



Far South Columbus Area Commission – Commission Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 7, 2023, 6 pm.

Call to Order: Meeting Called to order by Chairperson Walcott at 6:08 pm.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner YaAshantawa	Commissioner Morris
Commissioner Patterson	Commissioner Pate
Commissioner Smith	Commissioner Thomas
Commissioner Walker	Commissioner B. Miller
Commissioner C. Miller	Commissioner Walcott
Commissioner Eubanks	

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Byrd

11 commissioners present; 1 commissioner absent; A quorum is present .

Guests:

Douglas Shreve-Resident	Angie Meddock-Williams Creek Blockwatch
Daniel Jones-Resident	Pam Richards- Scioto Southland Civic Assn.
Reba Jones-Resident	Amanda Mershon- Resident
Patricia Thomas-Resident	Julie Smiley-Green Columbus
Jack O’Grady- Franklin County Auditor’s Office	
Nancy Uemble- Resident	

We also had 1 illegible signature on the sign in sheet

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2023, meeting was made by Commissioner Smith, and was seconded by Commissioner Eubanks . A voice vote was held by Chairperson Walcott:

11 yes, 0 nays, 0 abstained. Minutes approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Commissioner Connie Miller, the treasurer, reviewed the September 7, 2023 Treasurer’s Report. The beginning balance on 07/26/2023 was \$300.00 and the ending balance on 08/26/2023 was \$300.00. There were no new expenses. The new year stipend from the City has not arrived yet however there is a review ongoing by the City Attorney of the Memorandum of Understanding and funding process.

Motion made by Commissioner Patterson to accept the Treasurer’s Report as read;
Seconded by Commissioner YaAshantawa.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Walker	Yes	Pate	Yes	Patterson	Yes
Thomas	Yes	C. Miller	Yes	B. Miller	Yes
YaAshantawa	Yes	Morris	Yes	Walcott	Yes
Smith	Yes	Eubanks	Yes		

11 Yes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

Guest Speakers:

John O’Grady, Franklin County Auditor’s Office: In person reviews for the county wide reassessment process have now started. As well as online reviews are ongoing. Please see the Auditor’s website for details. All residents should have received their proposed new assessed valuation card in the US Mail by now, if not please contact the Franklin County Auditor’s Office. Once all reviews are completed, the final values will be mailed to every property owner in December 2023. If a property owner is still unhappy with their property value at that time, the property owner can file for a formal review by the Board of Revision. This process is again requested through the Franklin County Auditor’s Office either by mail, online or via telephone. The Board of Revision runs through March of 2024. For residents who do not have home computer access, our Public Library branches are setting up computer access areas that will allow private conversations online with Auditor’s staff.

Julie Smiley, Green Columbus: Columbus depending on the neighborhood has an overall tree canopy that runs from 9% to the high teens in number. We as a city should be at 48% Tree canopy helps decrease rates of asthma, COPD, stroke and decreases crime per published studies. For every 10% increase in tree canopy, there is a 12% decrease in neighborhood crime. The Far Southside of Columbus is a known/designated heat island and it is getting worse by satellite imaging. Green Columbus is offering a free tree giveaway event at the Barack Recreation Center on Saturday October 14, 2023 from 10 am until 1 pm. To reserve your tree(s) please register at www.greencolumbus.org.

Sgt. Daniher, Columbus Police Community Liaison Supervisor: Sgt. Daniher gave a verbal report on police activity at the Windmill Apartments on S. High Street. He also discussed the towing blitz that happened city wide.

Louisa Edzie, Columbus City Zone Attorney Zone 5: Ms. Edzie gave a brief introduction of herself, announced that she is replacing Christopher Clark as our City Zone Attorney and that she will be getting with our Commission to discuss pending court matters and areas of concern at a future date. Ms. Edzie gave the oath of office to Commissioners Thomas and Morris.

Committee Reports:

Zoning Committee:

CV23-068 383 Harland Drive Columbus Ohio 43207: the applicant is requesting this variance to allow a group home for pregnant teenagers in a residential neighborhood. A speaker slip was submitted by the immediate neighbor to the right of this address. The speaker, Amanda Merchon expressed concerns that if this variance were approved, that an elderly relative that lives within her house who is fully and completely disabled will be made homeless. The individual requires assistance with his daily living activities due to his disability, but because of his registered sex offender status, once this facility opens, he would be made homeless because he would be forced by law (ORC 2950.034) to vacate her home. The applicant is aware of this situation, but is seeking the variance anyway. The affected disabled senior citizen is 74 and has lived in this house since January 2017 and has not had any issues in the neighborhood or with law enforcement since moving in. He also can not live in a homeless shelter due to his sex offender registration. The name of the group home is Helping Hands Youth Center. The applicant and their attorney are not present to answer any commission questions.

Motion made by Commissioner Walker to approve **CV23-068 383 Harland Drive Columbus Ohio 43207,** Seconded by Commissioner Smith.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Eubanks	Abs	Pate	No	Walker	Yes
YaAshantawa	Yes	C. Miller	Abs	B. Miller	Abs
Morris	Abs	Smith	Abs	Walcott	No
Patterson	No	Thomas	No		

2 Yes 4 Nays 5 Abstentions Motion fails

2965 Lee Ellen Place Columbus Ohio 43207- Fence Review: the applicant is requesting this fence review per code enforcement due to the fence being installed on a corner lot and sight triangle. The neighborhood code enforcement official has given his clearance to Zoning Chair Walker but the Commission has been asked to weigh in on the matter. This is for a 6ft high privacy fence at Amsterdam Ct and Lee Ellen Place and the 35 ft sight triangle is clear.

Motion made by Commissioner Walker to approve the fence installation at **2965 Lee Ellen Place Columbus Ohio 43207,** Seconded by Commissioner Smith.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Patterson	Yes	Eubanks	Yes	Pate	Yes
Walker	Yes	Thomas	Yes	B. Miller	Yes
YaAshantawa	Yes	Smith	Yes	Walcott	Yes
Morris	Yes	C. Miller	Yes		

11 Yes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

No other zoning business.

Community Outreach: no report

Economic Development: no report.

Education: no report.

Environmental: no report.

Executive: Executive committee meeting scheduled for 9/13/2023 6:30pm at Scioto Southland Recreation Center.

Public Safety: see above.

Health and Human Services: stands on her report.

Internal Governance: The Chair asked if anyone had read the proposed changes and had questions or concerns. There were raised hands. The chair asked for a motion for a working meeting to discuss the proposed changes to the bylaws:

Motion made by Commissioner Smith to schedule a working meeting of the Internal Governance Committee to discuss the bylaws revision with all of the members of the commission; Seconded by Commissioner YaAshantawa.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Patterson	Yes	Eubanks	Yes	Walker	Yes
Pate	Yes	C. Miller	Yes	B. Miller	Yes
YaAshantawa	Yes	Smith	Yes	Walcott	Yes
Thomas	Yes	Morris	Yes		

11 Yes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

Motion made by Commissioner B. Miller to approve Mr. Douglas Shreve for a vacant at large seat on the Far South Columbus Area Commission Seconded by Commissioner Walker.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Walker	Yes	C. Miller	Yes	Patterson	Yes
YaAshantawa	Yes	Smith	Yes	B. Miller	Yes
Thomas	Yes	Morris	Yes	Walcott	Yes
Eubanks	Yes	Pate	Yes		

11 Yes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

Recreation and Parks: no report.

City Reports:

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

Nancy gave everyone her cell number. She discussed her open constituent hours and her email newsletter. Constituent hours for Nancy at Upper Cup were reported.

Katherine Cull, Neighborhood Liaison, Department of Neighborhoods

Katherine discussed her handouts and emailed report. Community clean up in the Marion Franklin Neighborhood. Fliers on rear table.

Other Commission Business:

Old Business:

New Business:

New Committee Assignments:

Executive- Commissioner Walcott, Chair; Executive Board-Members
Internal Governance- Commissioner C. Miller, Chair
Economic Development- Commissioner B. Miller, Chair
Public Safety- Commissioner Walcott, Chair
Environmental- Commissioner Eubanks
Education- Commissioners Smith and Eubanks, Co-Chairs
Health and Human Services- Commissioners YaAshantawa and Morris
Recreation and Parks- Commissioners Eubanks and Smith
Zoning- Commissioners Walker and Thomas, Co-Chairs
Community Outreach- Commissioner Pate

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Eubanks; Seconded by Commissioner YaAshantawa. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

All in favor 11, opposed 0, abstain 0. Motion passes

Next regular meeting Thursday, October 5, 2023, 6 pm, at the Columbus Fire Training Academy.

Submitted by: Commissioner Bruce Miller, Recording Secretary