



West Scioto Area Commission

Thursday, March 16, 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 Commissioner Russell.

Roll Call

Present: Treasurer Rita Cabral, Eli Bohnert, Deb Boyd, Leyila Cabus, Eric Russell, Vance Cerasini

Approval of Previous Minutes

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

City of Columbus Reports

Division of Police Liaison

Officer Tom Paulus was not in attendance.

Department of Neighborhoods Liaison

Rebecca Deeds

- A training for area commissioners on Fiscal and Budget Management will occur on Saturday, March 18th at 10 A.M. at the Linden Rec Center.
- On March 29th at 6:00 P.M., the City Attorney's office will present a WebEx training for area commissioners.
- The mayor will present the State of the City address online at noon on Tuesday, March 21st. The broadcast can be found on the City of Columbus's Facebook page.
- Eastside Coalition is holding an event at Bishop Hartley High School about the growth of Columbus and housing needs.
- The Division of Police has posted a survey to get feedback from the Columbus community. Please send it around to others.
- Liaison Deeds spoke with Alex Sauersmith, a senior planner with the Department of Development, about communicating with the city concerning land use.
 1. He agreed that efforts to do so are beneficial. When the commission approaches him, be prepared with as much information as possible.
 2. When WSAC conducts an area survey, please share the results with the Planning Division.

3. As far as encouraging a grocery store to create a presence in the West Scioto area, the West Scioto Area Commission should proactively approach the business. The city can't make that contact.
4. Commissioners should make appearances at the Development and Board of Zoning meetings.
5. Commissioners should build relationships with the developers so they can spitball ideas before appearing in front of the commission.

Columbus City Council, Division of Community Engagement Legislative Advisor
Averi Townsend

- Budget priorities are needed from the commission. The public can also complete a form on the Facebook page to submit ideas.
- City Council is rolling out 12 housing initiatives to address the city's housing needs.

Zoning Committee Report

Zoning Chair, Commissioner Cabral

The zoning committee:

- Reviewed the by-laws in reference to creating a vice-chair position and approved the first phase of that process.
- Reviewed, voted on, and approved the document "The WSAC Declaration of Best Practices Regarding Public Notification of Development Applications." A vote by the full area commission was requested.
- Two large applications will be discussed at the April 5th zoning meeting:
 - Z23-014 and CV23-020 2400 Old Dublin Rd.
 - Z23-012 and CV23-019 3451 Trabue Rd

Commissioner Russell called for a motion to accept "The WSAC Declaration of Best Practices Regarding Public Notification of Development Applications" document. Commissioner Bohnert moved to accept the Public Notification document. Commissioner Cerasini seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Commissioner Cabral

Balance February 16, 2023	\$2297.26
Expenditures:	
Vista Print- Business Cards	107.49
Constant Contact month 20.00	
City of Columbus Road Sign	1200.00
Bank Balance March 16, 2023	\$969.77

Upcoming expected expenditures: Name plates (45.00) and the USPS Post Office Box. Expected upcoming balance \$500-\$600.

It was noted by Liaison Deeds that the end of the fiscal year balance can be drawn down, but if it is over \$300, the City will keep \$300.

Suggestions for other items that the expected upcoming balance could be used for included a down payment on another West Scioto Area Commission sign, a tablecloth with the WSAC logo and name for portability purposes, a subscription to iCloud for the purpose of posting documents, or a subscription to Columbus Business First.

Liaison Deeds suggested running the use of iCloud by David Fox on Saturday at the WebEx meeting on Fiscal and Budget Management, and Commissioner Russell will look into the cost of a group subscription to Columbus Business First.

Committee Reports

Communication Committee
Chair, Commissioner Cabral

- The tree give-away takes place April 15 from 10:00 A.M. until 12 noon and April 16 from 12 noon – 2:00 P.M. The rain dates are the following weekend, April 22nd and 23rd. Help from West Scioto Area neighborhoods is requested.
- Work continues on the WSAC web page.
- The next Communication Committee meeting is April 19th at Minelli's.

Nominations Committee
Chair, Commissioner Russell

The issue of the signature requirement on commissioner applications was discussed. While Covid-19 protocols were in place, signatures were not required. Currently, Eli Bohnert and Kristin McKinley are submitting applications.

Commissioner Russell called for a motion to retroactively suspend signatures for this upcoming election and postpone until March 31, 2023 the receipt of the application packet so we can move ahead. Liaison Deeds moved to retroactively suspend signatures for this upcoming election and postpone until March 31, 2023 the receipt of the application packet. Commissioner Cabral seconded. The motion carried.

Planning Committee
Chair, Commissioner Weber

Commissioner Weber was not in attendance.

Budget

Legislative Advisor Townsend asked for three to five priorities to submit to City Council for the next budget cycle. The first item should be the highest priority so council can see what the biggest issues are across the city.

Commissioner Cabral mentioned a new meeting place since using the Belmont and Thrive properties could be a conflict of interest. Commissioner Russell stated that the West Scioto Area has no meeting facilities.

Commissioner Cabral suggested multi-use paths needed on roads other than Trabue.

Commissioner Bohnert suggested that along with shared use paths bike stations would be of interest.

Another need is a recreation center to appeal to apartment dwellers. Advisor Townsend said the Recreation and Parks team has worked with other commissions. They will list all sites that are available, and WSAC can see what is being looked at in this area by the Department of Recreation and Parks. Advisor Townsend offered to build a communication bridge with the Recreation and Parks Department to obtain a park audit form with information on all the parks in the area.

The commission listed as the final priorities:

- 1) a meeting/recreation center; and,
- 2) multi-use paths along Trabue, Dublin, McKinley, Hague and Wilson Roads as well as bike stations.

The issue came up of intersections that are difficult for pedestrians to navigate. Liaison Deeds recommended submitting those issues to 311. By notifying 311, the city can add the intersection to their Vision Zero map.

Also, commissioners should remind area residents to notify the 311-service center when they have a request or concern. When a resident called about adding sidewalks and street lights in the N. Hague and LaVista area, Public Service said they had no data of prior complaints to address that area.

Public Participation

Jack O'Grady, the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Franklin County Auditor's Office, attended tonight's WSAC meeting as part of his effort to visit all area commissions by the end of March.

- He provided a reappraisal guide that explains the 2023 property reappraisal.
- This year, for the first time, the auditor's office is providing residents with a neighborhood survey to complete by the end of March to assist the office in providing accurate appraisals.
- Last year's evaluation can be argued until the end of this month.

New Business

Two amendments to the West Scioto Area Commission by-laws were discussed.

- An amendment to Article B concerned adding an option that read "may select a vice chair" to serve on committees.
- An amendment to Article D would change the chair from serving as a non-voting, ex-officio member of all committees to "may be a voting member" on committees.
- Liaison Deeds asked that the changes be posted on the WSAC Facebook page and she will run them by Attorney Rob Tobias for his approval.
- Commissioner Russell said he would forward the changes to Chair McKinley.

Adjournment

Commissioner Russell asked for motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cabral moved to adjourn. Commissioner Cabus seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Mischnick

(DRAFT FOR APPROVAL)