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'We have rights'

Plans for BGSU gateway finalized



Wood County Health Board member Richard Strow raises his hands, asking a group that was there protesting mandates to quiet their voices during the meeting. There was about 30 minutes allowed for public comment at Thursday's board meeting.

Photos by J.D. Pooley | Sentinel-Tribune

The Bowling Green State University Board of Trustees on Friday approved final design and construction plans for a new campus gateway, received an update on how the university is supporting student success and approved the naming of various learning spaces across campus.

Finalizing plans for a new campus gateway

After years of planning, BGSU will begin construction in the spring on a new campus gateway where the former Administration Building once stood.

The new campus gateway will connect BGSU and the city at Thurston Avenue and Court Street with open walkways and sprawling green space. The gateway will also showcase the university's historic buildings, restoring a traditional look and feel to the western edge of campus.

During their Dec. 10 meeting, trustees reviewed and approved conceptual designs for the new gateway and allocated \$2.2 million for its construction.

The gateway's construction serves as a capstone to the University's Master Plan 1.0, the first phase of major campus infrastructure improvements.

Over the last decade, Master Plan 1.0 has served as the catalyst for the renovation of traditions buildings like University Hall and Hanna Hall, which is now part of the Maurer Center. New facilities, such as the Wolfe Center for the Arts and Centennial Hall, have also been constructed as part of the plan.

As Master Plan 1.0 concludes with the construction of the new campus gateway, the university will move to Master Plan 2.0, which will usher in the next phase of campus enhancements.

"This project is the culmination of many years of careful planning and coordination by the University, city, and generous alumni and donors," said Sheri Stoll, chief financial officer and vice president of finance and administration. "The new campus gateway, and other major projects under Master Plan 1.0, would not have been possible without the support of three University presidents and the engagement of trustees dating back to 2008. This historic project is a major step that will continue to transform campus for the betterment and enjoyment of the campus community."

Set for completion in fall 2022, the new campus gateway will feature an open-air plaza in a park-like setting, offering people an area to study,

Health board urged to walk back mask guidance

By **Debbie Rogers**
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More than 50 people protesting mask mandates and a possible coronavirus vaccination requirement for Wood County Health Department employees crowded into the building for Thursday's board meeting.

"You guys work for us," said Isaac Schonlau of Weston. "You're messing with our kids."

He urged the board to change guidance on mask-wearing in schools. The health board strongly urges mask-wearing in schools. Most, but not all, Wood County schools require masks in buildings.

"Please change your guidance, let us make health decisions for our families," Schonlau said. "As parents, we have rights."

Tiffany Densic, a Rossford Board of Education member, said that not enough attention has been paid to adverse reactions and deaths due to vaccinations.

Nicole Sieving said the vaccines are not effective. Many of the vaccinated are still contracting coronavirus and



Wood County Health board member Bob Midden addresses a group protesting mandates during Thursday's health board meeting.

spreading it, she said.

A vaccination mandate for employees, which has been discussed by the board but not approved, along with mask mandates are unconstitutional, unlawful and tyrannical, Sieving said.

"Due to the ethical standpoint and legality of pushing an experimental vaccine, I believe that these decisions should be made at home and not because of being coerced or being under duress," she said in a statement that she read to the board and provided to the media. "Each person should do a risk assessment for his/her family and decide if it is for them."

Paul Tyson dropped a 7-inch high stack of papers that he said had research showing



Isaac Schonlau of Weston speaks to board members Thursday.

how masks are ineffective.

After about a half dozen people spoke, board President Cathy Nelson said that public comment time for the meeting had already been extended 15 minutes and the board was moving on to regular business.

"We have 50 people here and 33 minutes?" someone called out.

"You really think it's more important to follow procedural rules?" another person said.

"I have tremendous respect for everything you are saying," said board member Bob Midden.

He added that there was a "tremendous amount of misinformation that is circulating."

"No, no," the crowd booed back to him.

Many showed up without

masks, which are mandated at the health department, and declined to wear them when health department employees passed them out.

Others spoke but declined to give their names, saying they had been misquoted in the past.

After the meeting, Health Commissioner Ben Robison said that he and the board provide guidance on masks and they should be used indoors.

They are an important strategy to reducing the spread of the coronavirus, he said.

With schools, the Ohio Department of Health has certain protocols that could limit students' attendance if they are exposed without masks.

Stories of the 313th remain

Rossford man keeps WWII stories alive

By **Roger LaPointe**
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ROSSFORD – Only the stories remain as the last news from the 313th Infantry Association of World War II veterans.

"The 313th was a regiment of the



Watrol

U.S. Army 79th Division, during World War II. The reunion used to be big. I think there may be 12 living members. There might be more, who never joined the association," said association secretary Bob

Watrol.

Those last 12 have not kept in

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Bowling Green and Wood County, Ohio

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