



West Scioto Area Commission

Thursday, September 21, 2023

First Community Church

3777 Dublin Road

Columbus, OH

7:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Vice-Chairman Russell.

Roll Call

Present: Deb Boyd, Rita Cabral, Leyila Cabus, Vince Cerasini, Vice-Chairman Eric Russell, Larry Weber

City of Columbus Reports

Division of Police Liaison for the 15th Precinct.

Officer Tom Paulus was not in attendance.

Department of Neighborhoods Liaison

Rebecca Deeds

- The next area commissioners' training is Wednesday, September 27th, from 6:00-8:00 P.M. presented virtually. The topics will be Building and Zoning and Code Enforcement.
- All who attended trainings will get an email to provide feedback.
- There will be a gun buyback on Saturday, September 30th. Gift cards will be handed out.
- A presentation of the mobility study of the Renner-Trabue-McKinley corridor will be held on October 9th from 5:30-7:00 P.M. at the Franklin County Engineer West Maintenance Facility located at 4444 Fisher Rd.

Columbus City Council, Division of Community Engagement Legislative Advisor

Averi Townsend

- City Council is hosting a Snack and Learn on September 27th from 6:00-7:00 P.M. on council residential districts.
- The Area Forestry Master Plan will bring the tree code up to date. West Scioto Area has a tree canopy of 21%. The plan will consist of an inch-by-inch replacement policy. If a 21-inch tree is removed from city property, it must be replaced with 21 inches of trees. Columbus is the largest heat island in the country.
- The City had 5,000 gunlocks to hand out.

- The neighborhood beautification program will launch on September 22nd. Information can be found at www.615beautiful.org.

Columbus Public Health and Columbus Recreation and Parks

- The City's ReRoute youth intervention program is available for 13-21 year-old youths who have experienced gun violence.
- Wrap-around services will provide family-centered support of cognitive behavior skills and intervention strategies by meeting with affected individuals two or three times a week.
- Counselors and clinicians are in the community and will connect families to needed resources.
- If a referral isn't appropriate for the ReRoute program, they will find an appropriate agency.

Columbus Metropolitan Library

Kristin Sutton, Government Liaison, attended tonight's meeting to share events for the sesquicentennial celebration of the library.

Amy McLanahan, Hilliard Branch Library Manager, shared information about that library branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library.

- It is the largest branch in the CML system with an average of 1300 visitors a day.
- It provides programs to meet community requests: story hours, history programs, English as a Second Language programs, the author series, and library passport series.

A continuing 1.5 mill levy based on current property values to support the Columbus Metropolitan Library will be on the ballot in November.

Zoning Committee Report

Zoning Chair, Commissioner Cabral

BZA23-092 696-700 Grandview Ave. was approved by the Zoning Committee. Aaron Heydinger presented the plan to the commissioners.

- Parking spaces meet the City code.
- There is a landscape plan with appropriate screening.
- The facility will be open M-F 8:00-8:00 P.M. Saturday and Sunday 8:00 – 6:00 P.M.
- Drainage goes out to Grandview Ave.

Commissioner Cabral moved to approve application BZA23-092. Commissioner Cabus seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next Zoning Committee meeting will be October 4th.

- Z23-042 4398 Trabue Rd. will be on the agenda.
- Commissioner Russell suggested commissioners look at the business off of Westbelt with a similar business of stacking shipping containers to get a visual for what this business will look like.
- Commissioners raised questions about the business: Parking lot material? Decibels?

- Commissioners should get their questions in so they can be brought up at the October 4th Zoning Committee meeting.

The Renner-Trabue-McKinley Corridor Mobility Study will be held on October 9th. The city received funding in 2021 for this project. Your input is important.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Commissioner Bohnert

Balance August 17, 2023	\$126.51
Expenditures:	
Constant Contact month	23.00
Bank Balance September 14, 2023	103.51

Committee Reports

Communication Committee

Chair, Commissioner Boyd

- The committee went over the website and discussed how to get the announcement about the RTMC Mobility Study out to the residents.
- Commissioner Boyd reported the statement balances of the services WSAC pays for in preparation for the transition from the WSAC bank account to the City-maintained payment system:
 - o The domain is paid up until January 2024.
 - o Constant Contact email is \$193.20 a year.
 - o Login will change to web.com.
 - o Yearly storage is paid up until March 2024.
- Deeds said under the new City organization, she will submit purchase requests through her department. She will need the login and password so the City can pay it.
- Commissioner Boyd said only the owner of Constant Contact can log in.
- The City has decided area commissions should never have had a checking or debit account per the Ohio Revised Code.
- WSAC doesn't need the old MOA.
- Constant Contact is due the 11th of the month - \$23.00.
- The commission's accounts shut down on September 29, 2023.
- If EFT is set up, the area commission can use it until September 29th.

Commissioner Boyd moved to spend all monies in the account to pay for three months of Constant Contact and the domain for \$22.00. Whatever is left, will move to the new City-held account. Commissioner Cabral seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

Nominations Committee

Chair, Commissioner Russell

Commissioner Russell had nothing to report.

New Business

Commissioner Vance will take minutes at the next Zoning Committee meeting in place of Commissioner Cabus who won't be in attendance.

Commissioner Cabral opened a discussion of the by-law condition that prevents the zoning committee chair and the commission chair from speaking at other official meetings.

Commissioner Cabral planned to speak at a Development Committee meeting but, as zoning chair, she is prohibited. She asked to craft a by-law change that would permit the zoning chair and the commission chair to speak at other meetings.

Commissioner Cabus moved to allow the zoning chair and the WSAC chair to speak at any upcoming Development Committee meetings and City Council meetings in their official capacity until this by-law change is made. Commissioner Weber seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rezoning applications and variance applications are treated differently. Variances are quasi-judicial in that the city only accepts in-person testimony from impacted persons who live within 125 feet of the property in question. Anyone can submit written testimony at zoning meetings. On the other hand, rezoning applications are land-use policy decisions.

The commissioners discussed the wording of the new by-law change which must be submitted in writing and read at a commission meeting. Liaison Townsend suggested referring the by-law wording to City Attorney Rob Tobias.

Extension of Meeting

Commissioner Cabral moved to extend the meeting 15 minutes. Commissioner Boyd seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

New Business (continued)

Vice-Chairman Russell drafted wording for the new by-law and read the proposal that would allow the West Scioto Area Commission chair and the Zoning Committee chair to speak at the Development Committee meetings, City Council meetings, or other official meetings. The wording will be referred to the City Attorney before posting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Cerasini moved to adjourn. Commissioner Cabral seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Mischnick
(DRAFT FOR APPROVAL)