



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

Call to Order: Meeting Called to order by Chairperson Walcott at 6:02 pm.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner YaAshantawa	Commissioner Fisher
Commissioner Patterson	Commissioner Pate
Commissioner Walker	Commissioner B. Miller
Commissioner C. Miller	Commissioner Walcott
Commissioner Eubanks	

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Smith

Commissioners Excused:

Commissioner Byrd was excused from this meeting due to a paperwork issue with the City of Columbus. The city is working on resolving this issue immediately.

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

Guests:

Jack O’Grady, Franklin County Auditor’s Office	
Crystal Davies, Parsons Elementary	Joe Massey, COTA
Brian Metz, COTA	Pam Richards, Scioto Southland Civic
Velma Kellermeyer, Scioto Southland Civic	Linda Harmon, Scioto Southland Civic
Jeanie Hideman, Scioto Southland Civic	Mike Williams, Scioto Southland Civic
Armando Telles, Food Soldier Hunger Coalition	

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes as submitted from the February 2, 2023, meeting was made by Commissioner Fisher, and was seconded by Commissioner walker. A voice vote was held by Chairperson Walcott:

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

Treasurer’s Report: Commissioner Connie Miller, the treasurer, reported a beginning balance on 1/26/2022 of \$2036.88. There were no expenses for the month. The ending monthly balance on 02/26/2023 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). At this point in the report, Chair Walcott brought up to our Department of Neighborhoods representative, Katherine Cull, that she had located the notes and documents related to

the \$91.29 and that \$391.29 was in the account and somehow the \$91.29 was not taken back by the City. Katherine assured the Commissioners that she has referred this to Julia and David at the City for them to handle this as this financial matter falls under their area of responsibility. Katherine is not aware of if it will be handled this fiscal year or next to reconcile these carry over funds and their removal. Chair Walcott stated that she and the Commission will also be following up with emails to the named individuals on this matter as it has been 2 years with no resolution. A discussion was also held about the internet hosting fees and domain name fees for our Area Commission website with Commissioner Fisher. One of these fees is \$25.00 to go daddy and the other is \$99.00 to Commissioner Fisher who hosts the webpage through her servers at her not for profit. Additional discussion was added about our Zoom account and has it been renewed. Commissioner Fisher will be gathering together invoices for all of these items, expiration dates and providing this data at our April 2023 meeting as she will not be running for re-election to her seat and we need to start taking care of the business with these items that she currently is responsible for through her committee to ensure a smooth transition.

An additional discussion about our annual budget spend-down occurred and the annual requests for ink for printers, office supplies, and other items occurred. It was suggested that we look at purchasing branded Area Commission merchandise to distribute at events such as pens, notebooks, lip balm or other such items to help promote the Area Commission. Another suggestion was a reorder of the brochures we did from a year or two ago. Another idea was replacement shirts for the Area Commissioners as we are out of the old shirts and can not supply any to new commission members. Commission members are to brainstorm and come back with a list of ideas to the April 2023 meeting. Our stipend from the city is a use it or lose it stipend, so we must deplete our treasury to \$300.00 or less otherwise the city removes the funds from our account and our community and the commission loses any benefit from the funds.

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

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

9 Yes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

Guest speaker: John O’Grady Franklin County Auditor’s Office

John O’ Grady from the Auditor’s Office gave us information about the 2023 County Wide reappraisal and asked everyone to log into the auditor’s website and take the Neighborhood Survey (link is on the page of your property), which will assist in obtaining accurate information about neighborhood characteristics. He also discussed the

process that will occur as far as notifying property owners about their new property values and how to appeal their value if they disagree with the new value that is set through the Board of revision process. His final item was to discuss the Affordable Housing Resource Fair at Southwood Elementary school on March 11, 2023 from 11a to 2p. A brief question and answer session followed.

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

Z23-002 6675 Shook Road Columbus, OH 43137 : The applicant was represented by their representatives Brian Metz and Joe Massey. This is a currently vacant property that was the site of an old school building that is now proposed to be turned into a bus transit hub with some educational, retail, Mid-Ohio Food Collective Market, possible healthcare clinic and a food truck court as well as a park and ride facility to replace an outdated existing facility.

Motion made by Commissioner Walker to approve Z23-002 for 6675 Shook Road Columbus, Ohio 43137, Seconded by Commissioner Fisher.

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

9 Yes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

No other zoning business.

Committee Reports:

Community Outreach: Thanks to those that submitted updates to the website. Please continue to share items. Commissioner Fisher shared info about the Columbus Public Library Southfield Branch reconstruction project. Our City of Columbus provided area commission website has been updated so that the information on it is now in sync with our area commission managed website.

Economic Development: The next meeting of the Economic Development committee is on March 11,2023 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm at the Marion Franklin Recreation Center. A discussion was held about city sponsored training held by Mike Wilkos from the United way and that south of Livingston Avenue was not mentioned. We are requesting statistics and info about our area based upon this training. Co-Chair Eubanks discussed affordable housing and that we need to be educated about all types of

affordable housing and that we need all levels of affordable housing that all price points of citizens can rent. Katherine Cull suggested that Erin Prosser come and speak to the Commission as she is the Mayors Affordable Housing Advisor. Co-Chair B. Miller added that with adding housing to our community we must look at the other parts of the equation, such as where will our new residents shop, where will the kids go to school, where will medical care be provided, transportation challenges, child care and day care challenges, with housing we must be intentional in our design and services that support not only our existing residents but an influx of new residents.

Education: open

Environmental: Committee Advisor Eubanks needs volunteers for this committee. There was a brief discussion about a small train derailment at Buckeye on 2/28/2023 at Groveport Road and Route 104. Chair Walcott asked that the Environmental Committee could look into the retention ponds in the area and the situations on them.

Executive: The Executive Committee will be meeting on March 15, 2023 at 6pm at the S. High street branch of the Columbus Library. Commissioners Walker, Pate, Byrd are requested to attend as well as the Executive Board. Commissioner Fisher is excused due to a conflict in her schedule.

Public Safety: The Public Safety committee advisor stands on the written report as submitted with the removal of the discussion on a vote this evening for a letter to request the consideration by police leadership of a transfer of our old CRT team into our new police Zone 5. After speaking with Police leadership, this request is just not possible for numerous reasons, however the community will be expecting the same levels of service and accountability of our new CRT team and a similar relationship with them as we were developing with our former CRT team. At the request of the Public Safety Committee, we have invited Assistant Chief Bodker and the command staff to meet with the residents to have a Q&A session about the new police realignment for the Far Southside and how their new plans will enhance policing in our communities that the Area Commission serves.

A discussion was held on sending a letter to all of the township fire departments and the Columbus Fire Department a copy of Ohio Revised Code 3902.51 passed on 4/12/2021. This Ohio law prohibits the practice of balance billing a person in Ohio for an ambulance call after their insurance has paid for the service, even if the provider is not in network with their insurance plan. We as a commission have been approached by residents that this situation has been happening to, and as a result the public safety committee is requesting that the commission vote on authorizing a letter to be sent to the Columbus Fire, Grove City Fire, Hamilton Township Fire and Franklin Township Fire, whom all have done this practice requesting that they stop this and refund monies collected from our residents that shouldn't have been billed.

Motion made by Commissioner Miller to send a letter to the Fire Departments as listed in the letter along with a copy of ORC 3902.51 requesting that residents of the FSCAC

not be billed further for ambulance service beyond their insurance plan coverage and refunded their over-payments, seconded by Commissioner Walker.

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

9 Yes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

Health and Human Services: no report

Internal Governance: On Saturday 2/25/2023 a meeting was held of the committee at the S. High branch of the library. The committee intended to discuss an update and targeted revision of the bylaws. However, due to a request from the city that we as a commission respond to the department of Neighborhoods by April 1st (before our April Meeting) as to if our Area Commission would be participating in the City Wide Elections program, it has been determined that we must make a decision about amending out bylaws tonight as to our elections process either way. If we participate with the city-wide elections process our by-laws will need to be amended tonight, if we do not then it is the opinion of the members of the Committee that we want to return the Commission back to our 2019 by-laws, and as a result of this request of the city, tonight the following amendments are offered to our bylaws:

Motion To Amend the By-Laws of
The Far South Columbus Area Commission

ARTICLE IV

Section 2: Terms

Members of the Far South Columbus Area Commission shall serve without compensation for a term of three (3) years, each term of office for elected seats will begin on **July 1st** and will end on **June 30th**. Initial appointments shall be made for no less than 1 year and be no more than three years to maintain future continuity of representation. Area Commission terms should be established so that the number of expiring seats is approximately the same number each year, which shall end on **June 30th**.

ARTICLE IX

Section 2: Election Committee

The Elections Committee may consist of Commission area residents and two Commissioners appointed by the Chair of Internal Governance, with the approval of the Commission at a regular meeting each year prior to the general election in **June**. Candidates for election shall not be members of the Elections Committee or polling staff in the year or years in which the candidate's name appears on the ballots. The Chair shall designate one person as "Director of Elections".

Section 4: Election Rules

The Election Committee shall recommend and the Commission shall approve by majority vote of its members the Election Rules for governing the Commission elections. Such rules shall include but not be limited to the following provisions: Election place(s) and hours, and date. Such rules shall be consistent with these by-laws and all other relevant and applicable local, state and federal laws. Such rules shall not be changed during sixty days before an election nor thirty days after an election. The Commission may amend the Election Rules without action by the Election Committee in the same manner as an amendment of these by-laws. Election Rules and any amendments shall be submitted to the City sixty days prior to the election.

Section 6: Date

The election shall be held each year upon the **First Saturday in June**.

Section 9: Petition Qualification

Changing only letter A, all other existing language remains the same:

- A. Nominating petitions shall be made available no later than the **First Monday in April**.

Page 21 of the By-Laws, the form entitled **Declaration of Candidacy** to be changed to show a return to Commission date of "not later than 4pm Friday, May _____, 20_____ to Commissioner _____.

Page 23 of the By-Laws, the notarization section of the form is to be eliminated. The section entitled "Petition For Candidate" to remain through the word "assembled". All text below the word "assembled" to be removed.

Page 24 of the By-Laws, the sample Ballot Form, the term end date to be changed to **June 30th with a blank space to insert the correct year** and the Election date to be changed to the month of **June with a blank space for the day and year.**

A discussion was first held as to if the Far South Columbus Area Commission will be participating in the City-Wide Area Commission elections. A conversation was held as to what benefits our commission would obtain from participating as opposed to going back to our old way. The benefits and negatives were discussed, and every commission member was given the opportunity to comment.

Motion made by Commissioner B. Miller to adopt the Citywide elections program, seconded by Commissioner Eubanks.

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

2 Yes 7 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion fails

Motion made by Commissioner C. Miller to amend the by-laws of the Far South Columbus Area Commission as read at the meeting to the Commissioners to hold our elections on the 1st Saturday in June, with the terms of office as listed above in the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Eubanks.

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

8 Yes 0 Nays 1 Abstentions Motion passes

The next Internal Governance Committee meeting will be at the Marion Franklin Recreation Center on March 25, 2023 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

Recreation and Parks: The next committee meeting of the Recreation and Parks committee will be March 18, 2023 at the Marion Franklin Recreation Center from 2pm-4pm. Committee Chair Eubanks was pleased to report that the Marion Franklin Rec Center was in full capacity the last time she was there which was very nice to see. Meetings will rotate every month between Marion Franklin Rec Center and Scioto Southland Rec Center. A brief discussion was held about the Friday Night Lights city wide basketball program and the continuation of the program. Follow up on this item will occur at the next Rec and Parks committee meeting.

City Reports:

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

Nancy has door hang tags on predatory home buyers available. The upcoming City council sponsored trainings for area commissioners is in emails shared with every area commissioner. Please participate.

Katherine Cull, Neighborhood Liaison, Department of Neighborhoods

The March coffee and conversation is with City Attorney Klein. Please see Katherine’s email for details. On 3/6/23 at 6pm there will be a city clean-up presentation at the Reeb Center.

Other Commission Business:

Speaker Slip:

Crystal Davies, the Family Ambassador from Parsons Elementary School gave a brief presentation on attendance issues that are affecting all our Far southside schools and plans to re-engage families. One idea discussed is a combined dance/family event to be held at the Scioto Southland Rec Center on/about September 9, 2023 from 6-8 pm. Community funding sources and partners are needed. The area commission will be brainstorming with Ms. Davies to assist in any way possible. In addition, other solutions related to transportation and after school activities will also be discussed.

Armando Telles, spoke to the commission about the upcoming City Council elections and the individual districts and what they mean to residents. He raised concerns about community wide understanding about the new process, the local issues of each district and how their City Council representative understands the issues of their proposed District and that he suggests a meeting to discuss or hold education sessions for our residents.

Old Business:

New Business:

Motion to authorize a letter to be sent to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg in support of the Williams Road Corridor infrastructure project made by Commissioner B. Miller, Seconded by Commissioner Fisher.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Patterson	Yes	Eubanks	Yes	B. Miller	Yes

Walker	Yes	C. Miller	Yes	Walcott	Yes
YaAshantawa	Yes	Pate	Yes		
Fisher	Yes				

9 Yes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

Motion to grant an attendance exemption to Commissioner Reverend Dr. Zawadi YaAshantawa due to some transportation barriers made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Walker.

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

9 Yes 0 Nays 0 Abstentions Motion passes

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner YaAshantawa; Seconded by Commissioner Patterson. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

All in favor 9, 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