



**Far South Columbus Area Commission – Commission Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 2, 2023, 6 pm.**

**Call to Order:** Meeting Called to order by Chairperson Walcott at 6:05 pm.

**Roll Call:**

**Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner YaAshantawa	Commissioner Fisher
Commissioner Patterson (left 8:12)	Commissioner Pate (6:34 pm)
Commissioner Smith	Commissioner Byrd
Commissioner Walker	Commissioner B. Miller
Commissioner C. Miller	Commissioner Walcott
Commissioner Eubanks	

11 commissioners present; 0 commissioners absent; 0 commissioners excused  
A quorum is present.

**Guests:**

John Williams, Zoning Applicant,	David Reynolds, Columbus Fire Station 22
Will Whatley, Code Enforcement	Aryeh Alex, Keep Columbus Beautiful
Reba Jones, resident	Pam Richards, Scioto Southland Civic Assoc.
Mario Sims, AEP Ohio	Angie Rybalt, AEP Ohio
S. Priore, AEP Ohio	C. Crawford, AEP Ohio
Michele Ross, AEP Ohio	

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes as submitted from the January 5, 2023, meeting was made by Commissioner C. Miller, and was seconded by Commissioner Smith. A voice vote was held by Chairperson Walcott:

10 commissioners in favor, 0 against, 0 commissioners abstained. Minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report for February:** Commissioner Connie Miller, the treasurer, reported a beginning balance on 12/26/2022 of \$2378.64. Expenses were listed in her detailed written report. The ending monthly balance on 01/26/2023 was \$2036.88, with an available balance to the Area Commission of \$1945.59 (due to the funds owed to the City from 2 years ago).

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	C. Miller	Yes	Eubanks	Yes
Fisher	Yes	Patterson	Yes	B. Miller	Yes
YaAshantawa	Yes	Byrd	Yes	Walcott	Yes
Smith	Yes				

10 Yes                      0 Nays                      0 Abstentions                      Motion passes

**City Departments: Code Enforcement Supervisor Will Whatley**

City Code Enforcement Supervisor Will Whatley gave a presentation about changes to our local code enforcement staff and how he would like to see code issues handled. He has been our supervisor since May 2021. Marcus Johnson, Maria Gonzales, John Connely and Chad Wilkens have all left our area as code employees. The city has hired 11 new code officers to replace these officers and other vacant positions across the city, as well as a reassigned a mix of more experienced officers around the city to assist the new hires who are completing onboarding periods to handle the requests for service. An area map has been shared with our community liaison Katherine Cull of who will have what neighborhood; however the preferred method of code enforcement complaints is to be 311. The process for a 311 complaint is as follows. All 311 calls taken in by either phone or the website are triaged through Will Whatley as the area supervisor and assigned to the appropriate code officer for follow up. Priority levels are assigned, and the calls will be followed up on based on the priority level assigned and the degree of complexity and follow up needed. Duplicate complaints will be handled with a note from the code supervisor informing the reporting party that it is a duplicate and the issue is being handled under an already existing open complaint ticket. Current initial times for an inspection is 7-10 business days from the initial assignment of the concern to a code officer by the supervisor.

A question-and-answer session followed. Supervisor Whatley has requested to be placed on the Area Commission agenda on a regular basis and provided a list of our problem properties in advance so he can come prepared to give a report on troubled/issue properties in our area.

**Aryeh Alex, Keep Columbus Beautiful:** Mr. Alex gave a few sobering statistics to start off his presentation. Last year volunteers collected just over 350,000 pounds of litter through the various cleanups put on by Keep Columbus Beautiful and 52% of that amount was collected out of or along Columbus waterways.

Keep Columbus Beautiful is having a Kick Butt Columbus event that will focus on highway entrance and exit ramps as the number one litter item is cigarette butts. This year’s event is scheduled for 3/19/2023 and in our area the ramps to 104 and 270 will be areas of focus. This clean up is from 9am to 12 noon and information is available at

[www.columbus.gov/publicservice/keep-columbus-beautiful/Upcoming-Events-and-Ongoing-Projects/](http://www.columbus.gov/publicservice/keep-columbus-beautiful/Upcoming-Events-and-Ongoing-Projects/)

Communities can also find out about other local community wide clean up events such as the Cleaner Columbus event on April 1<sup>st</sup> by going to this same website. All materials needed to conduct a clean up in the community are provided and the city will remove all materials gathered free of charge.

**Chair Commissioner Walcott gave the floor to Commissioner Walker, Zoning Co-Chair.**

**BZA22-166 897 Lock Avenue Columbus Ohio 43207** : The applicant was represented by their representative John Williams. This application is a rehearing to the Area Commission after being tabled at our last meeting. The applicant has returned with the requested letter from AEP Ohio. A pole will be installed by AEP to take care of the power line over the garage. There are additional concerns per Zoning Chair Walker with this property as the city staff review letter has come in with items, specifically a concern about an 8” sanitary sewer line (RP1957) running under the project site and proposed garage that will need to be relocated, the applicant has not requested a variance from 3332.38 (G) so that the height of the garage at the peak of the roof can not be taller than 15 feet from ground to roof top and the plans do not demonstrate this measurement, and a potential violation of 3312.43 on the driveway leading up to the proposed garage (paving) in that there is no indication of paving in the plans. We as an commission leave the enforcement of these items to the city to figure out.

Motion made by Commissioner Walker to approve BZA22-166 for 897 Lock Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43207, Seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

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

11 Yes                      0 Nays                      0 Abstentions                      Motion passes

No other zoning business.

**Speakers:**

**AEP Ohio:**

Representatives from AEP Ohio came to the commission to present their apologies for failing to meet the community’s expectations, the PUCO expectations and their own internal service goals for the FSCAC boundary customers.

Some statistics for within our Area Commission boundaries:

There are approximately 12,000 AEP Ohio customers.  
18 circuits,  
139.09 miles of overhead lines,  
106.98 miles of underground lines.

There is a handout in the folders that AEP has provided with further details.

AEP stated that it will not be until sometime in late 2026 until our area will have what they termed as “acceptable” electric reliability for every customer. The word acceptable was not defined, even when they were asked to do such.

The new substation to replace the old one which is causing most of our issues is at Marion Road and Champion and that has a completion target date of late 2026.

We were provided a contact person for the commission members to call or email with concerns as our neighborhood liaison to AEP.

The rest of the meeting was filled with questions being asked, apologies being given but no real specific answers to our concerns or concrete answers. The words “Act of God” were used multiple times by AEP Ohio representatives. Price increases will be occurring to pay for the needed improvements to fix the outdated and damaged equipment serving our area. Much of our equipment is well past its useful service life and some is 100 plus years old. A question-and-answer period occurred with AEP requesting the commissioners to submit items to their company in writing for a reply on more detailed items.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Community Outreach:** no report , thanks to those that submitted updates to the website.

**Economic Development:** reminder given about the meeting at the S. High Street branch of the library on 2/11/23 12 noon to 2 pm. The meeting materials will be sent out to all commissioners.

**Education:** open

**Environmental:** no report

**Executive and Resource:** no report

**Public Safety:** The monthly Fire Department report has not been provided to us by the Fire Department for the last 2 months, even though we have requested it in writing and been promised a response in writing. The catalytic converter thief that targeted our

community, churches, businesses and residents has entered a guilty plea to 15 felonies. His sentencing is in March of 2023. Congratulations to Commander Ali on his promotion to Deputy Chief at Columbus Police. He is a former commander from our area. Finally in the last 30 days within the boundaries of the Far South Columbus Area Commission there have been 6 shootings where either the shooter or the person shot was under the age of 16. The question is what is the community thought on what do we as a community need to do to change this narrative. A handout was provided on the Lockbourne AFB cleanup.

**Health and Human Services:** no report

**Internal Governance:** meeting Saturday 2/25/2023 at the S. High branch of the library from 3-5pm. Materials for the meeting will be handed out. A training schedule has been emailed out to all commissioners by the Department of Neighborhoods. Please try to attend trainings.

**Recreation and Parks:** a written report was presented to all commissioners with a summary from the Director of Parks and Recreation from the City in writing. Commissioner Byrd brought up a program involving parents and developing structure and supports for parents of kids and after school programming.

**City Reports:**

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

Report as emailed. The Capital Budget list has been circulated. Please look at it. The questionnaire is due back in mid-March to Nancy.

**Lynne LaCour, Neighborhood Liaison, Department of Neighborhoods**

We wish to thank Lynne LaCour, the Far East side Pride Center liaison for covering for Katherine Cull in her absence. It was a pleasure in having Lynne as our guest at the meeting. The 1<sup>st</sup> in person Area Commission training session is on 2/25 at 10 am. Details have been emailed to all commissioners. Also, the citywide elections for commissions survey have been sent out and the Department of Neighborhoods is requesting a representative to attend the meeting.

**Other Commission Business:**

**Old Business:** swearing in will be in for Commissioners Byrd, Pate, Smith, C. Miller and Walker will be in March. Dress for your photo opportunity.

**New Business:** None

**Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Walker; Seconded by Commissioner Smith. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.**

All in favor 10, opposed 0, abstain 0. Motion passes

**Next regular meeting Thursday, March 2, 2023, 6 pm, at the Columbus Fire Training Academy.**

Submitted by: Commissioner Bruce Miller, Recording Secretary