



## Minutes | Regular Meeting of the Far South Columbus Area Commission

Thursday, July 1, 2021 | 6:30 pm

### **Call to Order**

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Meeting called to order at 6:31 by Chair Richardson.

### **Roll Call**

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#### **Commissioners Present**

Commissioner Fisher  
Commissioner Sherman  
Commissioner Neale  
Commissioner Smith  
Commissioner Walker

Commissioner Walcott  
Commissioner Draudt  
Commissioner Richardson  
Commissioner Yaashantawa

#### **Commissioners Absent**

Commissioner Byrd  
Commissioner Patterson

#### **Guests**

Jack Reynolds, Attorney, Smith and Hale (Hound Dogs Towing)  
Josh Ingold, Hound Dogs Towing  
Deanna Cook, Attorney, Vorys (3500 Alum Creek Drive)  
John Igel (3500 Alum Creek Drive)  
Larry Peck, Metro Parks  
Tina Mohn, Columbus Recreation and Parks  
Sheila Eubanks, Marion Franklin Civic Association  
Sophia St John, Marion Franklin Civic Association

### **Approval of Minutes**

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**Motion to approve June meeting minutes by Commissioner Walcott.** Seconded by Draudt. All approved. Motion passes.

### **Treasurer's Report**

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Beginning balance on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 was \$391.29. The ending balance on July 1, 2021 was \$391.29.

**Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report by Commissioner Walcott.** Seconded by Commissioner Walker. Motion passes.

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

\*Commissioner Yaashantawa arrived late and was not present for the roll call vote.

**Presentations**

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**Stockbridge and Heer Park I** Tina Mohn (Recreation & Parks) and Lawrence Peck (Metro Parks)

Tina Mohn began by sharing information about Stockbridge Park (3350 S. Champion Ave.):

- Recreation & Parks received state funding from a Clean Ohio grant for the purchase of Stockbridge Park. Their plan is to cultivate an “urban forest” that adds green space to the community.
- *Timeline for Demolition:* The property was acquired last October and a bid was made for demolition of the existing school and parking lot. Approval from City Council is anticipated later this month and demotion is expected by September. Ten parking spaces will be left for future park visitors.
- *Reforestation & Planting Plans:* Soil samples are currently being analyzed to determine which species will grow best in the area. Planting plans will be shared with the community this fall, and the goal is to begin planting in the spring of 2022.
- *Budget:* The entire project budget is 1.1 million; 60% is grant funded and the remainder is matched by the City. Recreation & Parks will use some leftover funds from the Urban Forestry Master Plan.
- Tina Mohn thanked Commissioners for sharing concerns about illegal activity in the vicinity of Stockbridge Park. CPD and Columbus Fire have increased their presence in the area. Neighbors can expect to see activity in the area as the consultant, Davey Resource Group, completes their work.

**Motion by Commissioner Walker to provide advanced approval (via email from Commissioner Walker) for the demolition at the Stockbridge Park site.** Seconded by Commissioner Fisher. Motion passes.

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

Tina Mohn and Lawrence Peck shared updates about Heer Park:

- Recreation & Parks and Metro Parks are working together to address community concerns about safety and ATV use at Heer Park. Tina Mohn shared that Recreation & Parks made the difficult decision to close the park after months seeking solutions.
- Heer Park is directly adjacent to 100 acres that Metro Parks has acquired for future park development. That property is behind the shopping center on S. High St. and is temporarily referred to as “Scioto South.” The two agencies collaborate closely and have been discussing ideas to create a seamless connection between the two park spaces.
- Teams are working on plans to create better lines of sight and remove barriers to safety in Heer Park. This includes demolishing structures on the site, removing invasive species (to increase visibility back to the Metro Parks site), removing some asphalt and trails that do not align with future uses, and reducing the footprint of the parking area.
- Lawrence Peck noted that Rangers from Metro Parks are in the area regularly, communicating to ATV users and monitoring for other illegal uses.
- The speakers noted that they invite continual input about the parks and what far south community members hope to see there. They will return to the commission with updates and to solicit support as planning moves forward.

Commissioners shared feedback and questions related to safety, Ranger presence in far south side parks, and the potential for future park development in our area.

## Zoning

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### **BZA21-049** (Hound Dog’s Towing, 2918 Parsons Avenue)

Jack Reynolds summarized the variance and special permit requests for Hound Dog’s Towing. He explained that Josh Ingold moved his business to the site in January of 2018 and was cited for a violation in November of 2020. The application includes requests for the following variances:

- Setback for storage area reduction to 40 feet from 600 feet
- Gravel variance for the impound lot area
- Fence height increase from 6 feet to 8 feet, in response to community input

The storage area actually sits 350 feet back from the property line, but the property line itself is legally used to determine setback. The City advised that this concern can be addressed by asking the Board of Zoning Appeals to stamp the site plan as the official document that controls use of the site.

Jack Reynolds shared a mockup of the site plan. He also noted that the applicant met with members of the Scioto Southland Civic Association, who were in support of the modifications noted above, so long as vehicles are not stored in the property's front lot.

**Motion by Commissioner Walcott to approve BZA21-049 with restrictions noted on the site plan related to setback and fencing.** Seconded by Commissioner Yaashantawa. Motion passes.

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

**Z21-040** (3500 Alum Creek Drive)

Deanna Cook and property owner John Igel explained that the rezoning application is to allow storage of recreational vehicles on the northern boundary of the property at 3500 Alum Creek Drive. John Igel noted that current site uses (construction equipment parking and training) will also continue at the site.

Vehicles stored may include boats, jet skis, RVs, and similar equipment. Some would be uncovered and some would be covered. Areas with metal roofed structures were indicated on the site plan; they would be open on the front but enclosed on three sides. All vehicles stored would be contained within existing fencing that screens the perimeter of the property. The entrance to the storage area would have fencing with privacy slats, and controlled access; the applicant noted that this would be added to the limitations text in the application.

Commissioners shared questions and concerns about future uses if the site is rezoned. The applicant noted that his business uses would be restricted to those approved previously or included in the limitations text of the application.

**Motion by Commissioner Walker to approve Z21-040 as presented.** Seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion passes.

Commissioner Name	Vote	Commissioner Name	Vote	Commissioner Name	Vote
Fisher	Yes	Sherman	Yes	Yaashantawa	Yes
Walcott	Yes	Neale	No		
Smith	Yes	Walker	Yes		
Draudt	Yes	Richardson	No		

**Other Commission Business**

**New Business**

Chair Richardson suggested that we send a letter of condolence to Mayor Ginther on the death of his father, and a letter of congratulations to Director Carla Williams Scott for her recent honor from the YWCA Women of Achievement program.

**Motion by Commissioner Walcott to issue a letter of condolence to Mayor Ginther.**  
 Seconded by Commissioner Neale. All in favor. Motion passes.

**Motion by Commissioner Walcott to issue a letter of congratulations to Director Carla Williams-Scott.** Seconded by Commissioner Smith. All in favor. Motion passes.

Chair Richardson shared the Commission Alyse Byrd has missed three meetings.

**Motion to remove Alyse Byrd from the Area Commission due to missing three meetings, per our Bylaws.** Seconded by Commissioner Draudt. Motion passes.

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

**Committee Advisor Reports**

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**Internal Governance | Commissioner Draudt**

Commissioner Draudt will be sending a Declaration of Candidacy to each Commissioner up for election. Six copies of the Declaration of Candidacy are available at the South High Branch of Columbus Metropolitan Library. The meeting room at the South High Branch will be booked on September 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-12 for the election.

Commissioner Fisher and Draudt are starting to send letters to businesses and churches and requested funds for postage.

**Motion by Commissioner Draudt to approve \$55 for purchase of one hundred stamps for mailings.** Seconded by Commissioner Neale. Motion passes.

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

**Health & Human Services | Commissioner Yaashantawa**

Commissioner Yaashantawa referred to highlights from her emailed reports. She noted that CareSource provides transportation to medical appointments, and informed the group that American Red Cross is in need of blood donations.

## Community Outreach | Commissioner Fisher

Commissioner Fisher presented a mock-up of the Far South Columbus Area Commission brochure. She will be revising the formatting to ensure the font is larger and more readable. She asked the commission to approve the acquisition of a P.O. Box for mailings.

**Motion by Commissioner Fisher to approve up to \$134 per year for the acquisition of a P.O. Box.** Seconded by Commissioner Draudt. Motion passes.

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

## Environmental | Commissioner Neale

Commissioner Neale shared that she completed the signage package for the Cambria neighborhood. She also reported on the Redistricting meeting that took place on June 9th; she encouraged Commissioners to fill out the redistricting survey and share it with their networks. Commissioner Neale also referred to news about economic development in nearby communities, and asked the group to consider how the far south side could replicate their successes.

## City Reports

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

Nancy Pryor Sully referred to the third phase of Reimaging Public Safety, short term rental amendments, and other news from City Council.

### **Beth Fairman Kinney, Neighborhood Liaison, Department of Neighborhoods**

Beth Fairman Kinney shared information about vaccination clinics. She announced the new Code Enforcement Supervisor, Will Whatley, and referenced code enforcement concerns in the area. She updated Commissioners about challenges with unpaved “alphabet streets” in the area. Commissioners suggested that Zone Attorney Clark attend the September meeting to answer questions.

## Adjournment

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Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Neale, seconded by Walker. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.

**The next regular meeting is Thursday, September 2 at 6:30 pm.** Meeting location TBD.

Submitted by: Summer Sherman, Recording Secretary