



Minutes | Regular Meeting of the Far South Columbus Area Commission

Thursday, October 7, 2021 | 6 pm

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Richardson at 6:10 pm.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present

Commissioner Richardson
Commissioner Fisher
Commissioner Sherman
Commissioner Neale
Commissioner Smith

Commissioner Walker
Commissioner Patterson
Commissioner Walcott
Commissioner Draudt
Commissioner Yaashantawa

Guests

Karen Dawson, CareSource
Lindsay Jordan, Issue 7
Steve Dunbar, City Attorney's Office
Russell Johnson, Property Owner (Demolition Permits)
Margaret, Lafferty, City of Columbus Zoning Specialist
Pastor Hampton, Fresh Start Worship Center
Bruce Miller, Resident
Nancy Pryor Sully, Senior Legislative Aide, City Council Division of Community Engagement
Beth Fairman Kinney, Neighborhood Liaison, Department of Neighborhoods

Approval of Minutes

September minutes will be corrected to reflect the accurate start time for the October 7th meeting.

Motion to approve September minutes by Commissioner Walcott with correction;
Seconded by Commissioner Yaashantawa. All in favor. Motion passes.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Smith delivered the Treasurer's Report and reviewed how the 2021 City stipend is allocated by type of expense. The beginning balance was \$202.29. The ending balance on October 7th was \$2,702.29

Motion by Commissioner Draudt to approve the October Treasurer's report; Seconded by Commissioner Neale. Motion passes.

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

*Commissioner Fisher was not yet present at the time of the roll call vote.

Speakers

CareSource (Karen Dawson)

CareSource is a nonprofit providing health care and is the largest Medicaid plan in the state. Their mission statement is to “make a lasting difference in our members lives by improving their health and well-being.” CareSource serves 2.2 million members across several states. Karen Dawson presented information about CareSource’s many programs and services including:

- Telehealth and 24/7 hotline staffed by nurses
- Transportation to medical appointments or to pick up curbside groceries from stores or pantries
- Respite Care (temporary in home and out of home care delivery)
- Incentive programs (for example, women can earn points for women’s health appointments)
- Life Coaching
- Education and Career Support

Medicaid annual open enrollment has changed to December 1st to December 31st. Starting September 17th, members can enroll by calling the Medicaid hotline at 1-800-324-8680.

CareSource’s Marketplace program (for people who don’t qualify for Medicaid or Medicare) is in most counties in Ohio. Open enrollment for the Marketplace plan is Nov 1-Jan 15. CareSource Marketplace can be reached at 1-800-479-9502.

Sharon Ware

Sharon Ware was invited by Commissioner Richardson to listen to the Area Commission’s vision for the coming year. Her role is to provide coaching, support, and guidance to ensure the steps we take are focused and strategic. Sharon Ware asked Commissioners to summarize their goals in one sentence or less; she will follow up via email to solicit additional feedback.

Summary of Ideas:

- Partner with the City to address Environmental concerns.
- Better educate the community on the services available to them.
- Be more proactive – not just reactive – in our work as a commission.
- Have the capacity to address root causes and the “big picture” – not just agenda items.
- Address trust issues between City leadership and the community.
- Increased community involvement.
- Equity in basic City services throughout all neighborhoods in the Area Commission.

Environmental Concerns (Steve Dunbar)

Commissioner Neale invited Steve Dunbar to discuss ongoing environmental concerns within Area Commission boundaries, including Ace Iron & Metal and the landfill site on Alum Creek Dr. She began by sharing the historical context and asked Steve to share why it is difficult to close down sites. Commissioner Neale also pointed to the Scioto Audobon Park as an example of the city positively transforming a former landfill site.

Steve Dunbar acknowledged that the code violation process has been slow and frustrating due to past history of poor enforcement by the City. He explained that the Environmental Nuisance Abatement group was created several years ago to address these issues; since then, the City has brought multiple lawsuits against the biggest offenders. Business owners like Ace Iron & Metal have contested the litigation by claiming that City inspectors signed off on the same issues for years, and cannot expect immediate compliance. As a result, these business are now on court mandated two-year compliance schedules. For Ace Iron & Metal, the compliance deadline is February of 2022. If they are not in compliance by this time, the City will file a contempt motion.

Steve Dunbar shared that the landfill is set for a public hearing in Environmental Court on Monday, October 18th before Judge Mingo. Commissioners asked questions about the definition of “leveling” at that site. In response to questions about possible park development, Steve Dunbar noted that the property owner would need to sell his property for that purpose.

The next quarterly meeting for the Ace, Iron and Metal site is on November 18th and Judge Mingo has expressed interest in sitting in.

Commissioners shared concerns that the two-year compliance schedule is too forgiving of businesses in violation, and that current procedures allow them to avoid accountability by making minor and temporary improvements. Commissioner Neale spoke about environmental discrimination and the real-life impact on residents.

Issue 7 (Lindsay Jordan)

Issue 7 is the only issue on the ballot in November. City Councilmembers voted not to put Issue 7 on the ballot, but the Ohio Supreme Court overruled it. Lindsay Jordan described Issue 7 as “a bit of a ruse” – it’s described as a pro-energy bill but would take \$87 million away from the City’s budget for services.

Lindsay Jordan shared that a “no” vote is endorsed by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Columbus Dispatch, Ohio Environmental Council, and several other groups. Mayor Ginther, Shannon Hardin, and several elected officials are also supporting a “no” vote.

Zoning

Demolition Permit (4080 S. High Street)
Demolition Permit (4086 S. High Street)

The owner, Russell Johnson, spoke about the site. Two older homes have fallen into disrepair and become unsafe. He is talking to entities interested in developing the 47 acres. They have already made changes to the land and still need to remove the two properties.

Motion to approve both Demolition Permits for 400 and 4086 South High by Commissioner Walcott; Seconded by Commissioner Walker. Motion passes.

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

Other Commission Business

New Business

Commissioner Draudt suggested the Commission send a letter to Councilmember Mitch Brown’s office to request that liquor permits for four Dollar General stores *not* be renewed.

Motion by Commissioner Draudt to send a letter from the Far South Columbus Area Commission to Mitch Brown’s office asking for permits to be denied due to increase in crime and police runs; Seconded by Commissioner Walcott. Motion passes.

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

Commissioner Draudt got a quote for a 3”X1” name badge for Commissioners. Total cost would be \$132.70.

Motion by Commissioner Draudt to order magnetic 3”X1” nametags with dark, black lettering on white for all Commissioners; Seconded by Commissioner Fisher. Motion passes.

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

Committee Advisor Reports

Internal Governance (Draudt)

Commissioner Draudt referred to her emailed report and asked that the details be included in the minutes. Contents of her October 7th report:

Election Committee:

Commissioner election was held on Saturday, September 11, 2021. There were three candidates and the following votes were cast:

Bruce Miller	10
Delores Richardson	9
Robert Patterson	10

There were 10 residents in the commission area that came to vote. The candidates' terms will start January 1, 2022 and end December 31, 2024.

Rev. Bonnie A. Draudt, Becky Walcott and Lori Fisher made up the Election Committee. All 75 ballots were accounted for. All 10 ballots cast were registered by each person's name and signed off by each election committee member.

Internal Governance Committee:

Our meeting Monday, September 27, 2021, at 6 pm at the South High Street Library had four residents in attendance:

Bonnie Draudt
Lori Fisher
Bruce Miller
Becky Walcott

We discussed the turn out for the Commissioner Election and how we could help spread the word better next year.

Next meeting will be Monday, November 22, 2021 at 6 pm at the South High Street Library.

Prepared by: Commissioner Rev. Bonnie A Draudt, Internal Governance Chair

Motion by Commissioner Draudt to accept the election results from Saturday, September 11, 2021; Seconded by Commissioner Neale. Motion passes.

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

Commissioner Draudt referred to the Far South Columbus Area Commission guidelines from March of 2019. She updated it to include the Decorum policy recently suggested by the City.

Motion by Commissioner Draudt to accept the new guidelines as drafted; Seconded by Commissioner Walker. Motion passes.

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

Community Outreach (Fisher)

Commissioner Fisher asked for feedback about the most recent draft of the FSCAC Brochure. Feedback was shared about adding a logo, the color of the brochure, and readability. Further discussion was tabled until Commissioner Fisher can send an updated draft.

Education (Commissioner Sherman)

Commissioner Sherman referred to the content of her emailed report, which included an updated list of school contacts for the commission area. At the Phase 4 community engagement meeting for the Columbus City Schools Facility Master Plan, she spoke with Board Member Carol Beckerle, who welcomed input about facilities from Commissioners by phone or email.



Zoning (Commissioner Walker)

There will be four zoning requests heard at the October Zoning meeting involving large properties. The meeting is on October 21st at 6 pm at Marion Franklin Community Center.

City Reports

Beth Fairman Kinney, Neighborhood Liaison, Department of Neighborhoods

Beth Fairman Kinney clarified a question about the City's general budget that was asked previously in the meeting. She referred to her weekly update email and emphasized several online resources, including the Landlord Education series and a Zoning Code Updates livestream. Commissioners were encouraged to take new postcards with the Columbus Area Commissions website and flyers for the Greater Columbus Arts Council. She referenced their mural on Frebis & Alum Creek and also promoted the South Side Stories program.

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

Nancy Pryor Sully updated members of the work of the redistricting commission and encouraged Commissioners to go online and provide feedback on the most recent maps.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Walcott, seconded by Walker. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

The next regular meeting is Thursday, November 4th at 6 pm at the Marion Franklin Community Center.

Submitted by: Summer Sherman, Recording Secretary