



Far South Columbus Area Commission – Commission Meeting Minutes Thursday, December 1, 2022, 6 pm.

Call to Order: Meeting Called to order by Chairperson Walcott at 6:03 pm.

The chair started the meeting announcing a few good news items. The sidewalks on the North side of Williams Road from S. High Street to Parsons Avenue are almost complete and they look fantastic. This has been a project that has been in the works for years and the commission is very thankful that this has been finally accomplished. The S. High Street Branch Library has started a book club and has had a fantastic response. If anyone is interested please contact either Mickie Stiers, branch manager of the Library at (614) 479-3363 or Katherine Cull, Southside Neighborhood Liaison at (614) 645-5220. Finally the Steelton Village redevelopment planning meeting of the Fortress Site on S. High Street (the former Seagrave Firetruck plant) was attended by a few members of the Far South Columbus Area Commission as invited guests. The plans are exciting for this re-development and should bring a positive impact not only to the Southside community above our area commission, but to our area as well. Copies of the plans will be emailed to all commissioners.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Patterson
Commissioner YaAshantawa
Commissioner C. Miller
Commissioner Eubanks
Commissioner Fisher

Commissioner Walker
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner B. Miller
Commissioner Walcott

Commissioner Absent:

Commissioner Pate

9 commissioners present; 1 commissioner absent; 0 commissioners excused
A quorum is present.

Guests:

Laura MacGregor Comek, Attorney - LDG Development
Chris Rinehart, Attorney - Turkey Hill
Jordan Cartwright, FACCES
Melissa Johnson, FACCES
Tasha Watham, FACCES
Roy Lowenstein
Sheronda Byrd, Applicant

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes as submitted from the November 3, 2022, meeting was made by Commissioner Smith, and was seconded by Commissioner Smith. A voice vote was held by Commissioner Walker:

9 commissioners were in favor. 0 commissioners abstained. Minutes approved.

Treasurer’s Report for December: Treasurer Connie Miller reported a beginning balance on 11/03/2022 of \$2742.27. An expense to Staples was made for consumables on 11/11/2022 in the amount of \$207.87. This left an actual balance in the checking account as of 11/26/2022 of \$2534.40, however only \$2443.11 of those funds are available to be spent by the commission, due to the \$91.29 to still be handled by the City of Columbus that has been carried over for the last couple of years.

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

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

9 Yes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

Zoning:

Zoning CV22-113 4025 S. High Street Columbus, Ohio 43207 LDG Development:

This is the return of this project before the commission as part of the 2 step financing requirements as part of OHFA. The applicant provided the Commission an updated handout showing the changes to the site plan and the reduction in units from the original 300 units to 200 units. A question was asked about the affordability/price points and those are still to be determined by the additional funding that is in process (grant money from OHFA). COTA has still not committed to any updates or changes or held any meaningful discussions about mass transit to this property to handle commission questions/concerns even after follow up after previous meetings. Discussion was held about the reduced parking spaces request and the insect control as it relates to the mosquitoes and the wetlands that are behind this property and the initial promise of screening the outdoor decks/patios.

Motion made by Commissioner Walker to approve CV22-113 for 4025 S. High Street;
Seconded by Commissioner Smith.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Eubanks	Yes	YaAshantawa	Yes	Walker	Yes
B. Miller	No	Fisher	Yes	Smith	Yes
C. Miller	No	Patterson	Yes	Walcott	Yes

7 Yes 2 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

Zoning Z22-052 4025 S. High Street Columbus, Ohio 43207 LDG Development:

Same discussion as above, vote on the zoning instead of the council variance legislation. This changes the zoning from LC4 to AR2 designation.

Motion made by Commissioner Walker to approve Z22-052 for 4025 S. High Street; Seconded by Commissioner Fisher.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Eubanks	Yes	YaAshantawa	Yes	Walker	Yes
B. Miller	No	Fisher	Yes	Smith	Yes
C. Miller	No	Patterson	Yes	Walcott	Yes

7 Yes 2 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

Graphics Commission GC22-026 3900 S. High Street Columbus, Ohio 43207 Turkey Hill:

The applicant brought an updated signage plan with him to the meeting and a video of the video sign that had community and commission concerns, as well as concerns expressed by the Scioto Southland Civic Association. The video was viewed and found to be acceptable to all. The city wanted a monument sign; however the applicant wanted a similar sign to the existing sign, just updated to be electronic and not manually changed numbers and letters. The applicant felt a monument sign would place them at a disadvantage, considering that on two other corners at this intersection, full sized signs either exist or are being constructed for gas station operations. It was noted that the Scioto Southland Civic Association voted their support for this sign and sent a written letter to the Area Commission as such.

Motion made by Commissioner Walker to approve GC22-026 for 3900 S. High Street; Seconded by Commissioner Miller.

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

9 Yes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

No further zoning business

Meeting turned over to Vice Chair Eubanks to continue meeting.

Recreation and Parks: Commissioner Eubanks, chair: Registration is open for the School’s Out winter recreation program. Please see the flyers. Coffee With the Commissioners is this Saturday December 3, 2022. We hope to see everyone there.

Community Outreach: Commissioner Fisher, chair: Commissioner Fisher shared info about a new homebuyer workshop that is being conducted. Please see they flyer provided for more information. Commissioner Fisher will be posting the dates for both the Scioto Southland and Marion Franklin Recreation Center Toy giveaways on our social media and websites.

Economic Development: no report

Education: open

Environmental: open

Executive and Resource: Chairperson Walcott, chair: a vision planning meeting was held in mid-November. A discussion was held on economic development and where we wish to go with that committee, bylaws and strategic planning for the next year for the area commission as a body as a whole.

Public Safety: Commissioner Bruce Miller, chair. Flyers for the Firefighters for Kids Toy drive are available at our meeting. Also, the latest crime report for our area is available at the meeting. It was not emailed out because it was just provided to the commission before the meeting. Muggings and robbery of persons are elevated currently, please use caution. A request was made for Sgt. Fuqua to be at our next meeting.

Health and Human Services: Commissioner YaAshantawa, chair: emailed report to follow.

Internal Governance: Commissioner Connie Miller, chair: Plans are to set up a committee to revisit the bylaws in late December or early January to start making proposed revisions.

Commissioner Smith and Vice Chair Eubanks will now be on the environmental committee, with Commissioner Smith as chair.

Other Commission Business:

Old Business: none

New Business:

Coffee with the Commission: Attending-Commissioner Walker-maybe, Commissioner Connie Miller-Yes, Commissioner Bruce Miller-Yes, Commissioner Sheila Eubanks-Yes, Commissioner Becky Walcott-Yes, Commissioner YaAshantawa-Yes, Commissioner Patterson-maybe, Commissioner Fisher-otherwise engaged, Commissioner Smith-maybe.

MORPC Free Home Weatherization-flyers are to be handed out please. New flyers are available at the meeting.

FACCES: Mr. Jordan Cartwright gave a presentation about the FACCES program, the services they provide and how the Area Commission and our community can interact with their agency. Discussions centered around pre-school education, food delivery, educational opportunity, housing issues, young persons leadership development and childcare. Physical Wellness, Legacy Development and Mental Health are also 3 of their pillars as well. A large amount of info was shared, and brochures and handouts are available.

Applicant for vacant Area Commission seat Sheronda Byrd: Ms. Byrd is a real estate investor and real estate broker who owns her own brokerage here in Columbus, Ohio and in the Atlanta, Georgia area. After a question-and-answer session it was determined that she would be most appropriate for an at large seat, as her physical office is outside of the area commission boundaries. She is a Marion Franklin High School graduate, and she currently resides in Alum Crest Acres.

The applicant has not sent her biography to the Commission chair, and the members of the commission have not been able to review her biography. The applicant was asked to return to the January meeting and to send in her biography before the January meeting so that the proper review can be done by the chair, and she will be considered at that time.

AEP: There are 2 separate discussions about AEP:

Item 1. Matthew J. Smith is the new leader on the Parsons Avenue Power Tower removal Project. AEP through Mr. Smith has notified the commission that the timeline for removal has been moved up from our last conversation with AEP. The new start date for removal is survey crews starting immediately with a February/March 2023 start date.

Item 2. AEP has come to Commissioner Miller as the point of contact with the commission as it relates to the tower removal and requested letters of support for a power outage abatement program. Commissioner Miller was a conduit for our area in referring individuals during the summer power outage to IMPACT community action agency and to the AEP neighbor to neighbor program for financial assistance during the power outage crisis due to his pre-existing relationship with AEP. Now AEP wants “community leaders” to sign on to a potential plan that would provide back up generators, battery storage devices, microgrids and large-scale generators for our area, but with this comes a power rate increase and costs to the City of Columbus potentially, in the documents provided. Commissioner Miller feels that the whole commission needs to weigh in on this and it is unfair for AEP to ask him to solicit resident and community leader feedback on this and is bringing it to the commission for their input and guidance.

Motion made by Commissioner Fisher to table any action on AEP and their request for a letter of support until our January 5, 2023 meeting to allow research time into their request; Seconded by Commissioner Eubanks.

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

9 Yes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

A copy of the demographics and community profile from the city of Columbus was provided to every commissioner at the meeting for their review. It is based on census data and other data bases.

City Reports:

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

Please see her reports. Nancy acknowledged that Dec 1st is World AIDS day. Nancy discussed the replacement process for Councilmember Brown.

Katherine Cull, Neighborhood Liaison, Department of Neighborhoods

Please see her emails from earlier in the week.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Walcott; Seconded by Commissioner Fisher. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

All in favor 9, opposed 0, abstain 0. Motion passes

Next regular meeting Thursday, January 5, 2022, 6 pm, at the Columbus Fire Training Academy.

Submitted by: Commissioner Bruce Miller, Recording Secretary