



West Scioto Area Commission

Thursday, April 20, 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 7:01 P.M. by Commissioner Russell.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Kristin McKinley, Treasurer Rita Cabral, Deb Boyd, Vance Cerasini, Eric Russell, Leyila Cabus

Approval of Previous Minutes

Commissioner Russell called for a motion to approve the March 2023 minutes. Commissioner Cabral moved to approve. Commissioner Cabus seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

City of Columbus Reports

Division of Police Liaison

Officer Tom Paulus reported that there has not been a lot of activity in the West Scioto area. There are problems with theft from cars and car trunks in the Hilliard Rome/Roberts Road area. Residents are being told not to leave items out in the open in the car and, if they plan on securing purses and valuables in their trunks, do so before they enter the parking lots to avoid being watched.

Department of Neighborhoods Liaison

Rebecca Deeds

- The mayor is holding a Westside Community event at Glenwood Community Center on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 6 P.M. RSVP at the mayor's office.
- Area commissions will share best practices on Wednesday, April 26th.

Columbus City Council, Division of Community Engagement Legislative Advisor

Averi Townsend

- The Westside Council Community Meeting will be held at the Run the Race Center on May 10th from 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Fill out the RSVP form online.

City Zoning Department

Shannon Pine – Chief Zoning Official

Shannon Pine reported that she met with consultant Lisa Wise.

The current code does not support equity or thriving as in transit and modernizing. The Department of Development and the Department of Zoning are using a phased-in approach.

- Sixty-two main streets will get the first focus.
- These streets consist of 145 miles of corridors and hold 11,000 parcels.
- The city is just rolling it out to area commissions
- Zone-In Road Shows will occur on housing, businesses, etc.
- Ground floor residential is not now allowed but the City receives many variance requests for first floor residential.
- The purpose of the code update is to reduce variance requests and the time it takes to construct housing.

Mike LaScola, AEP Ohio External Affairs Manager

West Scioto Area contact for AEP Ohio.

Representatives from AEP Ohio provided updates on the power outages West Scioto residents experienced last June and December.

1. AEP Ohio services 12,000 customers in West Scioto area: 10,000 residential and 2,000 commercial customers.
2. In June of 2022, storm damaged transmission lines bringing electricity into the city. Fewer remaining lines were unable to keep up with demand so AEP had to load shed.
3. On Christmas Eve 2022, not enough electricity was being made in Eastern U.S. by PJM, the provider used by AEP Ohio. PJM asked AEP Ohio to reduce their load.
4. Utilities can't own power plants, so AEP owns no power plants, doesn't make its own electricity, and must buy the electricity they use. They buy electricity at auctions at the current market price every six months.
5. AEP Ohio does deliver electricity. They are responsible for the wires.
6. Matt Bennett, Operations Manager for the west side of Columbus, suggested residents sign up for the AEP Ohio notification system to receive text or email alerts concerning electricity outages.
7. There are four main reasons for outages: Equipment failure; planned outages; vehicle accidents; and, unforeseen circumstances.
8. AEP Ohio is on a four-year tree trim cycle. In West Scioto, two percent of outages are from tree damage.

AEP provides generation pass-through services for customers who don't shop for other providers.

1. The cost of AEP's pass-through generation supply is increasing in June by 28%.

2. To save on their electric bill, residents should comparison shop using the www.energychoice.ohio.gov website or www.AEP.com/assistance
3. Find a provider who offers a fixed rate.
4. AEP Energy is an unregulated provider for the Columbus aggregation of providers. It is not part of AEP Ohio.
5. The 17-digit SDI code on your electric bill is what an entity needs to change your supplier.
6. AEP offers an assistance program, Neighbor to Neighbor, that matches any donations.

Zoning Committee Report

Zoning Chair, Commissioner Cabral

Preferred Living presented Phase III of their development on 3451 Trabue Road under application numbers Z23-012 and CV23-019. They would like all questions concerning this development by April 27th. Send your questions to Commissioner Cabral who will forward them.

The current property on 3451 Trabue Road is up for demolition by June 10th. If there are no objections, the demolition goes forward. If there are objections, have them in by June 10th.

The demolition at 3755 Grimes has been taken care of. The garage was involved in a fire.

The next zoning meeting will be May 3rd at the Hilltop Library at 7:00 P.M.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Commissioner Cabral

Balance March 16, 2023	\$969.77
Expenditures:	
Vista Print Credit	(7.50)
Smartsign nameplates	42.40
Constant Contact month 20.00	
FastSign of Hilliard	127.16
USPS PO Box 21373	194.00
 Bank Balance April 20, 2023	 \$593.71

The commission needs to spend \$293.71 in the next 10 days to avoid sending the excess back to the City. Commissioner Russell moved to set aside up to \$25 a month for Google cloud storage. After further discussion, Commissioner Russell amended the motion to purchase 2 terabytes or up to \$100 a year for Google storage. Commissioner Cabus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

It was decided to tie an email address to the Google storage account so the email address won't have to be changed when personnel changes.

Commissioner Russell moved that any excess of funds above \$300.00, after purchasing Google storage, be sent to the City as a down payment for another WSAC sign. Commissioner Cabus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Meeting Extension

Commissioner Cabral moved to extend the meeting 15 minutes. Commissioner Cerasini seconded. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

Communication Committee
Chair, Commissioner Cabral

The WSAC website and creating a QR code was discussed.

Nominations Committee
Chair, Commissioner Russell

There is no need for an election since the WSAC had three openings and received three applications. Commissioner Russell moved to accept the three applications received from Leyla Cabus, Eli Bohnert, and Kristin McKinley. Commissioner Cabral seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Russell will send their application packets to Rebecca Deeds for signatures.

Planning Committee
Chair, Commissioner Weber

Commissioner Weber was not in attendance.

By-Law Amendment to Article VII - Committees

The Columbus City attorney offered a change to the language that the commission had submitted for the purpose of amending Article VII – Committees of the WSAC By-Laws. The attorney's version required a reading at tonight's meeting and then must be published for 30 days. Commissioner Russell read the amendment to Article VII – Committees with the changes offered by the City attorney's office. Chair McKinley requested that the By-Laws amendment be published as revised by the city attorney.

New Business

Chair McKinley stated that at future meetings of the area commission and its sub-committees, a sign-in sheet is required. During the meeting only commissioners will speak. The public will be required to sign up to speak with a three-minute limit on their remarks and will appear in first-come first-serve order.

This new process should be explained on the WSAC website so residents will be aware to get to the meeting early enough to sign in.

Liaison Deeds shared that other commissions accept speaker slips until the public comments begin.

Commissioner Cabus suggested that the WSAC hold a leadership or social time when City Council is out of session. Chair McKinley put Commissioner Cabus in charge of organizing that endeavor.

Adjournment

Commissioner Cabus moved to adjourn. Commissioner Russell seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Mischnick

(DRAFT FOR APPROVAL)