

Minutes

Mt. Lebanon Civic Engagement Board

Wednesday, March 4, 2026, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building, 6 p.m.

Attendance

Present: Shane Bua, Kevin Brand (remote), Noah Evans, Johanna Platt, Stacey Reibach, Anna Roman, Terry Timm, Emily West; Staff liaison Laura Pace Lilley, Julie Aquino; Commission liaison Margaret Izzo; School Board liaison Eva Gelman; Junior board member Eleanor Schulte-Albert; Absent: Kelsey Leigh

Call to order: Board chair Noah Evans called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and roll call was taken.

Meeting Minutes: The February meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Citizens' Comments: None

Chairperson's Report — Evans announced that this is the final meeting for outgoing members Kelsey Leigh and Terry Timm, presented certificates of appreciation and thanked them for their service on the board. Evans encouraged the board to listen to Eleanor Schulte-Albert's interview on Inside Lebo's latest podcast at mtlebanon.org/multimedia/ and scroll down to Mt. Lebanon's Junior Board Member Program. Evans presented the board with the Annual Report (see attached). Anna Roman made a motion to approve the report, Emily West seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Commission Report — Margaret Izzo reported that the commission discussed the active transportation plan. Mt. Lebanon is partnering with Dormont on the project and are hosting pop up meetings seeking resident input. We have received a \$50,000 grant from Allegheny County and are working with a consultant to present the findings to the commission. Eva Gelman added that the school district is eagerly awaiting the results since it affects the students getting to and from school. Izzo said that the Commission will address the municipality's stance regarding ICE concerns by making a public resolution.

Staff Liaison — Since there will be no April meeting because of Passover, the next meeting will be in May, when we will welcome two new board members.

School Board Liaison — Gelman reported that Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss was elected to the School Board on Feb. 16 to fill the seat vacated by Jake Weiland who resigned. Lincoln Elementary School will celebrate its 100-year anniversary with events on March 11 from 1-4. The high school will present Much Ado About Nothing on March 11-14. Kindergarten registration is open for the 2026-27 school year, the Great Alumni Award is open for nominations through April 15, and Coffee with the Superintendent will be on April 14. The board approved personnel appointments for assistant superintendent, and school principals for Markam and Mellon.

Sub-Committee Reports – Police Engagement – Terry Timm reported that the Police Chief suggested April 23 for Coffee with a Cop at Orbis Café. He will double check on the date to make sure there is no conflict since it coincides with the NFL draft.

Mediations –Kevin Brand reported some ongoing incidents but nothing new.

DEI – None

Residents Academy -- Roman reported that 28 people will graduate tomorrow and urged the committee to attend. Presenters will include St. Clair Health and Outreach.

Community Service Award – Stacey Reibach reported that Ron Block was selected for the award. Roman suggested that the magazine does editorial coverage on the other nominees since there were so many worthy candidates. Block will be presented with the award, along with last year's winner, Asta Kill, at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on April 30. CEB members will be presenters.

MLK Day – None

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 6 p.m. in meeting room C.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

See below attachment:

Civic Engagement Advisory Board Annual Report, 2025-2026

Civic Engagement Advisory Board

Annual report, 2025-2026

Members: Kevin Brand, Shane Bua, Noah Evans (chair), Kelsey Leigh, Johanna Platt, Stacey Reibach, Anna Roman (vice-chair), Terry Timm, Emily West

Liaisons: Staff liaisons Laura Pace Lilley, Julie Aquino; Commission liaison Margaret Izzo; School Board liaison Eva Gelman; Junior board member Eleanor Schulte-Albert

Members who resigned during the year: Margaret Izzo, Adam Flango, Tim Clougherty

Former Liaisons: School Board liaison Todd Hoffman, Commission liaison Anne Swager Wilson

We have been pleased to serve on the Civic Engagement Board this year. It has been a time of learning, organizing, and working together. We are grateful for the collaborative work with the Municipal staff, the Municipal Manager, and the Commission, and for the support we have received. Our sub-committee work is as follows:

Community Mediations

This year, Kevin Brand trained as a community mediator, taking the place of Margaret Izzo. Working with the CEB, the community mediator provided free, non-binding, confidential community dispute resolution services, including mediation, to help residents whose concerns, complaints, or disputes have reached an impasse. Recent issues involve noise, yard maintenance, fences, lighting, animals, surveys, and air conditioning.

MLK Day of Service

In January 2026, the Civic Engagement Board hosted the township's second annual MLK Day of Service. After a successful and well-received inaugural event in 2025, the CEB felt strongly about making this an annual event. Nearly two hundred community members attended the event on January 19, 2026, at the Mt. Lebanon High School, and volunteered at ten different projects to support local nonprofits and agencies. Projects included: hosting Big Bingo at Asbury Heights; making Valentine's Day cards for local senior citizens; planting seeds for Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy; organizing and cleaning at St. Vincent de Paul, Dormont Food Pantry, South Hills Pet Rescue, and Holy Cross Church new preschool; cooking a warm meal for Neighborhood Resilience Project; assembling sandwiches for Light of Life and Second Avenue Commons; and creating toiletry kits for Global Links. Notably, the junior commissioner from the CEB conducted fundraising at the high school to support the Global Links project and raised \$700! The event was designed with inclusivity and accessibility, with options for projects at the high school and out in the community, and with participants aged 1 through 80+. The community feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to hosting the event again in 2027.

Residents Academy

As identified and recommended in the ASCEND LEBO comprehensive plan: "an educated, informed and engaged citizenry is crucial to the effective operations of our municipal government," the Civic Engagement Committee once again provided an opportunity to "engage" our citizenry in the annual Residents Academy. This year, our eighth Mt. Lebanon Residents Academy was held from January 8 through March 5, 2026, (9 sessions) with 32 actively engaged resident participants. As in past years, there was a waiting list of individuals hoping to participate. The sessions were held at the municipal building, the public safety building, the library, and the high school. The Academy provided a broad introduction to all aspects of our municipality, providing participants with a transparent view of our community successes and challenges and an appreciation of how their tax dollars are spent. Academy participants heard and actively engaged with various municipal departments, related agencies, and the school district. Municipal departments included Public information, finance, the police and fire departments, public works, recreation, zoning and building enforcement, planning, and the library. In addition, participants heard from members of the commercial district and economic development, the Mt. Lebanon Partnership, our magisterial district judge, Medical Rescue Team

South, and St. Clair Health. Participation in the academy continues to encourage volunteerism within our community, fosters neighborliness and inclusiveness, and provides a true sense of transparency of how our municipality operates on a day-to-day basis. Such information is likely to strengthen the bond between our municipality and its residents.

Police Engagement

This year, the Police Engagement Group focused on strengthening informal connections between residents and the Mt. Lebanon Police Department through relational presence and accessible community engagement.

Our primary initiative was hosting a Coffee with a Cop gathering, creating space for open conversation between community members and officers. This event provided an opportunity for residents to ask questions, share perspectives, and build trust through personal interaction. While our activity was streamlined this year, our commitment remains consistent: to support healthy communication, mutual understanding, and constructive partnership between the police department and the broader community. We look forward to building on this foundation in the year ahead.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Crafted and submitted a recommendation to the Commission about holidays and events that celebrate the diversity of our community.
- Supported the library's Hispanic Heritage Month activities, including tabling at the Global Beats event on September 18, 2025
- Tabled and served as a presence at LeboPride, June 14, 2025
- Supported conversations about the December holiday displays at Clearview Common

Community Service Award

This year, the Civic Engagement Board Community Service Award Subcommittee members reviewed 12 nominations for the annual award. After a thorough review, we are pleased to announce the recipient of the 2026 Community Service Award to an individual who has made a significant contribution to our community in a volunteer service capacity. Mr. Ron Block. Thanks to Ron's vision and leadership, there has been a remarkable and dramatic improvement in Mt. Lebanon's natural parks over the past two decades. We are grateful for his continued service and support of our community.