

DELAWARE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING DIRECTOR LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUED GROWTH

By Carol J Kender

I interviewed Scott Sanders, Director of the Delaware County Regional Planning Commission. The first involvement with the Village of Shawnee Hills and the commission was in 2011 when a plan specific to the village was developed. This plan was under the direction of Director Phil Lurien. According to Judy Stephenson, who was on council at the time, a number of parts of the plan were rejected. Others were accepted. I asked Mr. Sanders about updating this plan and he indicated although some employee hours would be involved they already had the basics. He added that they keep up with growth and population factors in the entire county. Because storm water management seems to be a hot topic in Shawnee Hills, I asked if they ever got into that area. He said they did not. Their focus is on population growth and traffic density.



Scott Sander, Director of Delaware County Regional Planning Commission

Scott Sanders came on board the commission as an associate in 2001. First as staff and then in 2016 he was appointed director. As director he works with a staff of three. They are: Stephanie Matlack, Executive Administrator Assistant who has been with the commission since 1996; Da-Wei Liou, GIA Analyst and Manager; and Brad Fisher, the newest member of the team who joined as a Senior Planner in 2022.

The Delaware County Regional Planning Commission was established to provide growth management systems, planning services and general information to all governmental entities in Delaware County, Ohio, relating to land use planning and coordination for activities of regional significance. The commission was created, and loosely organized in 1961, established via ORC 713.21(A). As Mr. Sanders related, "They got serious in 1969 when the first county-wide comprehensive plan was adopted. In the 1970s a policy plan update was completed along with a land use study for

Alum Creek Reservoir. The Subdivision Regulations were amended in 1986, and the completion of the Southern Delaware County Thoroughfare Plan was completed in 1988. In 1991, a Regional Master Planning process was initiated which culminated in the adoption of a revised County Comprehensive Plan in November 1994. Since that time, individual comprehensive plans have been completed for several communities, including Berkshire, Berlin, Brown, Concord, Harlem, Kingston, Liberty, Orange, Oxford, Porter, Trenton, Troy, and Scioto Townships, as well as the villages of Shawnee Hills, Sunbury, and Ashley. Staff has worked closely with townships to update their zoning resolutions. The most recent of these major updates have included codes in Berlin, Berkshire, Brown, Delaware, Genoa, Liberty, and Troy Townships. A new county-wide Thoroughfare Plan was adopted in 2001.

The commission is presently located in a former house at 109 North Sandusky Street. Very soon they will be moving to the Byxbe Campus, 1610 state Route 521, a 63.6-acre site that formerly housed the Delaware Area Career Center North Campus.



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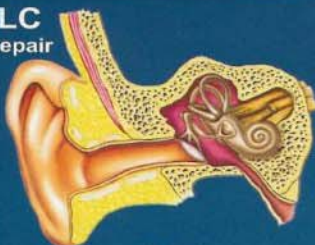
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