

Terra board looking at early study about housing and retail

Written by Daniel Carson Staff writer

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FREMONT — In conjunction with its Vision 2016 strategic plan, Terra State Community College is taking a preliminary look at future on-campus housing and retail possibilities located in a “Terra Village” through a new market study.

Washington D.C.-based program management firm Brailsford and Dunlavey is conducting the housing and retail market study for the college.

Two of the firm’s Columbus-based employees spoke to the Terra board Wednesday evening about their plans for the study and early data gathered from student and faculty/staff surveys.

Kim Martin, Brailsford and Dunlavey’s project manager, said the firm is in the beginning phases of the study and started work in October.

She said the firm had already launched student and employee surveys on the idea of building a Terra Village on-site, concerns about such a project and what people thought was needed on the Terra campus in terms of housing, restaurants and retail.

“We’ve had a very good reaction to the survey,” Martin told the board.

Richard Rieth, also with Brailsford and Dunlavey, told the board that the firm had received 546 responses to the survey, a 15 percent response rate.

Of those repsonding, 371 were students and 174 faculty or staff, he said.

The survey will remain active until mid-December, Martin said.

Rieth said the idea of a Terra Village drew significant interest from students interviewed in a focus group. He said some of the students were concerned about the cost to rent apartments and if tuition would go up due to construction.

Rieth said that employees interviewed in a focus group setting showed considerable demand for some sort of restaurant or food service at a Terra Village. He said the employees also noted that Terra was missing a “university feel” to its campus.

The firm will be delivering a final study report to the board in February.

In other business Wednesday, the board welcomed Sandusky County Sheriff Kyle Overmyer as it newest member.