



Minutes | Regular Meeting of the Far South Columbus Area Commission

Thursday, February 4, 2021 | 6:30 pm

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm. Followed by the prayer and pledge.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present

Commissioner McElroy
Commissioner Fisher
Commissioner Sherman
Commissioner Neale
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Walker

Commissioner Patterson
Commissioner Walcott
Commissioner Byrd
Commissioner Draudt
Commissioner Richardson

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Yaashantawa
Commissioner Ferrell (resignation accepted during meeting)

Guests Present

Nancy Pryor Sully, Senior Legislative Advisor
Beth Fairman Kinney, Neighborhood Liaison
Ryan Cassell, Community Housing Network
Robert Williams, MORPC
Jerome Ferguson, Marion Franklin Civic Association
Bruce Miller, Resident

Approval of Minutes

It was requested that contact information for Christopher Clark, the new Zone Attorney, be added to the January minutes.

Motion to approve January minutes, with addition of contact information, by Commissioner McElroy. Seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Smith provided the Treasurer's Report; the ending Balance was \$3016.67

Motion to approve the January Treasurer’s Report by Commissioner Walker. Seconded by Commissioner Draudt. 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	McElroy	Yes
Draudt	Yes	Byrd	Yes		

Presentations

Touchstone Field Place Update (Ryan Cassell, Community Housing Network)

Ryan Cassell provided an update on the Touchstone Field Place development, which will provide permanent supportive housing for residents who previously experienced homelessness.

- It is a two phase project, with 56 units in Phase 1, and 44 in Phase 2. Financing is in place for the first phase and Community Housing Network is working with the City on drawings.
- When a building permit is approved, CHN will close on financing. The goal start date for construction is in late April or early May.
- CHN is applying for additional funding through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, the City, and Franklin County, and should know more about the status of those applications in May.
- Mr. Cassell reminded Commissioners that YMCA is the service partner on the Touchstone Field Place project.

Commissioners and guests shared comments and questions with Mr. Cassell. A representative from the Marion Franklin Civic Association voiced their opposition to the development. Mr. Cassell invited additional questions or comments by email at rcassell@chninc.org.

MORPC Weatherization and Home Repair Services (Robert Williams)

Robert Williams provided an update on MORPC’s Weatherization and Home Repair services. The goal of these programs is to reduce the energy burden and cost for low to moderate individuals. MORPC provides a thorough inspection of participant homes and may repair or replace hot water tanks, furnaces, light bulbs, and insulation. Renters, as well as homeowners, are eligible for the program. Interested applicants can call 614.621.1171 to sign up.

Zoning Code Update (Kevin Wheeler)

Kevin Wheeler shared that the City is undergoing a comprehensive update to our Zoning Code, which hasn’t been reviewed as a whole since the 1950s. The update will consider population growth, affordable housing, transportation, and equity for neighborhoods and residents. The update will include a thorough, public review process.



Phase one of the project includes a comprehensive assessment of the existing Zoning code and process. Mr. Wheeler hopes to wrap up this phase in the summer of 2021. Phase two will be a multi-year process involving consultants, dedicated city staff, and substantial public engagement.

Mr. Wheeler encouraged Commissioners to fill out the Zoning Update Survey at www.columbus.gov/zoningupdate/. Questions can be shared via email at zoningupdate@columbus.gov.

Commissioners shared support for the initiative and questions about its impact on development challenges on the far south side. Mr. Wheeler confirmed that land use plans will still be reviewed in conjunction with C2P2.

Other Commission Business

Community Prayer (Commissioner Neale)

Commissioner Neale discussed the Community Prayer she proposed to share with City leaders and the low response she received via email. Commissioners discussed the challenge of responding in a timely manner to current events when meetings are 30 days apart and Sunshine Laws apply. Beth Fairman-Kinney confirmed that decisions of the body must occur at a meeting that is open to the public; special meetings can be scheduled for pressing matters. However, communications such as letters can be approved proactively at a prior meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Walcott to approve Commission letters to City leaders on the topic of violence in our community, including the Community Prayer drafted by Commissioner Neale. Seconded by Commissioner McElroy. 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	McElroy	Yes
Draudt	Yes	Byrd	Yes		

Resignation of Commissioner Ferrell (Commissioner Richardson)

Commissioner Richardson read the resignation letter from Commissioner John Ferrell.

Motion to accept Commissioner Ferrell's resignation by Commissioner Walcott. Seconded by Draudt. 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	McElroy	Yes
Draudt	Yes	Byrd	Yes		

Committee Advisor Reports

Internal Governance | Commissioner Draudt

Commissioner Draudt read the write up she proposed for the commission website, which details how to become a Commissioner, and requested feedback from the group.

Motion by Commissioner Draudt to post ‘How to Become a Commissioner’ instructions on the Far South Columbus Area Commission website. Seconded by Commissioner Sherman.
All in favor – Motion passes.

Commissioner Draudt read a formal complaint received from resident Bruce Miller. She explained how she reviewed the complaint with the Department of Neighborhoods, and confirmed that the at large seat in question cannot be filled until the September 2021 election. Commissioner Draudt requested that Commissioners consult the Bylaws before sharing information with the public; Commissioners should direct interested parties to the website or the Internal Governance Chair.

Commissioner Draudt asked for two volunteers to attend quarterly Internal Governance meetings on February 22, May 24, September 27, and November 22 at 7 pm. Our Bylaws state that two people should volunteer for elections.

Recreation and Parks | Commissioner McElroy

Recreation Centers were going to reopen but remained closed when the City extended the Stay at Home Advisory. Mayor Ginther toured Scioto Southland Community Center today. Beth Fairman Kinney shared that a tour of the new center is available on the City’s Youtube channel.

Community Outreach | Commissioner Fisher

Commissioner Fisher reported on the recent website training and thanked Commissioners for attending. She is continuing to build presence on Facebook; posts have reached 918 people, which is up by over 600. Commissioner Fisher encouraged the group to direct residents to the commission website to share input via the survey.

Environmental | Commissioner Neale

Commissioner Neale followed up on the explosion noise and vibrations discussed at recent meetings. Zone Attorney Christopher Clark spoke to two related statutes – 2329.11 and 3363.35. The vibrations and noise experienced by residents are technically within the requirements of City code. Commissioners and residents are encouraged to collect evidence (video, photographs) that document the impact, such as pictures falling off walls. Options for follow up include City Council, suing as a nuisance abatement, or contacting 311 each time a vibration occurs.

Education | Sherman

Commissioner Sherman shared updates from our school districts and Columbus Metropolitan Library. She highlighted Operation Warm events taking place at ten library locations in February; each library will give away 150 high quality winter coats for children.



Zoning | Commissioner Walker and Commissioner Patterson

Commissioner Walker shared that Council Variance 21-006 for 1920 Williams Rd. will be heard at the February 18 Zoning Committee meeting. The resident wants to erect a 50X150 ft. building in the back of his home for commercial storage. The property is zoned rural residential.

City Reports

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

Nancy Pryor Sully shared that she took extensive notes about the noise and vibration complaints and will refer to Councilmember Remy. She provided updates on upcoming Council meetings and recognized Redistricting Commission Finalists, including Commissioner Neale and Commissioner McElroy.

Beth Fairman Kinney, Neighborhood Liaison, Department of Neighborhoods

Beth Fairman Kinney provided updates about COVID-19 vaccinations, the Zoning Code Update survey, Columbus Hall of Fame inductees, produce drops, Go Lunch services, and Department of Neighborhoods Black History Month programming. She noted that there will be a national search for Chief of Police. Commissioners were encouraged to RSVP for upcoming Stamped book discussions.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Neale. **Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.**

The next regular meeting is Thursday, March 4 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Submitted by: Summer Sherman, Recording Secretary
