



## COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

### Pillar Team Members Meeting

Tuesday, March 8 at 11:30 a.m.  
City Hall Council Chambers

#### **Members Present:**

Mayor Mike McCann, Past City Mayor Rita Kissner, DDVB Executive Director Kirstie Mack, Defiance County Economic Development Executive Director Erika Willitzer, Defiance Public Library Director Cara Potter, Defiance County Health Commissioner Jamie Gerken, City Planner Niki Warncke, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sarah Tackett, United Way Executive Director Abby Wolfrum, City Finance Director John Lehner, Assistant City Administrator Ryan Mack, Executive Assistant Debbie Stevens

**Members Absent:** Dream Center Guiseppe Blanchard, Defiance City Schools Superintendent Bob Morton, Councilman John Hancock, Defiance Area Foundation Director Chris Yoder, Next Gen Luis Rivera, MVPO Housing Coordinator Liz Keel, Defiance College President Richanne Mankey

**Remarks by Mayor Mike McCann:** The Mayor welcomed all in attendance.

#### **Special Guests today from the University of Toledo:**

Associate Professor Victoria Steiner and Assistant Professor April Ames from the University of Toledo joined the meeting to share the Riverfront Focus Group results with the SPC Pillar Team. The City's MS4 Coordinator Jen English was also in attendance.

Victoria Steiner shared that the aim of the study was on riverfront initiatives. The PowerPoint presentation that was shared by Professor Steiner will be sent to the SPC Pillar Group. Citizens of Defiance want to be involved and informed about their City. Educating the community and sending early communication via various social media methods would help in educating the community with future projects and visions.

#### **The SPC Group shared some thoughts and ideas after the presentation:**

- The community is enjoying what we are doing.
- We need to educate the community early on with projects happening in the City.
- Hosting town halls would help with communication.
- We need a communication tool to disperse the information, such as a PIO.
- There is value in the negative comments for all of us to learn from.
- Craft community messages differently and add some humor, etc.
- Too much information could cause information overload.
- Signage would be helpful on how to get from park to park.
- The Buckeye Trail markers that travel through Defiance will be in place soon.
- Remind the community of the 25mph through the downtown.
- Metered parking using a kiosk/app would possibly open up downtown parking.
- The Constant Contact program could help with sharing information with the public.

**Next SPC Pillar Team Leader meeting:** Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. at City Hall Council Chambers.

*Submitted by Executive Assistant Debbie Stevens*