

SHELBY TOWNSHIP PRESS RELEASE

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Sept. 2, 2015

Shelby Township names advisory board to pursue community center upgrades

Shelby Township has its team in place as the community works toward achieving one of the largest and most noteworthy developments in the last generation.

Following an agreement between the Shelby Township Board of Trustees and 41-A District Court Chief Judge Michael Maceroni to cement the current host relationship between the court and Shelby Township for 20 years, Shelby Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis announced a six-member board that would “investigate the needs of the community center” and bring to the Board of Trustees a solution that “meets or exceeds those needs.”

“Serving on this board will be trustees Paula Filar and Doug Wozniak, engineers Fazal Khan and Carol Thurber, Parks and Recreation Director Joe Youngblood and DPW Director Dave Miller,” Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis said. “I have high hopes for this initiative, and I know these six individuals will give our Board of Trustees an A+ recommendation for a resolution of this long-term issue at our community center.”

The Community Center Advisory Board will meet with township staff, residents and ... to evaluate the needs of the community center complex, which houses the 41-A District Court, our Senior Center, Cable TV offices and studio and the Shelby Township Library.

“Our Board has examined the community center issue from all angles,” Stathakis said. “And now that we have a firm grasp of the fiscal and hosting issues related to the court, this team can move forward to address the complex’s needs.”

The naming of the CCAB is the latest and most significant step the township has taken to address the top priority for 2015 as set by the annual community visioning process with input from the public, township department heads and the Board of Trustees.

Tabulation giving all three groups equal weight saw addressing “Community Center Needs” at the 41-District Court, the Shelby Township Library, the Shelby Township Senior Center and Shelby TV as the township’s top priority.

“As Parks, Recreation and Maintenance Director, the issue of what to do with the community center hangs over almost everything our department does,” Youngblood said. “I am proud to be on this team as we work for a final resolution to this that will give our residents a facility that they can be proud of.”

The CCAB will hold its first meeting Sept. 3 with Shelby Township Library Director Katie Ester, 41-A District Court Administrator Laura Porter and Cable TV Director John Martin to discuss a roadmap to achieving the board’s directives.

“This first meeting was very productive in that it gave our primary stakeholders at the community center a seat at the table with the CCAB as it crafts the plan to improve upon our facilities at the community center,” Stathakis said. “Among the challenges we face are safety concerns at the court, space issues for the library and even more space needed for the senior Center and Cable TV.

“There is no one silver bullet answer to address all these issues, but that’s why we have a great team in place. It’s going to take some creative thinking and problem solving to get this done in a manner that does not impose an increased burden on the taxpayer, but this team will get it done.”

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