



Trenton I. Weaver

Councilmember, Ward 4

Vice President of Council

trenton.weaver@gahanna.gov

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Representative Report to City Council

November 4, 2024

Attendance at the 2024 MORPC Summit on Sustainability

Date of Attendance: October 29, 2024

Introduction

The 2024 MORPC Summit on Sustainability, titled *Growing Better Together*, convened nearly 700 community leaders and stakeholders to explore innovative sustainability practices and celebrate collaborative achievements with the Regional Sustainability Awards. The event included keynote addresses, panel discussions, and breakout sessions aligned with MORPC's mission for a resilient, inclusive Central Ohio.

Event Details

- **Title:** Growing Better Together - Summit on Sustainability 2024
 - **Date:** October 29, 2024
 - **Attendance:** Nearly 700 attendees, sold out
 - **Location:** Downtown Hilton
-

Schedule Highlights

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. – Morning Plenary Session

- **Panelists:** LisaBeth Barajas (Twin Cities), Chuck Wemple (Houston-Galveston), Geraldine Gardner (Centralina Regional Council)
- **Regional Sustainability Awards:** Recognized outstanding efforts in sustainability and equity.

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Breakout Sessions

- Topics included water reuse, clean energy financing, sustainable development, community trail engagement, social equity, and multigenerational climate action.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Lunch Keynote and Pecha Kucha Presentations

- **Keynote Speaker:** Jeff Speck, urban planner and author, emphasized the importance of walkable city designs for community health and equity.
 - **Pecha Kucha Presentations:** Local leaders highlighted sustainability and equity projects, covering food security, recreation access, poverty alleviation, and community upcycling. Presenters included Carlie Boos, Bernita Reese, Elizabeth Ellman, and Natalie Kruse Daniels.
-

Key Takeaways

Plenary Discussions

- The morning plenary focused on sustainable growth, economic equity, transportation mobility, and housing diversity across the Central Ohio region and the U.S.

Keynote Address by Jeff Speck

- Jeff Speck shared insights from *Walkable City*, underscoring the role of walkable, connected urban spaces in promoting community equity, resilience, and health.

Pecha Kucha Presentations

- A Pecha Kucha presentation is a storytelling format that uses 20 slides, each displayed for 20 seconds, to deliver a concise and engaging presentation. Topics covered food waste, recreation, poverty, equity, upcycling and more. Themes of sustainability and adaptability were underscored.

Councilmember Stephen Renner

- Councilmember Renner provided remarks on the core values and practical solutions of the Voinovich School for Leadership and Public Service's Master's in Sustainability, Resilience, and Security, through Ohio University.

Mayor Laurie Jadwin

- Mayor Jadwin, Vice Chair of the MORPC's Sustainability Advisory Committee, gave remarks and participated in presenting awards, underscoring local leadership in sustainability.

Regional Sustainability Award Recipients

- **Leadership in Sustainability Award:** Kristy Hawthorne, LCSWCD
- **Collaborative Achievement in Sustainability Award:** Trail Towns Working Group
- **Leadership in Mobility Award:** Mike Andrako, FCEO

Breakout Sessions

- Sessions engaged attendees in sustainable practices, financial tools for clean energy, regional trail development, and strategies for social equity and climate action. Several sessions also reflected on possible impacts of legislation that will be voted on this November.

Community Impact

Councilmembers, Administration, and staff represented Gahanna at MORPC's Summit on Sustainability, reinforcing a commitment to community resilience, adaptive planning, and equity-focused initiatives for a sustainable future in Central Ohio.