

## WEST SCIOTO AREA COMMISSION MEETING

April 18, 2019

### Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Commissioner Dyszel was absent. Commissioner Watkinson was absent. All other commissioners were present.

Erin Gibbons spoke on the bond Issue on behalf of the Mayor's office. She distributed an overview piece of literature and emphasized that this just allows the city to borrow money and is not a tax increase.

Commissioner Leppert asked if there was any indication of where the parks, etc. would be or what area of the city the money would be spent in. [Erin Gibbons](#) can be reached at:

[emgibbons@columbus.gov](mailto:emgibbons@columbus.gov)

614-645-5627

Commissioner Weber asked about where Issue 11 (Neighborhood development) would be spent.

COTA – Jeff Pullings attended the meeting and spoke. He provided a fact sheet as well as a map of bus lines that go through the West Scioto Area Commission. He provided an overview of COTA. Invited us to come to COTA's community meeting. Commissioner Cabral and Commissioner Leppert had attended and asked him to come and answer questions.

First question was about bus stops having shelters. COTA has to have 35 boardings consistently to upgrade to a shelter. January, May and September is when COTA reviews the statistics.

If there are even more boardings, then the shelter can be upgraded to a heated shelter. He encourages groups like this to participate. Can raise money and purchase a bench or a shelter. Have to have property owner or right of way permission. Would then be responsible to maintain it afterward.

Adopt a stop program – can get together and maintain and improve individual bus stops. COTA puts a sign up about what group adopted it.

Shelter \$3,000-\$4,000

Benches are a couple hundred (not as expensive as a shelter) He would have to check exact price. He will provide a link that has prices for each things.

Commissioner Weber indicated that he thought there is a corporate entity at corner of Trabue and Wilson that would benefit from such things and asked who he would have them contact.

Jeff will get a number for the individual to contact if they are interested.

There were also questions about sidewalks. Commissioner Cabral asked if there is just a sign and no sidewalks, how do we get a platform or something. He indicated that COTA cannot build sidewalks.

COTA is just launching their Adopt a Stop program. They just don't have the manpower to maintain trash cans, etc. at each stop. They would put a can there but whoever adopts it would have to be responsible to empty it and maintain it. Would have to decide up front on where the trash would be disposed of as COTA doesn't have facilities for that.

Commissioner Cabral asked about the safety of residents, most likely students, at Trabue and Dublin Road crossing the road to get to the bus stop. COTA is looking at this. It is hard to predict how many users COTA will have out of a development.

Commissioner Leppert asked about when prisoners are released from the new jail if there would be a bus stop for them. He did not have any information about.

COTA is maxed out on their service area. If they add new service, they have to take it from somewhere else in the city.

Hari Ruiz asked how COTA is working to expand the 2050 plan where we will be getting 500,000 new people. He indicated that COTA is working to get more ridership.

Brian Endicott asked when we will be getting a train. The 2050 plan does not give a recommendation for any specific type of transportation.

Commissioner Leppert indicated that she heard that Bus Rapid Transit was being considered for Broad Street. Bus communicates with traffic signal so lights stay green the whole way and save time on these routes.

Light Rail isn't in COTA's plan. They are looking more at bus rapid transit.

Commissioner Weber asked about the park and ride in the Griggs Reservoir area but he doesn't see a route for that. He said the 32 serves that area.

Service change meetings at noon or 6 p.m. They are public meetings. They are coming up again in mid-May for the September service change. There will be planners there that can answer questions. The meetings are published at [cota.com](http://cota.com) and on buses. They are also pushed out on Twitter if you follow COTA's twitter.

Commissioner Weber asked if COTA would help advocate for a sidewalk if the area commission were to try and get them.

Approval of meeting minutes.

Commissioner Cabral moved Commissioner Weber Seconded. Approved meeting minutes from July, October and November 2018

Commissioner Cabral moved; Commissioner Russell seconded. Approve meeting minutes from February 2019; Commissioner McKinley abstained

Commissioner Russell moved; Commissioner Cabral seconded to dispense with reading the minutes from March 2019. Commissioners Grinch and McKinley abstained.

Treasurer's report. Beginning balance \$957.77. There was \$196.63 in expenses. Remaining balance is \$761.14

Year end is April 30, 2019. Will be purchasing business cards and name plates.

Commissioner Weber asked about the canopy. Commissioner Cabral indicated that it is still undecided.

Business cards and name plates will be approximately \$200.00

Commissioner Russell moved; Commissioner Weber seconded. Approved unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

Hari Ruiz – Expressed her dissatisfaction with someone from Neighborhood Pride came to the March meeting and gave an unscheduled presentation causing the meeting to run over.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Zoning Committee

Bob Vance gave the report. There were 24 audience members present.

Zoning App was introduced for consideration for Northwest Grains International. Rezoning of a parcel. The Zoning Committee denied the request for rezoning. The applicant has withdrawn the application.

Zoning App Waggenbrenner presented for information only. He will return in 60 days with updates. All in attendance were able to ask questions.

Bob Vance submitted his resignation from the Zoning Committee and the Area Commission. He brought a box with all documents with him. Commissioner Cabral will take custody of that information.

## Communications Committee

Commissioner Cabral indicated that they finalized the logo and getting the business cards ordered.

There are 97 responses to the traffic survey so far. Next survey will go up June 1<sup>st</sup> and be focus on area events.

## Elections and Appointments Committee

Not a lot going on. They are setting up an exit interview with Commissioner Watkinson.

## Planning Committee

Commissioner Weber provided an overall summary of the Planning Committee's work so far. He believes that they are closer to making a recommendation regarding C2P2.

Committee was also tasked with generating a list of things we want our area to be. What we would like to preserve for the future. Commissioner Russell pushed this process ahead and drafted some statements of preference. The committee worked on this at its last meeting this past Tuesday. Commissioner Weber briefly covered the committee's revisions of these propositions. He presented and circulated a summary of Existing Land Use from 2011.

Hari Ruiz asked if the committee discussed the results of the survey. Commissioner Russell indicated that they had.

Commissioner Leppert asked if the 2011 was the most current information that we have.

Brian Endicott indicated that there are two parts to this. Two separate areas and data that is at least 10 years old.

Commissioner Leppert indicated that we need to figure out where we are now in order to be able to figure out goals.

Hari Ruiz indicated that it doesn't preclude increasing single family homes to offset the high density that is being built now to keep the ratio that we have now.

Commissioner Russell indicated that the issue is that the vacant land is being bought and high density is being built. There are no single family homes being built.

Commissioner Weber indicated that they are not proposing these for a vote tonight. They are still working on them. These are our desires and preferences.

Hari Ruiz indicated that Columbus Parks and Rec will be doing another tree canopy survey so that is will be up to date.

Next planning meeting is May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Panera on Fishinger. The meetings will now be the second Tuesday of the month.

Hari Ruiz indicated that if they give the communications committee at least two weeks notice, then they will blast out the meeting inviting the public.

Melissa needs all committee meetings two weeks in advance so that the city can publish them.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Neighborhood Pride Application

Commissioner Cabral presented information about what other associations and commissions that she spoke with. She was looking for information regarding past events. Biggest challenge is getting volunteers for any events. Fliers distributed at least twice before the event. Advertising and heavy notice needs to be done. Code enforcement seemed to be the biggest concern from our commission. She inquired about that and they indicated that it went really well. As part of the program there was information available for assistance.

There were other events that were successful. Bike ride, helmet handouts, health screening, tenant rights, gardens, beautiful homes, Keep Columbus Beautiful, Talent show, Yoga.

A lot of work goes into holding any event.

Question is whether the commission would like to go forward with the application.

Hari Ruiz asked if when Neighborhood Pride comes in if they focus on a limited area or the entire commission area.

Commissioner Cabral indicated that The Glen is still interested. We would need to meet with the city as a group. The city is making changes that are unknown at this time. We would need to know what the changes are before we decide to go forward with the application. Right now we are only voting on whether to submit the application. We can always withdraw or reject it if we are selected. We have to be chosen.

Melissa indicated that Neighborhood Pride is going to be a four week long event. The city is looking to take over more of the getting the word out type of activities. They are looking to determine what services are needed in what areas. The events would be every Thursday each week so its only one day per week. The last event would be the Mayor's Community Cookout. Trying to make these events more meaningful to connect with the people in the neighborhoods. Goal is to look at areas where the city hasn't engaged with as much.

Commissioner Cabral moved and Commissioner Russell seconded to extend the meeting by thirty minutes. Motion passed with Commissioner Grinch voting against it.

Bob Vance indicated that it may be necessary for a couple of neighborhoods to go in together in order to get approved for the Neighborhood Pride application.

Melissa indicated that long term they are trying to engage the communities in area commission endeavors in order to educate them about the importance of the commissions.

Commissioner Cabral asked if two area commissions could join together. Melissa indicated that she could check into this type of partnership.

Brian Endicott asked if we could withdraw the application after we apply. He asked what the down side to applying.

Commissioner Cabral indicated that we just need to decide if we want to send in the application and that we are already 7 days past the deadline.

Commissioner Russell expressed that he thought we should wait until next year since we are already past the deadline and then we won't be playing catch up.

Commissioner Cabral stated that there is already something else we are wanting to do for next year.

Commissioner McKinley asked Melissa how much the city would contribute to planning the Pride event. Melissa indicated that the city plans to do most of the heavy lifting. The entire pride office is available. They want to come to this area.

There are benefits to the community to having the Pride event.

Commissioner McKinley moved and Commissioner Weber seconded a motion to submit the application for Neighborhood Pride. Commissioners Cabral, Weber and McKinley voted in the affirmative. Commissioners Grinch and Leppert abstained. Commissioner Russell voted in the negative.

#### FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Bob Vance spoke about the construction in the 33 area.

Bob Vance read an email from Mr. Reedy of Wagenbrenner to him as Zoning Chair. They are looking for a vote at the June zoning committee meeting. They want to attend the May 1<sup>st</sup> zoning committee meeting.

Melissa updated us on Addison Woods sidewalks. The city is working on it.

Commissioner Grinch asked how long he needs to keep documents, emails, etc. from the commission. Melissa asked that he keep things for three (3) years.

Commissioner Russell moved and Commissioner Cabral seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.