



Thursday, March 17, 2022

WebEx Meeting

7:00 P.M.

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by the Chair, Commissioner McKinley.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Chair Kristen McKinley, Brian Endicott, Treasurer Rita Cabral, Student Commissioner Leyila Cabus, Jo Leppert, Eric Russell, Jeremy Thomas, Larry Weber, Eli Bohnert

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

The Chair called for a motion to approve last month's minutes. Commissioner Endicott moved to approve the minutes from February. Commissioner Cabral seconded. The minutes were approved.

### **Introduction of Special Guests**

Columbus City Councilman Nicholas Bankston was welcomed by Chair McKinley. Councilman Bankston shared highlights of his mission as a member of City Council. He stated that his office is run on accessibility, accountability, and trust in his work as he builds community in Columbus. As the small minority business chair, Councilman Bankston wants to hold his monthly community hours in small businesses identified by the area commissions.

Columbus City Councilwoman Lourdes Barroso de Padilla was welcomed by Chair McKinley. Councilwoman Barroso de Padilla introduced her legislative assistant Amaris

Lemus and legislative aide Jessica Caceres. The councilwoman chairs the Public Service Committee and the Neighborhoods Committee which includes Immigrant, Refugee, and Migrant Affairs (IRMA). She also chairs the Veterans and Senior Affairs Committee where she works to provide mobility and accessibility. Her monthly community hours are the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month and will be held in different communities across the city.

Police Liaison Officer Tom Paulus, City of Columbus, Division of Police, could not attend.

Glennon Sweeney, Senior Research Associate for Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Ohio State University was welcomed by Chair McKinley. Ms. Sweeney presented a history of policies that created structural inequity in Columbus that included race, religion, and ethnicity with the use of restrictive covenants. She cited the need for Columbus to make home ownership more accessible, equitable, and inclusive.

Rebecca Deeds, City of Columbus Neighborhood Liaison, made several announcements.

- The budget and fiscal training is Saturday, March 19th. Commissioner Cabral will attend.
- The next area commissioner training will be Wednesday, April 6th and will cover having constructed conversations about race and justice.
- Both the zoning hearing and the Mayor's State of the City address are available on the city's YouTube page.
- The West Scioto Area Commission budget for 2022-2023 needs to be discussed at the April meeting for the Memorandum of Agreement.

Averi Townsend, City of Columbus Neighborhood Liaison, announced several issues.

- Availability of \$8,000,000 began March 7th and ended March 17th for small businesses that suffered economic hardship during Covid-19. The funds were provided by the Columbus and Franklin County Small Business Recovery Fund. While the first round is now closed, the next round opens April 11, 2022.
- Residents who suffered difficulty paying rent and utilities during Covid-19 may also access grants via [www.rentful614.com](http://www.rentful614.com).
- Changes implemented by the new chair of the Zoning Committee, Rob Dorans, will be coming to the zoning committee process.
- The Citizen's Commission on Elected Officials Compensation will have a public

hearing on March 24th at 5:30 P.M.

- The Charter Review Commission is meeting and the timeline is on their website.
- The Zoning Committee has outlined nine land use priorities.
- The zoning application form allows the applicant to maintain a record of changes made based on their conversations with advisory bodies.

### **Zoning Committee Report**

Zoning Chair, Commissioner Endicott

Commissioner Endicott announced that the next meeting is on the first Wednesday in April and will be a virtual meeting if all parties agree. He stated one BZA application was filed for the gravel hill on McKinley Rd.

Chair McKinley reported that a demolition permit was received for 1260 N. Wilson Rd.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer, Commissioner Cabral

Balance February 17, 2022	\$2145.05
Receipts:	
Reimbursed Secretarial Services 2/24/2022	50.00
Expenditures:	
Constant Contact monthly fee for bulk email	
Web 3/14/2022	20.00
Vistaprint –Business cards E. Bohnert 3/16/22	47.58
Bank Balance March 17, 2022	\$2127.47

Commissioner Cabral opened a discussion about how to use some of the remaining treasury funds.

- She suggested a need to buy signs for the purpose of announcing WSAC meetings to the public
- Zoning Committee had also discussed getting another recorder.
- Funds not used this year will be taken back by the Department of Public Service by April 30th.
- An additional need for signs announcing public zoning hearings was included in

the discussion.

- Liaison Deeds will follow up with Department of Building and Zoning Deputy Director Tony Celebrezze to find out what process must be used for sign placement.
- Commissioner Weber proposed using portable, temporary signs. His proposal was to buy the stands and blank panels. Fast Signs would print the signs and the designing would be without cost.
- Commissioner Endicott made a motion to authorize \$600 to purchase the sandwich board signs. Student Commissioner Cabus seconded and the motion was approved.
- Commissioner Bohnert had researched data from the Columbus Area Metropolitan Transportation Plan that show the highest rated roads in terms of usage and those with the greatest traffic congestion to find the highest trafficked roads in our area commission. He will email his findings to members.

## **Committee Reports**

Nominations Committee

Chair, Commissioner Russell

Chair McKinley asked for a motion to approve the nominations of Eric Russell and Brian Endicott. Commissioner Leppert moved that the Commission accept the nominations of Eric Russell and Brian Endicott. They ran unopposed so there doesn't need to be an election and the Commission will accept them by acclamation. Commissioner Weber seconded. The motion was approved.

Communication Committee

Chair, Commissioner Cabral

- Commissioner Cabral moved we extend the meeting until 8:45 P.M. Commissioner McKinley seconded and the motion was approved.
- Commissioner Cabral stated that the commission has never established a commission handbook and more clarity is needed for committee responsibilities. The Communication chair continues the search for someone to address this task.
- She added that Commissioner Endicott had sent out the minutes for the November 2020 and December 2020 meetings, but the June 2021 minutes still require

corrections.

- Commissioner Cabral presented ideas for meeting in different West Scioto Area neighborhoods with speakers to give informative talks about the area.
- She asked for a blank sign with the West Scioto logo to announce the event to encourage more interest in the commission by the residents.
- She completed her report by announcing that the next meeting, April 19th, will be a virtual meeting.

## Planning Committee

Chair, Commissioner Weber

Commissioner Weber reported that the Planning Committee met and held discussions. He announced that the next planning committee meeting will be held May 10th and will likely be at Belmont House. He added that no April meeting will be held.

## **New Business**

Joann Leppert announced her resignation as Area Commissioner effective March 18, 2022. A written copy of her resignation will be sent to Rebecca Deeds via email. Commissioner Leppert provided an oral recommendation for Leyila Cabus to fill this position.

Commissioner Endicott circulated draft minutes from the November 2020 and December 2020 meetings. Commissioner Russell moved we accept the minutes from the November and December 2020 meetings as circulated with corrections that Brian mentioned. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and approved.

Rebecca Deeds presented a concern of a resident of the West Scioto Area who had been in attendance. The resident had expressed the need for a crosswalk at LaVista Dr. and Hague Rd. Liaison Deeds will connect him with Councilwoman Barroso de Padilla who is the point of contact with the Department of Public Service.

## **Adjournment**

Chair, Commissioner McKinley asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made to

adjourn by Commissioner Leppert and seconded by Commissioner Cabral. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M. by Commissioner McKinley.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Mischnick