone quarry. ROCKSIDE rd. greenspace was difficult. Hike bike path. There was an  
4 easier way to connect to park.  
he sat down with WC. Feedback from residents. Felt well connected. 7 hills ahd to  
5 develop tax base for future. Realistic opportunity.  
current role in project - facilitator. Build on success as liason. Knows officials. Helps with  
6 funding. Will offer whatever help needed.  
left council for multiple reasons. Springboarded into a firm. August 2005 - transition  
7 issues. Too much for family. Natural fall off - left on his terms. Time for break.  
current status - pretty much completed. Other than punchless - landscaping. He played  
8 role, but not his project. Likes to be an engine. Skill sets matched with WC.  
countless issues - the scope did not change much though. Timing issues. Better built  
9 today - more costly. Went in naïve. Funding, regulations, etc.

built ODOT spec asphalt bike path - can hold car / fire truck. Debate about this. Project  
10 evolved over time. Histry will tell if this was good or not. First movers are scrutinized.  
he uses it, but family does not too much. Had used paths in the past, took info from this  
11 to create this trail. HINCKLEY LAKE path.  
paved vs non-paved. Crushed limestone is limited at times, but has diff feel. Easement,  
electrical wires. Own sense of nature. Adjacent to woods. Not too rugged. Connector  
12 pathways in the city already. Immediate functionality.  
opened up major amounts of ward 4. Paved surface was needed. Project was largely  
13 council driven. Admin of city was not a driver.  
dave v and him drove it. Every project needs someone motivated. Dave V was crucial -  
14 had all contacts curtis did not, and vice versa.  
never knew Dave V until he approached the counail. BOB LEACH. Parts of WC is not in  
15 line with CURTIS beliefs. Interest is finite.  
WC group came in to present to council. Looked for local motivation. Knew they needed  
16 help from local govt.  
does not work with WC too much today. Master plan. His dream. Connects PARMA to  
SEVEN HILLS. That's his motivation. Whispers in ears - whatever you need. Little  
17 segments of trails.  
interim - an assets for seven hills. Gave access to pockets of neighborhoods. Acces.  
18 He will be advocate for long time.  
talks to state level reps for funding. Passion for trails, greenspace. Hunting family, loves  
19 nature. ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST. Hunting was escape from city.  
loves the outdoors. Would ride bike everywhere. Trails in SEVEN HILLS. KELVIN PARK.  
20 CRICKET. PLEASANT VALLEY.

would walk the junior high track. Gets him off the main rd. this was his sell. Has always used the trails. Ppl would be nervous about trails. Council had a hearing. Threats to  
21 safety issues. Misinformation. Educating people is important.  
some people used scare tactics. Strangers adjacent to property. They addressed it.  
22 FETCHKO - police chief at the time. There was known illicit behavior.  
23 trails made it safer. Opened up the area - to safety / fire. Used collapsible ballards.  
once part of comprehensive path - give it to METRO PARKS for management and public  
24 safety. Managed today still by SEVEN HILLS.  
has erected some fencing today. He's very upset with engineer and the layout! FIRST  
25 ENERGY easement. Abuts rear yards. Also some side yards.  
wanted the trails to go down the center. Engineer abutted south proerty lines. Impacted 3  
26 property owners more than it should have. Engineer LARRY FULTON?  
milestones with FIRST ENERGY. NOACA grants. Soft costs and land aquisitions to  
27 SEVEN HILLS. Already had soccer fields in easements.  
land for future dev - marsh and wetlands. Lots of hurdles. FE wanted \$100,000 for land.  
28 Project was in danger.  
permanent easement from FE for \$1 eventually. DAVE V helped. Big accomplishment.  
29 Big nut to swallow for council.  
engineer not ODOT certified. Budget was out of proportion. Wanted to bring in ODOT  
group to help. FULTON wanted to be primary person. This added 16% to overall cost.  
30 Too far into investment.  
31 budget inflating, land was not being paid for, dissapointment from budget pov  
engineer was against giving up project. This is personal opinion. FIRST ENERGY  
32 positive corporate citizen. Time education. KIM MARGO.  
MARGO gets it. There was not a safety issue. He's due a lot of credit for evolving the  
33 corporate side of things.  
other corps want to be good citizens when they can. Nice to have govt fallback for  
utilities, etc. WC is too small to handle that. Trifecta - WC, minicipality, and corporate  
34 entity  
private people are willing to donate land as well downstream. CURTIS may return to  
35 public service in the future.  
life now does not fit with ps. No matter what - benefits from park system - wants SEVEN  
36 HILLS to benefit from that.  
JOSH MANDELL - state rep for SEVEN HILLS. Get block of funds from the biannual  
37 fund to help with soft costs. "For SCOTT CURTIS it doesn't stop."  
visions - likes to share these with council, others. Master plan was needed for City hall  
38 complex.  
needs central rec center. This was built. All communities around SEVEN HILLS have this  
39 type of areas. Kiddie parks, rec center. Senior offerings.  
rebuild, create new horseshoe pits. Rec master plan is needed. Mayor is hodgepodging  
40 the plans. Aging city hall needs done. At least plan it.  
\$50,000 fund from old city hall burning down. If all this comes thourgh, then bike trail will  
be used. Nucleus. Opportunity are beoynd imagination. SEVEN HILLS 12,000 residents.  
41 No freeway.  
shares roads with PARMA - difficult to create an identity. Used to hols caucus meetings  
42 in elementary school. Brick ranch heaven. Larger lots.  
seniors don't have to move - problem for city. Fixed income. By age, the oldest  
43 community in CUYAHOGA COUNTY. City has to deal with this. Cuts or taxes.  
they lost families. Move to BRECKSVILLE, other communities. "tell me why you're  
44 leaving" create assests that caters to DUNCs.  
need to invite more people to SEVEN HILLS. They need better offerings. Needs to be a  
45 first mover in more areas.

rec center - never money makers. Amenity for its youth. New residences needs to be  
46 dense.

this may equate to lower income residents. The fear is not informed. Needs  
47 redevelopment. Bowling alley lots.

short frontage, deep lots - BOWLING ALLEY LOTS. City will need to take a part.  
48 Greenspace can be part of this. Pro-development. Save resources.

areas are already mowed lawns. 10 years from now - not sure if he will live there.  
Privatized education. Serious issues in SEVEN HILLS. 50% or more go to non-public  
49 education.

NORMANDY cluster performs excellent level. If this can't be proven - more flight of  
50 families. The sun will set on this city.

al of his family lives in SEVEN HILLS. He will continue to play a role wherever he lives.  
51 CT Consultants.

North east ohio area wide coordinating agency - NOACA. "let's make the hike/bike trail a  
52 reality." look to be more global.

a strong WC is needed + municipalities. Helps to stabilize areas. Esp older areas and  
53 cities. END OF INTERVIEW

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