

Code 517003
Subject: Ron White
Date: 6/19/2008
Interviewer: Kelly Goodpasture
Special Notes:
Minutes:

Director of Economic Development for the City of Independence Born in New York Came to this area to attend college at 21
Worked at Higbees afterschool. Became involved with West Creek Project when it was brought to attention of Mayor.
Involvement of himself, mayor, West Creek, Trust for Public land. City had to be involved due to funding.
Removing tax base for the city. Reclaiming land. Reverse of the development to green space Lost revenue
No opposition. No real surprises. Opportunities have come up. Safety forces used building to practice tactical maneuvers.
Valley View and Independence Fire departments created mock office space for practice
A lot of funding hurdles. Describes how funding is achieved for different aspects of project
preparing applications for grants. Very rewarding. Stream will be corrected back to nature way of flowing.
Northeast Ohio Sewer District is going to fund 3mil for project to allow for connection of Towpath, CVSR, and Erie Canal
Razing and restoration of building, short-term schedule, July 11, 2008 is razing celebration at confluence site.
Discusses local, state and national politicians who will be attending the razing celebration, Razing will start that day.
Two year plan, starting July 11, 2008 reclamation of the land will begin, wildlife and plant life will return within this time
Skinner Run, history of area will be researched. Little parking lot to connect to towpath. Hemlock Trail up towpath.
Establish points of interest in area, City of Independence will be steward of property. Inter-generational responsibility
2.2 mil to acquire property. 3mil to complete project. On-going costs

Multi-jurisdictional project. Most contact has been with West Creek Project
Initially will be open green space, natural meandering of creek, flower and fauna, some flood prevention and contouring
Hopes it will be a nice place to come to view a wonderful setting, this is a Target 2 site. What to do with this area?
Lots of existing businesses in this area. Goal: How can we reinvigorate this area? Hope this will help things blossom
Goal: Title to the property will come to the city, Within title will be certain provisions to keep it at natural state
Covenants. Responsible government will follow through with the plans.
Applauds West Creek Board for their initiative
Explains why he applauds West Creek Board. Senator Voinovich and Scenic By-way grant
The people involved are what makes this projects special.
Project raises a great deal of interest from other parts of state and country on how this project is working

24 Thanks for Oral History

25 Oral History continued

City of Independence helps with gap of monies needed to acquire the land
26 needed.

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