

MS-112, Beaver Creek Committee of Eleven, Inc. Records

Collection Number: MS-112

Title: Beaver Creek Committee of Eleven, Incorporated Records

Dates: 1956-1980; 2016 (Bulk 1964-1980)

Creator: Beaver Creek Committee of Eleven, Incorporated

Summary/Abstract:

Records document a 15-year struggle by a citizens' committee to prevent neighboring cities from annexing portions of Beaver Creek Township in Greene County and secure incorporation for Beaver Creek as a village. Included are minutes, membership lists, correspondence, legal papers, petitions, community attitude surveys, fund raising materials, and newspaper clippings. A copy of the book *Birth of a City: a Somewhat Personalized View of the Incorporation of Beaver Creek, Ohio* written in 2016 by David A. Shumway, is also included.

Quantity/Physical Description: 1.25 lin. ft.

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation:

[Box Number, Folder Number], MS-112, the Beaver Creek Committee of Eleven, Inc. Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition:

The Beaver Creek Public Library director, Karl Van Ausdal, donated the record to Special Collections and Archives on January 27, 1981. An addition consisting of a history on the incorporation of Beaver Creek, Ohio by David Shumway was donated in August, 2016 by Carol Graff, former member of the Committee of Eleven.

Custodial History:

The records were initially donated to the Beaver Creek Public Library in 1980.

Alternative Form Available:

This collection is also available on microfilm.

Revisions:

The Finding Aid was updated to the EAD standard in October 2012 by Victoria Penno. A small addition (book) was added to the collection in 2016.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

A slide projector is needed to view the slide photographs.

Processed by: Shirley Wiley, October 1981 and Victoria Penno, October 2012. Book was added in 2016 by Toni Vanden Bos.

Arrangement:

This collection is divided into two series:

Series I: Administration

Series II: Newspaper Clippings

Historical Note:

In August of 1964, the Fairborn Chamber of Commerce initiated proceedings to annex a portion of Beaver Creek Township to Fairborn. In response, eleven citizens of Beaver Creek formed a study group to determine a means of keeping the township boundaries intact. The original eleven members represented the following organizations: Beaver Creek Improvement Association, Beaver Valley Grange, Beaver Creek Schools, Beaver Creek Lions Club, Woodhaven Homeowners Association, Friends of the Beaver Creek Library, Beaver Creek Democratic Club, Elano Corporation, and Greene County Medical Association. Although the membership was greatly expanded after May 1965, the group never changed its original title.

After researching the township's tax duplicates, alternative forms of governments, background reports indicating how incorporation had been achieved in nearby areas, and records of the township's police, fire, and road departments, the Committee of Eleven, Inc. concluded that incorporation of the township was the best way to prevent any neighboring city from annexing portions of the township. The members agreed also that the township form of government had become inadequate for this growing urbanized community, and that by incorporating, a more efficient and effective form of government could be established.

Fairborn's determination to annex a portion of Beaver Creek Township was only the first of many obstacles which the Committee of Eleven was to face in its fifteen-year struggle to incorporate Beaver Creek. A small section of the township petitioned to incorporate separately; several neighboring municipalities filed suits to prevent Beaver Creek from incorporating, each with the intent of annexing portions of the township; court hearings were frequently delayed; and raising money for legal fees, which ultimately totaled over \$50,000, required considerable time and effort.

Fairborn's annexation petitions were denied in August 1965, but several months earlier, residents of a small portion of Beaver Creek Township petitioned to incorporate separately as the Village of Valleywood. With its legal representative, John P. McHugh, the Committee was in and out of court until Valleywood's goal of separate incorporation was defeated. On September 30, 1975, the Greene County Commissioners approved the incorporation of Beaver Creek Township.

A sixty-day waiting period was established during which time suits could be filed opposing the Commissioners' approval of incorporation for Beaver Creek Township. The neighboring municipalities of Dayton, Kettering, and again, Fairborn each filed suits to prevent the incorporation of the entire township, hoping to eventually annex portions of it. Wright Patterson Air Force Base and Technology, Incorporated also filed suits against the Committee. Several years of intense litigation followed. In a compromise decision, the Committee of Eleven agreed to pursue the incorporation of an area much smaller than the entire township. Finally, on July 3, 1979 Beaver Creek became a village with certification of municipal status by the Ohio Secretary of State.

Scope and Content:

Spanning the time period from the inception of the Committee of Eleven, Inc. in August 1964 to its dissolution in March 1980, this collection provides excellent source material for research relating to municipal incorporation, citizens' action committees, and the evolution of local government. The papers reveal why the Committee of Eleven was organized, who its members and officers were, details regarding the formal organization and function of the group, results of research conducted indicating the pros and cons of incorporation, and decisions made regarding legal problems, litigations, and fund-raising. The records are divided into two series.

Series I, Administration, includes membership lists for the general committee and the Trustees from 1969 to 1980 but there are omissions for the years 1973, 1975 and 1977. The minutes of the Committee's Trustee meetings, which were held irregularly every two, three, or four weeks and date from August 27, 1964 to March 27, 1980 are also included. The newspaper clippings in the second series can be used to fill the gap in the minutes from December 3, 1975 to April 16, 1979. It was during this period that the Committee fought legal battles with Dayton, Kettering, Fairborn, Wright Patterson Air Force Base and Technology, Inc. This series also contains correspondence between the general committee and the Trustees as well as general in and out correspondence. Spanning from 1965 to 1979 are legal documents of the legal battles fought to make Beaver Creek a village and later a city.

The research reports prepared by the Committee reveal the pros and cons of incorporation and its costs. There are also reports which compare the financial advantages and disadvantages of incorporation with or without the Valleywood area. A copy of the petition to incorporate, complete with signatures of freeholders, is included in the collection as well as related information to the petition. Along with the petitions, there is information about public outreach from articles submitted to the Beaver Creek Daily News to fund-raising and promotional materials; which include a slide presentation. The "Time Capsule" was written in 1976 and tells the history of the Beaver Creek Committee up to that point when Beaver Creek is about to become a village. A history titled *Birth of a City: a Somewhat Personalized View of the Incorporation*

of *Beavercreek, Ohio* written by David A. Shumway in 2016, is also included. An article in the *Beavercreek Daily News* from May 24, 1980 gives an excellent summary of the Committee's activities from its start in 1964 to when it was dissolved in 1980.

Series II, Newspaper Clippings, contains newspaper clippings related to the Committee of Eleven and their legal battles and celebrations from 1965 to 1980. These articles are mainly from the *Beavercreek Daily News*, but also from the *Dayton Daily News*. This series also includes annexations plans for Fairborn and rates of taxations from 1956-1966.

Subject Terms:

Organizations/Corporate Names

Beavercreek Committee of Eleven, Incorporated

Places

Beavercreek (Ohio)

Subjects (General)

Civic Organizations
Politics

Material Types

Paper
Newspaper
Correspondence
Maps

Collection Inventory

Series I : Administration			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Time Capsule	1976
	1A	Book <i>Birth of a City: a Somewhat Personalized View of the Incorporation of Beavercreek, Ohio</i> by David A. Shumway	2016
	2	Board of Trustees, Membership Information	1964, 1969-1971, 1976, 1978-1980
	3	Board of Trustees, Minutes	1964-1974, 1979-1980
	4	General Committee, Membership Lists	1964-1965, 1967, 1969, 1970-1977
	5	General Committee, Correspondence, general in and out	1964-1966, 1974, 1976-1977, 1979-1980

	6	General Committee, Correspondence, from Trustees to general members	1964-1980
	7	General Committee, Correspondence, Letters of Resignation	1964-1969, 1971
	8	Financial Records	1964-1980
	9	Legal Matters, Correspondence, General	1965-1979
	10	Legal Matters Correspondence, Regarding Legal Fees and Their Payment	1965-1966, 1968-1980
	11	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1965
	12	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1966
	13	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1967
	14	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1968
	15	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1970
	16	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1971
	17	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1972
	18	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1973
2	1	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1974
	2	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1975
	3	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1976
	4	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1977
	5	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1978
	6	Legal Matters, Documents (briefs)	1979
	7	Research, Valleywood Issue	1964-1971
	8	Research, Data Gathered, General	1964-1979
	9	Research, Data Gathered, Types of Government	1970
	10	Research, Data Gathered, Pamphlets 1 of 2	1951, 1955, 1970,
3	1	Research, Data Gathered, Pamphlets 2 of 2	1969
	2	Petitions, Related Information	1965, 1970, 1974
	3	Petitions, Signed Petitions, Petition for Incorporation	1965
	4	Petitions, Signed petitions, "Right to Vote" Petition	1965
	5	Petitions, Signed petitions, Forms	1965
	6	Community-Attitude Surveys	1967, 1971, 1973
	7	Reports	1964-1966, 1969-1970
	8	Public Outreach, "Facts and Figures"	1967
	9	Public Outreach, Articles Submitted to the Beaver Creek Daily News	1965, 1969, 1979
	10	Public Outreach, Contributions and Fund-Raising Information	1967-1980
	11	Public Outreach, Flyers and promotional materials	1965, 1967, 1970, 1972, 1975
	12	Description of Slide Photographs (slides separate from folder)	1964-1980
	13	Maps	1973

Series II: Newspaper Clippings			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	1	Articles by F. W. McGonigal and Rate of Taxation Clippings	1956-1966
	2	Fairborn's Annexation Plans and Reactions	1964
	3	Newspaper Clippings	1960, 1965
	4	Newspaper Clippings	1966
	5	Newspaper Clippings	1967
	6	Newspaper Clippings	1968
	7	Newspaper Clippings	1969
	8	Newspaper Clippings	1970
	9	Newspaper Clippings	1971
	10	Newspaper Clippings	1972
	11	Newspaper Clippings	1973
	12	Newspaper Clippings	1974
	13	Newspaper Clippings	1975
	14	Newspaper Clippings	1976
	15	Newspaper Clippings	1977
	16	Newspaper Clippings	1978
	17	Newspaper Clippings	1979
	18	Newspaper Clippings	1980