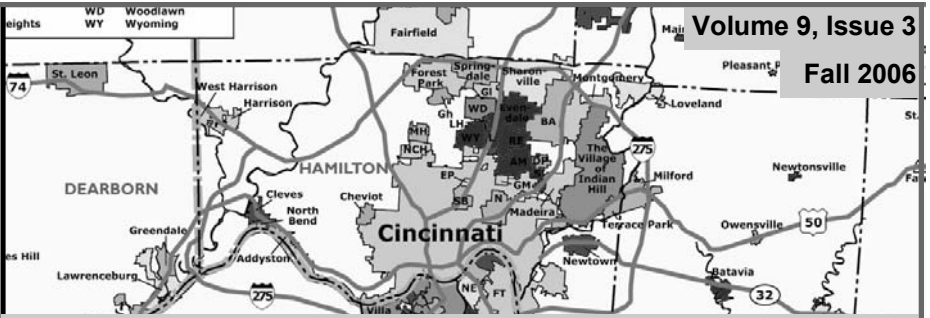


CCR

citizens for civic renewal



empowering citizens and serving as a catalyst for civic action in greater cincinnati

Annual Meeting Nov. 11 - Working Together Works

It's been said that Greater Cincinnati's strength is its diversity and its weakness is its fragmentation. Our myriad governments may be the most obvious example of our region's fragmentation. This year's CCR Annual meeting features four of the region's leaders of efforts to work together while maintaining jurisdictional autonomy. Roxanne Qualls, Chris Bortz, Pat DeWine, and Frank Sommerkamp will outline their current work and their future visions for local government collaboration in Greater Cincinnati. This is your opportunity to hear about positive moves in that direction and join in the discussion about how to build on these wins.

City of Crestview Hills Councilman Frank Sommerkamp will begin the panel discussion by outlining the progress that Northern Kentucky jurisdictions have made in the past twenty years. The Northern Kentucky experience shows how cooperation is possible but also long, hard work.

Also on the panel are Hamilton County Commissioner Pat DeWine and City of Cincinnati Councilman Chris Bortz. They will speak to current initiatives to find ways for the County and City to work together. Finally, Roxanne Qualls will talk about the possibilities for local government cooperation. She will help identify the best practices in the area of local government cooperation and highlight what we can expect in the future.

Following the panel presentation, there will be a Q&A session and small group discussion. The panel presentation will take place at the fifth floor of the Rookwood Tower, 3805 Edwards Road, on Saturday, November 11th, from 10 a.m. to noon. The brief CCR business meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m.

Cooperation leads to \$

Hamilton County's Competition and Efficiency Committee's first venture into managed competition showed that County employees perform maintenance and repair of fire hydrants at a lower cost and with a higher level of service than if managed by the private sector. The study concluded that the County is currently saving over \$500,000 per year by performing this function with County staff instead of contracting the service to a private firm.



prise to County Administration. "We know we employ good people who know their business. The study confirms this and we're proud of that fact. There is value, however, in continually having people examine the way they do their jobs," stated Patrick Thompson, Hamilton County Administrator. Thompson cited the fact that, through the study, it was found that the County could reduce the cost of its hydrant purchases—saving approximately \$20,000 in 2006 by tapping into the City of Cincinnati's current fire hydrant purchase contract.

County employees perform regular maintenance and repair of the 14,000 fire hydrants in the unincorporated areas of the County.

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Cooperation leads to \$

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The County's cost of this service was compared with other similar-sized counties/cities in Ohio and across the Country, as well as private sector firms. Hamilton County's cost per hydrant repair was at least 20% lower than the other entities surveyed. Comparative data was gathered from Greater Cincinnati Water Works, City of Cleveland, Franklin County (Columbus), Montgomery County (Dayton), Lucas County (Toledo), Marion County, Indiana (Indianapolis), Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (Charlotte), Dade County, Florida (Miami), and Phoenix, Arizona.

The Hamilton County Competition and Efficiency Committee, which initiated the study, was created

by the Commissioners in late 2005 and charged with finding ways to save taxpayer dollars and improve service delivery by identifying opportunities for increased competition and efficiency. The committee consists of private sector experts from various organizations including Procter & Gamble, Jones-Lang-LaSalle, The Health Alliance and Meyer Builders. The Committee's agenda includes current reviews of telecommunications, fleet services and real estate.

The Committee's list of future service reviews is continuing to grow. The Committee's chairman, Tony Condia, stated, "The ultimate goal of the Committee is to get to the point where County Administration and management include this sort of analysis as standard business practice. This first study is a huge step in the right direction," Condia stated.

This article is courtesy of a Hamilton County Media Release

185,730 missing persons in Hamilton County

According to official Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) projections, Hamilton County's expected 2030 population went from 916,300 to 730,570 within a mere 6 years. These figures come from population projections the Department completed in 1997 and 2003.

CCR and Ron Miller, Director of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, met with State Senator Bob Schuler to share their concerns that these projections could become self-fulfilling. Because other state agencies and OKI use ODOD's projections, they could impact future regional planning and funding.

CCR focused on the need to transition to a new more robust model, called REMI, for better planning and allocation of funding. The REMI model predicts an upswing in Hamilton County's population after 2014. The argument is that after 2014, the county's geographical advantages, such as the river and industrial strength will be relatively more attractive to growth. With these data, Hamilton County needs to be prepared for such an increase.

Senator Schuler was very receptive and plans to set up a meeting with ODOD after the November elections to discuss the issue and to have REMI representatives talk to ODOD. At Senator Schuler's request, CCR will be researching the pros and cons of REMI and its alternatives. CCR also will continue to inform officials about these discrepancies and the possible effects on the

CCR Hosts Paratransit Coordination Expert

Nick Schrader, Director of Operations and Quality Assurance of the Senior Transportation Connection of Cuyahoga County, spoke to the CCR Paratransit Network meeting on October 20th.

Schrader outlined how transit for seniors in Cuyahoga County is becoming more flexible with greater capacity due to newfound efficiencies resulting from increased cooperation. Multiple entities provide Paratransit service in Cuyahoga County—much like Hamilton County. The primary difference between senior transit in the two counties is that jurisdictions provide the service in Cuyahoga County and non-profits provide the service in Hamilton County. In both counties geographic boundaries have hampered cooperation and reduced efficiencies.

By using state, federal and foundation assistance, Mr. Schrader and the Senior Transportation Connection have been able to centralize dispatch and routing for part of Cuyahoga County. The cooperative efforts have helped transit operators provide more rides with the same number of resources.

Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune attended the luncheon meeting. He indicated his support for the coordination effort and his personal commitment to the Paratransit Network's vision of a more comprehensive paratransit system in Hamilton County.

I Dream of Fire Hydrants

By Steve Johns, CCR Director

Maybe one day we can say that it all started with fire hydrants. Yes, as reported on the front page of this newsletter, the Hamilton County Competition and Efficiency Committee found that if the county used the city contract for purchasing fire hydrants they could save \$20,000 a year. \$20,000 you say, my car costs more than that—you can't even send a kid to college for one year for \$20,000—but this might be the start of the City and County realizing their joint purchasing power. Today fire hydrants, tomorrow police cars and maybe someday—we can dream here—joint purchasing of electricity and joint bond financing.



It seems that as CCR and others scratch the surface of the efficiencies of economies of scale and benefits of sharing expertise, the possibilities seems endless. The Greater Cincinnati Waterworks (GCWW) is the clearest example of economies of scale. By serving almost all of Hamilton and Boone Counties and portions of Butler, Clermont and Warren Counties, GCWW is able to provide water at cheaper rates than smaller providers.

Armleder Park is a great example of how the whole can be greater than the sum of the parts by playing to the strengths of city and county entities. The Cincinnati Park Board owns Armleder Park but through a groundbreaking lease arrangement, the Hamilton County Park District contributed funds to the development and management of the park. The Cincinnati Recreation Com-

mission has also played a role in this successful partnership by bringing their expertise to the table and owning and operating the active portion of the park. Who benefits from this cooperation - we all do. The park has come online faster than if just the city entities were involved and the County Park District is strengthening their constituent base.

But these successes beg the question—What holds us back from wholesale cooperation - pooling landscape contracts, creating a joint nature education program, connecting the Riverfront Park to the Little Miami Bike Trail?

At first glance it looks like good old human foibles of fiefdoms, power, jealousy and racism. But that is not good enough. Although we might feel comfortable behind our walls with people that look like us, we are not as strong if we settle for two separate systems in our county—a white, suburban, county system and a black, urban, city system.

It is not a feel-good statement to say diversity is one of the strengths of our region. Just look at the Bengals where an integrated team works together for a common purpose. Just think of the benefits of learning from each other about how our species interacts with nature. It sounds like a cliché but we have a vision of a great diverse region. We need to move beyond cooperation on things that are functionally human like water and sewers. It's time to collaborate on the face-to-face human interaction functions like parks and health. Then not only will we reap the efficiency benefits of working together but maybe some qualitative ones too. In the mean time, at least we can use the same fire hydrants.

Thank You, Beth Sullebarger

Deep-felt thanks go out to Beth Sullebarger who will complete her three-year term as chair of CCR at the end of this year. Her leadership has been critical during a period of transition for CCR. At the beginning of Beth's term, CCR found itself at a crossroads. CCR had recently completed the *Cincinnati Metropatterns* project and was facing a "what do we do now?" moment. Through Beth's leadership, CCR has been able to focus its efforts on government cooperation, a primary recommendation of *Metropatterns*.

Beth also helped CCR during a time of staff changes and in fact took on many administrative responsibilities during an interim period between two directors.

Beth is a historic preservation consultant based in Glendale, Ohio. She holds an M.S. degree in Historic Preservation from Columbia University and has 27 years of experience, including 7 years as Executive Director of the Cincinnati Preservation Association. She is a member of the Cincinnati Historic Conservation Board, chair of the Stephen H. Wilder Foundation and a former member of the Cincinnati Association.

Three of her recent projects received 2006 awards from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

Next time you see her, please say thanks to Beth for a job well done!



Rookwood Tower, Ste. 549
3805 Edwards Road
Cincinnati, OH 45209-1948

CCR ANNUAL MEETING—WORKING TOGETHER WORKS

FEATURING A PANEL DISCUSSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT COOPERATION

Councilman CHRIS BORTZ, City of Cincinnati
Commissioner PAT DEWINE, Hamilton County
ROXANNE QUALLS, Northern Kentucky University
Councilman FRANK SOMMERKAMP, City of Crestview Hills

Saturday, November 11th, 10 AM to Noon
Rookwood Tower (5th Floor), 3805 Edwards Road

Note: There will be a short CCR business meeting starting at 9:45 - all members invited!

Citizens for Civic Renewal Membership Form

Join CCR Today! Your membership will: Keep you informed—CCR newsletters and forums featuring national experts are just two of the ways in which CCR members enhance their awareness of issues of regional importance. Aggregate your voice—As a member of CCR, you join hundreds of others so that when we get the ear of public officials, your voice is heard. Support our efforts—Your membership dues augment our work and match the support of local foundations and funders.

_____ Individual \$25 _____ Household \$50 _____ Student \$5
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