



Far South Columbus Area Commission – Internal Governance Committee Meeting Minutes Saturday, March 25, 2023, 3:30 pm.

Call to Order: Meeting Called to order by Commissioner C. Miller at 3:37 pm.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner C. Miller
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner B. Miller

A discussion was held on the elections petition that the city had sent to the Area Commissions and compared it to our current existing forms. It was decided that the committee was in favor of making some changes to the Department of Neighborhoods form so that it fits our date of Election, time and other purposes. This would have to be voted on for the next by-laws revision.

A copy of the revisions to the current by-laws that was approved by the City Attorney's office was presented to the commissioners present. These revisions were shown in place on the proper pages of the current by-laws, so that the committee could see how the pages would look as revised. The full Area Commission will be taking a final vote on these changes at the April 6, 2023 meeting. There were no concerns brought up at the meeting by those present.

Discussions then switched to the revision of the by-laws that will be covered after the election.

The next item covered was the new vacancy policy that will replace Section 7 of the by-laws dated 2019 (the by-laws we are using as a template to form the newly revised bylaws).

Section 7: Vacancy

The Commission shall nominate by letter to the Mayor, with the concurrence of Council, pursuant to Section C.C. 3109.10, one candidate to fill any vacancy caused by death, resignation or disqualification of a seated Commissioner for the remainder of the seated Commissioner's unexpired term. The following will be the procedure for the selection of a candidate to fill a vacant seat on the Far South Columbus Area Commission:

- A. A candidate who approaches the Commission will need to provide proof of eligibility to either be Elected to the Commission as stated in Article IX (Elections, Section 9), or Article IV (Membership, Section B).
- B. The candidate for appointment to the vacant seat will need to provide the Chair and the Recording Secretary of the Commission a biography of themselves fifteen (15) days prior to

the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Upon receipt of the biography, the Chair **shall** e-mail the biography out to all commission members and the Department of Neighborhoods liaison immediately, to allow all parties time to review the information. If the biography is provided fourteen (14) days or less prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting, the application for appointment to the Far South Columbus Area Commission will be heard at the meeting scheduled in 2 months. A special meeting to hear an application for appointment cannot be called unless the Area Commission is absent a quorum due to a shortage of members.

- C. The candidate for application will present themselves to the full Commission and answer any questions that may be asked by the Commissioners present. The public may ask questions of an applicant, by submitting a speaker slip prior to the start of the meeting.
- D. Once all questions have been answered, the Chair of the Internal Governance Committee (or in their absence the Chair of the Commission) shall make the motion to request a vote on the applicant. A three quarter (3/4) vote of approval of those Commissioners present and voting is required to send a letter of nomination to the Mayor and Council.
- E. Per Columbus City Code 3109.10, the Far South Columbus Area Commission will fill any vacant seat that has time remaining in it if there is an applicant that is interested in filling the seat.

Commissioners talked about the change to 3/4 to approve someone to the Commission for appointment. This is so that we are maintaining continuity within the by-laws, as it currently takes a 3/4 vote of the Commissioners to remove a seated Commissioner. In all areas of the revised by-laws that will be proposed where there is a current discrepancy between two thirds or a three quarters vote, the committee is making the change to three quarters for uniformity. In areas where a simple majority is needed, that threshold will remain the same.

This proposed vacancy policy is also compliant with City Code Section 3109.10 which allows for the filling of an unexpired term, with no regard for the length of that term.

The other item discussed on the vacancy policy was having the resume of the applicant out to the seated commissioners 2 weeks prior to the meeting that the applicant will be considered at. This allows commissioners to develop questions, research a candidate and not feel rushed.

The next item discussed was the request by Commissioner Smith to leave the forms (purchase, elections,) in the by-laws.

In the 2019 by-laws we need to remove the corresponding secretary, remove the Zones for the commission, delete the committees that we no longer have. Clean up the grammatical errors and then transfer over the descriptions and language and committees from our current committees and update their duties to what each group is actually doing.

We also need to change the term President and Vice President to Chair and Vice-Chair.

The next item for change is related to video meetings. We need to bring over from the current by-laws is the policy on video meetings, however our current by-laws prohibit them unless a change to State law (Section 6 letter A). Because of the Charter change approved by Columbus City voters, legislation is currently being drafted to allow electronic meetings in the City Charter. This needs to be changed to read “follow applicable laws” or similar wording.

The other item that needs to be moved over is the City anti-discrimination policy, Article XI as it is not contained in the 2019 by-laws. It was agreed that this item needs to be moved over. This also contains the commissioner code of conduct.

Meeting adjourned at 4:22pm by unanimous consent.

Next meeting April 22 1pm-3pm Columbus Public Library, S. High Street Branch

Submitted by: Commissioner Bruce Miller, Recording Secretary