

Code	517064
Subject	Dan Rice
Date	6/24/2008
Interviewer	Andreas Johansson
Special Notes	n/a

minutes:

bkgnd info - springfield, oh, middle child, all live in oh,  
school College of Wooster, BA History, Summit County Hist Soc as  
0 curator

MA in Am history U Akron, enjoys history, has great appreciation  
1 of local history, wanted to get PhD at U of Virginia  
public history, now has to make hist relevant to everyday people,  
Heritage Project brings this alive for them, good resource, if we  
2 do it right, it'll be here for ever

started in sales, insurance, steel. We're selling history. Selling  
3 an intangible concept people don't know they want. Make it relevant  
this is easy with the canal. Canal was econ engine that drove the  
dev of Ohio. Reached peak in 1913. REGULA and SEIBERLING - wanted  
to save the canal starting in the 1960s. Make it relevant. Point  
4 out the econ impact.

side businesses started because of the canal - O'NEILS, etc. all  
sorts of people use it - rec, hist, birder, etc. something in it  
5 for everyone! You have a stake in the system - build stewardship.  
VIRGINIA BOYONO - got group together. Get local people to take  
ownership of the project. Volunteered for the Ohio and Erie Canal  
6 Coalition in 1991.

got involved as a volunteer - blazing trails, etc. Lock tenders  
house used to be main office in the beginning. Headed ed  
7 committee, became VP, was hired.

this was in 1994, \$7,000 in the bank, today \$480,000 and 5 staff.  
This is fundraised via a variety of sources. Lots of ed program -  
8 hiking, biking, fishing, etc. Tech assistance to groups  
project management to others - a community facilitator of sorts.  
Towpath in Stark county. Own building in Summit, various buildings  
9 in Stark and Summit. RICHARD HOWE HOUSE.

community and econ dev. Partner with houseing developers, lots of  
others - to partner in order improve and incorporate their beliefs  
10 in daily business

looking for compatible manners from developers, TODD EDERES on  
11 board. How to make their projects successful. Build relationships.  
TONY TROPPE. Use canal as marketing tool. SEIBERLING. Park in  
1974. He had vision to save greenspace between Akron and  
Cleveland. Worked in partnership with REGULA. Have been mentors to  
12 him.

Ch Just WILLIAM O DOUGLAS. Walked all 180 miles of trail.  
13 CHEASAPEAKE canal.

one day, GREAT ALLEGEHENY PASSAGE to Wash DC from this area.  
Regional trail legacy. ALLAN SIMPSON. (Phone buzzes). 16 miles &  
14 16 million raindrops.

SIMPSON worked in partnership with REGULA. In 1989 - coalition  
came about. Worked with REGULA. It was about historic perspective  
15 at first. Once all got together, things started to happen.  
project became tangible. Best way for project to be sustainable -  
get kids involved. Used to put nets up and stock the canal.  
16 Targeted school kids from inner city.  
if they learn a little, they have achieved their goal. Now people  
17 actively fish in Akron! Blue Herons.  
this means success for the project! Educating kids, give  
opportunities. Save the canal. Today, involving Akron schools in  
18 the renovating of the HOWE house.

want kids to take role, cultivate stewardship. Struggles - no, but  
19 challenges and opportunities. Turn challenges into opportunities.

funding is not a problem. Has to make it meaningful to people.  
20 Sometimes, lack of vision. That's where the leadership is needed.  
has worked in 20 different states - helping others with similar  
21 project. Used to be one agency - no longer possible.  
has to work with partners today to get stuff done. Everybody has a  
different vision. Collaborate vision. FRAN BUCKLES. RUSS PRY.  
22 (others also) conservation is part of the package.  
locally and nationwide - trails and greenspace is community  
development. HICKORY STATION. People pay more for trials,  
23 greenspace, etc.  
building sustainable communities. Resource conservation / preservation. Glass dome.  
24 Conservation will have some use to it. Useful / reality. Relocate buildings.  
granpa told him - better to be effective than right. May have to  
compromise to get something done. HOWE house will become jewel on  
25 the canal. Make it relevant.  
always look for the good in people, positive attitude, and give  
26 back to community. Has had lots of mentors.  
people can choose how to spend their time - don't take anything  
27 for granted. Shift in attitude?

10 yrs ago - debate in mayoral communities - seminal moment - which  
28 candidate would do more for the canal? Moment of success.  
take ownership of project - reached a new level of success.  
29 Elected officials reach farther. Media plays role as well.

as org, has to mind their business - certain level of expectation  
30 from public and other businesses. Rice is humbled about this.  
federal park, etc - how will it all work together? They are  
community facilitator. Heritage areas. One agency is no more. Has  
to be collaboration. Heritage areas - different areas. All work  
31 through partnerships.

all has to lend support to project. Challenge - need ALL at the  
table. If not, project will fail. People walk away. This is not a  
32 recipe for success. Everybody has to be a partner.  
what do we want to achieve? Six questions... agree to vision. TOM  
33 LONG with city of Akron.

JOHN DEBOE. Able to leverage with other parks. Now, Stark county  
has lots as compared to before. Shame is a powerful tool. Don't be  
34 the last one at the table of a 101 mile trail project.

lots of work in the future. All remaining miles of trails are  
planned. Needs more fed funding from transportation bill. Signage  
35 needs help to attract others from outside state. Visitors centers.  
enhance partnerships, orient about resources. Now - obtain the  
resources. Reached the level of capacity for now. Need study for  
continued need from feds. To fulfill the vision - need  
36 everybody's help.  
changes - camping, etc. there's a need for it along the canalway.  
37 Stark parks have primitive. Other alternatives?  
mtn biking - strong demand for it. There is impact from this. Need  
38 good dialog about it. Let's explore it!

needs visionary quest. Six questions. Rec use of the river?  
Discouraged now due to sewer overflow. Don't blame one entity!  
39 Others use Akron's sewer as well. We need to share the challenges.  
good example of regionalism - everybody gains. Peer pressure - all  
40 communities want part of the success.  
regional trail and greenspace plans. Involve more areas - trail  
linkages to come to the towpath. Linkages are important. Popular  
41 right now.  
how can I be part of the success? Good challenge... favorite part of  
42 the canalway - like it all, Cascade Locks area.

plotting trail from ZOAR to DOVER. New parts. Rice gets to be  
involved from the beginning. New section in Akron. LaTOURETTE,  
43 PLESQUELIC, Betty SUTTON, PRY, etc. dt connection to Cleveland.

44 kingfishers singing. Garder snake. Along the trail with daughter.  
45 coyote problem. Where to strike balance?  
nature is able to bounce back. Coyote is healthy balance. Good for  
healthy eco system. Wolfes in YELLOWSTONE is good. Deer only has  
46 man as predator. Plants are suffering.  
all of this is natural parts of system. Mtn Lion in downtown  
Chicago. In the next 5 years - Lions in OH. They follow the deer  
47 heard. We have created this system.  
nature's way of getting back in balance. It's all about balance.  
48 We have to respect the earth.  
other opportunities. Hard to beat current job. Maybe... love the  
49 diversity.

50 motivating to work on the legacy project.

51 END OF INTERVIEW. [The rest is off the record, not planned.]

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