



Minutes | Regular Meeting of the Far South Columbus Area Commission

Thursday, March 4, 2021 | 6:30 pm

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present

Commissioner Fisher
Commissioner Sherman
Commissioner Neale
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Walker
Commissioner Patterson

Commissioner Walcott
Commissioner Yaashantawa
Commissioner Byrd
Commissioner Draudt
Commissioner Richardson

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner McElroy

Guests

Judge Stephanie Mingo
Kellie Carson, Bailiff to Judge Stephanie Mingo
Cornell Robertson, Franklin County Engineer
Terri Pritchard, Franklin County Engineer's Office
Simone Burley, Franklin County Engineer's Office
Nick Soulas, Franklin County Engineer's Office
Christopher Clark, Zone Attorney
Nancy Pryor Sully, Senior Legislative Aide, City Council Division of Community Engagement
Beth Fairman Kinney, Neighborhood Liaison, Department of Neighborhoods

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Walker to approve March meeting minutes as submitted.
Motion Approved.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Smith presented the March 4th Treasurer Report – the ending balancing was \$2954.58 on March 4, 2021. She noted an editing error – Check #1995 will be removed from the March report.

Motion to approve March minutes with a correction (check #1995 will be removed) by Commissioner Neale. Seconded by Commissioner Yaashantawa. Motion passes.

Commissioner Name	Vote	Commissioner Name	Vote	Commissioner Name	Vote
Fisher	Yes	Patterson	Yes	Walker	Yes
Walcott	Yes	Sherman	Yes	Richardson	Yes
Smith	Yes	Neale	Yes	Yaashantawa	Yes
Draudt	Yes	Byrd	Yes		

Commissioner Smith reviewed the current budget. The remaining fund for consumable supplies was \$366.95; the remaining fund for miscellaneous expenses was \$687.63. An allotment of \$1900 in funds for the Regional Neighborhood Network Conference could not be used due to cancellation. All commission funds must be spent before April 30th, 2021, when remaining dollars will be returned to the City. Commissioners discussed appropriate reallocation of RNNC funds.

Motion by Commissioner Draudt to move \$1900 from the RNNC budget to the Miscellaneous Expenses budget. Seconded by Commissioner Fisher. Motion passes.

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Walcott	Yes	Sherman	Yes	Richardson	Yes
Smith	Yes	Neale	Yes	Yaashantawa	Yes
Draudt	Yes	Byrd	Yes		

Motion by Commissioner Draudt to get a quote for Commissioner polo shirts, with a goal to purchase before April 30th. Seconded by Commissioner Fisher. Motion passes.

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Draudt	Yes	Byrd	Yes		

Presentations

“Roundabout” Visit | Cornell Robertson, Franklin County Engineer

Cornell R. Robertson spoke about his work as Franklin County Engineer. There are three branches in his office – Engineering, Operations, and Support Services – which include fifteen departments and 180 employees. He highlighted some core responsibilities of the Franklin County Engineer: surveying and land records, roadway infrastructure (for over 800 lane miles and 360 bridges), snow and ice removal, and a weight enforcement program. Mr. Robertson emphasized that his office works closely with community partners in Franklin County, including all municipalities, townships, state and regional agencies, and law enforcement.

Commissioners shared questions, feedback about increasing traffic on the far south side, and infrastructure issues in our neighborhoods. Cornell Robertson invited Commissioners to reach out to his office regarding relevant challenges in our area.

South Side Neighborhood Leadership Academy | Katelin Hansen, CD4AP

Katelin Hansen with Community Development for All People promoted the upcoming South Side Neighborhood Leadership Academy, currently accepting applications. The Leadership Academy is an eight month long program that meets biweekly to learn about south side history and develop practical leadership and community engagement skills. Participants implement what they learn by launching a community project. Interested parties should go to 4allpeople.org/ssnla to learn more and apply.

Judge Stephanie Mingo, Franklin County Municipal Court

Judge Mingo provided an update on her work as an Environmental Court Judge. She is responsible for hearing three categories of cases: 1) civil cases involving public nuisance properties, 2) criminal cases involving crimes that create a public nuisance, and 3) animal abuse and neglect.

Nuisance properties include vacant homes not boarded to code, tall grass or weeds, and inhabited homes or businesses that are used for illegal purposes, or frequently reported for gunshots or violence. When a property is found a public nuisance, the court orders compliance within 30-60 days; if not brought to code, the court can order abatements or hold a defendant in contempt. When a property is used for illegal activity, the court can order it vacated and boarded up.

Commissioners asked questions, including how the court follows up when defendants remain in nuisance properties and refuse to pay fines. Judge Mingo thanked Commissioners, noting that cases don't make it to Environmental Court without community input and advocacy, including calls to 311.

Zoning

There were no Zoning presentations. A discussion of **CV21-006** for 1920 E. Williams Rd. was postponed at the request of the submitter.

Commissioner Walker provided an update on applications received. These will be heard at the March 18th Zoning meeting and up for vote at the April 1st regular meeting:

- **BZA21-023** (421 Rathmell Rd.) – Owner wants to split a 2.5 acre lot into 1 and 1.5 acre lots.
- **CV 21-027** (399 Haul Rd.) – Owner wants to use the area to store vehicles awaiting auction; an additional application is expected to place a temporary office trailer on the site.
- **Z21-012** (3469 S. High St.) – Owner of the old Kmart property wants to construct five storage buildings on the west half of the existing parking lot.

Other Commission Business

Chair Richardson noted that an Executive meeting will be scheduled before the end of the month with Commissioners Smith, Neale, Richardson, and Sherman.

Committee Advisor Reports

Chair Richardson asked Committee Advisors to continue to send reports in advance and highlight key updates in the meeting.

Internal Governance | Commissioner Draudt

Commissioner Draudt reported that another Commissioner is needed to assist with 2021 elections. The volunteer cannot be someone running for reelection. The next meeting of this committee will be on May 24th. The group is planning to acquire a list of churches, businesses, and civics in the far south area and will send out mailers.

Motion by Commissioner Draudt to purchase postage for mailers to churches, businesses, civic groups, and block watches. Seconded by Commissioner Yaashantawa. Motion passes.

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Health & Human Services | Commissioner Yaashantawa

Commissioner Yaashantawa referred to her emailed reports concerning COVID-19 vaccine information and mental health and self-care. She noted that the Franklin County Office on Aging is providing free transportation to vaccine appointments for seniors age 60+.

Community Outreach | Commissioner Fisher

Commissioner Fisher shared that Facebook stats decreased this month because of previous “hot” posts for Operation Warm and produce drops. However, we are still receiving new likes and followers on social media. Commissioner Fisher invited Commissioners to continue sending her ideas for posts.

Environmental | Commissioner Neale

Commissioner Neale will be attending a meeting about installing air pollution monitors in Franklin County; she requested feedback (by March 10th) about where monitors are needed on the far south side.

Christopher Clark provided an update on Ace Iron and Metal. Piles have been decreasing, but are still around 20 ft. high. The defendant was told they must work diligently on reducing piles before the next status conference in early May. Commissioners expressed concern about the long history of non-compliance at this site despite ongoing litigation.

Education | Commissioner Sherman

Commissioner Sherman referred to her emailed report, highlighting that all schools in the commission area have returned, or will return, to some in-person learning. She highlighted information about services provided by OSU Social Work students at Columbus Metropolitan Library.

City Reports

Nancy Pryor Sully, Senior Legislative Aide, City Council Division of Community Engagement

Nancy Pryor Sully provided updates from the City, highlighting upcoming hearings on the solicitation code, housing, and a climate action plan. The budget passed City Council this week with five focus areas: Reimagining Public Safety, Covid-19 relief and recovery, supporting families, stabilizing small businesses, and right to recovery. She highlighted upcoming Covid-19 Vaccine Clinics through Columbus Public Health, and the South Side Roundtable on Wednesday, March 21st. She asked that Commissioners copy her on emails to the full commission.

Beth Fairman Kinney, Neighborhood Liaison, Department of Neighborhoods

Beth Fairman Kinney shared that the Department of Neighborhoods launched a new website. She provided updates about Area Commission training, shared resources at www.golunch.club, and noted that parking enforcement resumes in March for inoperable, unsafe or abandoned vehicles. Officer Peck is filling in as CPD's Liaison Officer for our area. Beth Fairman Kinney also thanked Commissioners for engaging in recent discussions of *Stamped* and systemic racism.

In response to a question from Commissioner Byrd, Beth Fairman Kinney shared that help for neighbors may be available through neighborrelief.org – a website supported by nonprofit partners.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Fisher. **Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.**

The next regular meeting is Thursday, April 1st at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Submitted by: Summer Sherman, Recording Secretary