



# Clintonville Area Commission By-Laws

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*(incorporating election-related changes)*

These by-laws shall establish the order of procedures under which the Clintonville Area Commission (CAC) shall execute those duties and functions set forth in and with the authority granted under Chapter 3109 of Columbus City Code. The Commission shall not endorse any candidate for public office.

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## I. Membership

- A. There shall be nine members of the Commission who shall be known as District Commissioners and each shall be elected from one of the districts set forth in Article VII. A Commissioner shall maintain his or her residency in the district from which he or she was elected. Failure to maintain such residency shall constitute resignation from the Commission.
- B. A term of office on the Commission shall be three years, beginning at the annual meeting in July and continuing until the annual meeting three years thereafter.
- C. The Commission may declare a vacancy when a member resigns or can no longer serve as a Commissioner.
  1. A simple majority of members present at a regular meeting is sufficient to accept a resignation and declare a vacancy.
  2. If a Commissioner can no longer serve as Commissioner and a resignation is not submitted, a vacancy exists only if at least three quarters of members present vote to declare a vacancy.
  3. If the Commission declares a vacancy at least twelve months before the term expires, the Commission shall call for a special election to fill the unexpired term. If a vacancy is declared less than twelve months before the term expires, the Commission shall recommend to the Mayor a candidate for appointment to the unexpired term.
  4. In the case of a special election, the Election Committee shall, within two weeks of the call for a special election, announce an election date. The election date shall be at least ten weeks after the Election Committee's announcement. The election shall proceed using the same schedule and process as an annual election. If only one valid candidate petition is received for a special election, the Commission shall declare the candidate the winner of the election and cancel the election.
  5. If no special election is called, the Commission shall give public notice of the vacancy before the date on which the Commission will vote to recommend a candidate to fill the vacancy. The Commission shall require interested individuals to submit a petition and any other materials it deems necessary seven days prior to the meeting at which the vacancy is to be filled. The Commission shall, by a majority vote of members present at a scheduled meeting, select a candidate to fill the vacancy. The Commission Secretary shall send written notice of the successful candidate for appointment to the Mayor, pursuant to section 3313.10 of the Columbus City Code.
- D. A Commissioner who will be absent from a Commission meeting shall notify the Commission Chairperson prior to the meeting. A Commissioner who is absent from three Commission meetings between annual meetings without such prior notice to the Chairperson shall be deemed a resignation and notice of such shall be communicated to the Mayor or the Mayor's designee and the City Council. The Secretary shall send written notice to a Commissioner who has been absent from two meetings without prior notice to the Chairperson, informing the Commissioner that his or her absence without prior notification from one more meeting before the next annual meeting will constitute resignation from the Commission and notice of such shall be communicated to the Mayor or the Mayor's designee and the City Council.
- E. No Commissioner shall represent the Commission, except as specifically authorized by the Commission. This shall not be construed as a restriction upon the right of the individual Commissioners to represent their own views before public or private bodies, whether in agreement or disagreement with the Commission.

## II. Officers

- A. The Commission shall elect from among its members a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall serve for a period of one year, until the next July annual meeting.
  1. **Chairperson:** The Chairperson shall be a voting member of the Commission, preside at meetings of the Commission, prepare the agenda for the Commission meetings, approve the spending of all funds, and, in consultation with the other Commission members, appoint chairpersons of standing and special committees of the Commission. No person who has served three consecutive full terms in the office of Chairperson shall be eligible for election to a fourth consecutive term in that same office, but shall be eligible for election to any office in subsequent years.
  2. **Vice-Chairperson:** The Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the Chairperson's absence or incapacity. In addition the Vice-Chairperson shall be the Commission's liaison with the Clintonville Resource Center and other public and private agencies in the Clintonville area that provide social services.
  3. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall maintain a file of minutes and such other records as the Commission may direct and shall send written notice to the Board of Zoning Adjustment or other appropriate entities of zoning-related actions of the Commission. The minutes of all Commission meetings shall be open to public examination. The Secretary shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the absence or incapacity of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
  4. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall receive all monies and disburse all payments for the Commission as directed by the Chairperson; shall report on the financial condition of the Commission at each regular meeting; shall comply with the fiscal requirements within the memorandum of agreement with the City; and shall perform other duties as directed by the Commission.
- B. In the event that the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, and the Secretary are absent or incapacitated, a Commissioner shall convene a regular or special meeting of the Commission, the first order of business being the election of a Chairperson Pro Tem to preside over that meeting.
- C. The Chairperson may appoint a Recording Secretary, subject to the approval of the Commission. The Recording Secretary shall record votes, take minutes of Commission meetings, distribute minutes and agenda to Commissioners and perform such other duties as determined by the Commission. If there is no Recording Secretary, the Secretary shall perform the duties of the Recording Secretary.
- D. The Chairperson may appoint additional officers deemed necessary to conduct the Commission's business, subject to the approval of the Commission. Additional appointed officers shall serve until the next July annual meeting.

### III. Meetings

- A. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public. The regular meetings of the Commission shall be on the first Thursday of each month. Each meeting shall be held in the Commission's normal place. The Commission may change the date, time, or location of the regular meeting, providing fifteen (15) days prior notice to the public except in the event of an emergency requiring immediate official action.
- B. The regular meeting in July shall be known as the annual meeting and shall include the election of officers.
- C. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or by a majority of the Commissioners during a meeting. Special meetings may also be called upon written request of at least five (5) Commissioners to the Chairperson. The purpose of the meeting, the date, time, and location shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency requiring immediate official action, at least three (3) days' notice shall be given for a special meeting.
- D. The time and place of all regularly scheduled meetings and the time, place, and purpose of all special meetings shall be made available on the website maintained by the Commission. If no website is maintained, the Commission shall establish a reasonable method whereby any person may determine the time and place of all regularly scheduled meetings and the time, place, and purpose of all special meetings. The Commission Chairperson shall provide reasonable advance notification of Commission meetings and the agenda for Commission meetings via e-mail to any person who requests such notification.
- E. The quorum shall consist of a minimum of five members of the Commission. A majority of Commissioners present and voting shall be required to approve a motion, except as otherwise provided. Actions taken by the Commission shall remain in effect until amended or rescinded by subsequent action of the Commission, unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws.
- F. In all zoning, variance, graphics and other special permit applications, wherever initiated, and in all matters in which Commission approval is requested by sources other than Commissioners, the issue shall be placed initially before the Commission by a statement by the Chair, of the form, "the question before the Commission is: Shall the application (request, proposal) for \_\_\_\_\_ be approved?" Once stated, this question shall immediately have the status of a main motion to approve, subject to amendment, refer to committee, and all other actions and dispositions that apply to such a main motion under Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. In particular, a motion to disapprove such an application shall not be in order. Except as provided under referral to the Zoning & Variance Committee, an affirmative majority of the quorum of the Commission shall be required for approval of all such applications, requests or proposals. The Secretary shall include the vote in any report of the Commission's action to City government bodies.
- G. The Chairperson may recognize members of the public who wish to address the Commission regarding issues under discussion. Time limits for such presentations may be set by the Chairperson in consultation with other Commissioners.
- H. Dissenting or non-concurring reports may be filed with the Secretary by a Commissioner and shall be attached to the majority report.

#### **IV. Public Hearings**

Upon an affirmative majority vote of the Commission at a regular or special meeting, the Commission may hold hearings for specific purposes.

## V. Committees

- A. There shall be four (4) standing committees to assist with the regular work of the Commission: Planning & Development, Zoning & Variance, Historic Buildings Committee and Election. In the event a matter overlaps the area of two or more committees the Chairperson of the Commission shall have the authority to assign such issues to a specific committee, or charge two or more of the committees to work as a special committee for the issue.
1. ***Planning & Development Committee:*** The Planning & Development Committee will review community focused development and planning issues, including proposed business development, civic and social development arising from the community and/or its various civic organizations, City plans impacting Clintonville, and shall, upon the Commission's request, prepare comprehensive social, physical, commercial and economic planning recommendations for the Commission. The committee will explore what Federal, State, and local funds may be available to implement plans in the Clintonville area. The committee will provide arenas for interested parties and the general population to participate and discuss all such issues affecting Clintonville. The committee will work pro-actively with other community-based organizations to forward the development and promotion of Clintonville in a manner consistent with the Commission's mission statement.
  2. ***Zoning & Variance Committee:*** The Zoning & Variance Committee shall regularly receive, review and make recommendations on all applications for rezoning, variances, graphics and other zoning adjustment appeals and special permits located wholly or partially in the Clintonville area. The committee will consist of no fewer than seven and no more than nine members.
    - a. In the event that a recommendation on a zoning matter must be reported to a City government body before the full Commission can properly meet and take action upon it, the Zoning & Variance Committee may proceed to make the recommendation on the Commission's behalf, if prior to making such recommendation, the Zoning & Variance Committee obtains approval of the Commission Chairperson. The Commission may refer a zoning matter back to the Zoning & Variance Committee for the adjustment of final details, and this final adjustment shall be considered to be an action of the Commission.
    - b. In the event the Commission receives from the City a demolition request for an accessory use building in a residential district from a private home owner, the chairperson of the Zoning & Variance Committee, the Commission Chairperson and the District Commissioner for the district in which the demolition request is received, may review the demolition request without a full meeting of the Commission. The three shall review the proposed demolition; if all agree, the demolition is deemed to be approved. If one disagrees, the matter shall be held over until the next regular Commission meeting. The Commission Vice-Chairperson shall be called upon if the Zoning & Variance Committee chairperson or the Commission Chairperson is also the District Commissioner for the district in which the demolition request is received. In the event that a non-accessory building demolition permit, including but not limited to a house, office building or school, is received it will be heard by the Zoning & Variance Committee at its next regular meeting and its recommendations given to the Commission for action at the next Commission meeting.

3. **Historic Buildings Committee:** The Historic Buildings Committee will pursue a process to catalogue buildings in Clintonville, with an emphasis on all buildings along High Street and Indianola Avenue. The purpose of having an up-to-date database for historic buildings in the CAC districts is to provide a basic understanding of which properties are deemed architecturally or historically significant. Focused attention along the major thoroughfares will aid the CAC in its decision-making process related to proposed development in the community, by knowing which individual or groups of buildings are significant in those areas. The Committee will research avenues of funding to assist owners in maintaining and preserving historically/architecturally significant buildings. The Committee will develop opportunities to educate citizens on Clintonville's unique sense of place and will collaborate on historic preservation efforts with community groups.
  4. **Election Committee:** The Election Committee shall conduct elections for District Commissioners. The Election Committee shall have all necessary authority to conduct Commission elections, including certification of candidate and voter qualifications, establishment of and staffing of polling places, counting of ballots, and adjudication of disputes and challenges. The committee will consist of five Clintonville area residents appointed by the Commission.
    - a. No committee member may be any of the following:
      - i. a Commissioner;
      - ii. a candidate for election to the Commission; or
      - iii. a member of the immediate family or household of a candidate for the Commission.
    - b. The Commission shall designate one Commissioner to serve as liaison between the Committee and the Commission. Such liaison may be the Commission Chairperson, but shall not be a candidate for election to the Commission during that year.
    - c. The Election Committee shall propose, for consideration by the Commission at its regular February meeting, election rules that describe the procedures by which elections will be conducted. The committee shall conduct the Commission elections pursuant to Article VIII and the adopted election rules, and shall meet as often as necessary.
- B. The Commission Chairperson, following the July annual meeting, shall appoint a chairperson for each of the standing committees established in accordance with these Bylaws. The chairpersons of the Planning and Development Committee, the Historic Buildings Committee and the Zoning and Variance Committee shall recommend to the Commission members of those committees who may be Commissioners or non-Commissioners. The chairperson of the Election Committee shall recommend to the Commission members of that committee who shall all be non-Commissioners. The Commission shall approve the membership of the standing committees at the August regular meeting of the Commission. Appointments to the standing committees shall be for the period of one year until the next August regular meeting.
- C. **Ex Officio Committee Members:** The Chairperson of the Commission shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the Election Committee. A Commissioner who is not a regular member of the Zoning & Variance Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Zoning & Variance Committee during that committee's review of an application for rezoning, a special permit, a variance, or other zoning adjustment appeal for property located in the Commissioner's district. Ex officio members of committees shall have the same rights and privileges as other members of those committees.
- D. At any meeting, a majority of the Commission may establish, modify or eliminate one or more special committees for specific purposes. The Commission Chairperson shall appoint a chairperson for any special committee established in accordance with these Bylaws. The special committee chairperson shall recommend members for the special committee and the Commission shall approve these members.



specific issue. A task force shall operate for the period of time until the next annual meeting unless disbanded earlier by the Commission Chairperson.

- F. All Commission committee and task force meetings shall be open to the public.
- G. All findings of Commission committees and task forces which result in proposed actions or resolutions shall be submitted at a regular or special meeting of the Commission for consideration.

## **VI. Parliamentary Authority**

The most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with these by-laws and any special rules of order that the Commission may adopt.

## VII. Commission Districts

- A. Each district of the Clintonville Area Commission shall have boundaries as defined in this section.
1. **District 1:** Bounded on the south by the Glen Echo Ravine, on the east by the railroad tracks just east of Indianola, on the north by the center line of Weber Road, and on the west by the center line of High Street.
  2. **District 2:** Bounded on the south by the Glen Echo Ravine, on the east by the center line of High Street, on the north by the center line of Orchard Lane, and on the west by the Olentangy River.
  3. **District 3:** Bounded on the south by the center line of Weber Road, on the east by the railroad tracks just east of Indianola, on the north by the center line of Oakland Park Avenue, and on the west by the center line of High Street.
  4. **District 4:** Bounded on the south by the center line of Orchard Lane (west of High Street) and by the center line of Oakland Park Avenue (east of High Street), on the east by the railroad tracks just east of Indianola, on the north by the center line of Arden Road and its eastward projection (east of High Street) and by the center line of Hollenback Drive and its westward projection (west of High Street), and on the west by the Olentangy River.
  5. **District 5:** Bounded on the south by the center line of Arden Road and its eastward projection, on the east by the railroad tracks just east of Indianola, on the north by the center line of Glenmont Road and its eastward projection, and on the west by the center line of High Street.
  6. **District 6:** Bounded on the south by the center line of Hollenback Drive and its westward projection, on the east by the center line of High Street, on the north by the Columbus city limits and its eastward projection and on the west by the Olentangy River.
  7. **District 7:** Bounded on the south by the center line of Glenmont Road and its eastward projection, on the east by the railroad tracks just east of Indianola, on the north by the center line of Garden Road, and on the west by the center line of High Street.
  8. **District 8:** Bounded on the south by the center line of Garden Road, on the east by the railroad tracks just east of Indianola, on the north by the south line of the State Schools for the Deaf and Blind and the center line of Georgetown Drive and its westward projection, and on the west by the center line of High Street.
  9. **District 9:** Bounded on the south by the Columbus City limits and the eastward projection of the Columbus city limits (west of High Street) and by the center line of Georgetown Drive and its westward projection and the south line of the State Schools for the Blind and Deaf (east of High Street), on the east by the railroad tracks just east of Indianola, on the north by the city limits of Worthington, and on the west by the Olentangy River and the Columbus city limits.
- B. Schedule of district terms
1. Elections shall be held for districts 1, 2 and 9 in 2011 and every three years thereafter.
  2. Elections shall be held for districts 4, 5, and 7 in 2012 and every three years thereafter.
  3. Elections shall be held for districts 3, 6, and 8 in 2013 and every three years thereafter.

## VIII. Elections

- A. Annual elections shall be the first Saturday in May; special elections shall be held on a date selected in accordance with Article I. The Commission shall make generally available the election schedule and rules.
- B. Candidate Qualifications
  - 1. Potential candidates shall be eighteen years of age or older on Election Day.
  - 2. Potential candidates shall submit nominating petitions and affidavits for candidacy completed pursuant to the requirements set forth in the election rules.
  - 3. Potential candidates shall be residents of the districts they seek to represent and shall offer satisfactory evidence, as determined by the Election Committee, of residence in that district.
  - 4. Potential candidates in this non-partisan election are urged not to declare any political party affiliations.
  - 5. Potential candidates need not be registered voters on the rolls of the County Board of Elections.
- C. Voter Qualifications
  - 1. Each voter must be at least eighteen years of age on Election Day.
  - 2. Each voter must reside in the Clintonville Area Commission district for which an election is being held and shall offer satisfactory evidence, as determined by the Election Committee, of residence in the district in which they wish to vote.
  - 3. Each voter shall vote only upon the ballot pertaining to the election of a candidate in the district in which the voter resides.
  - 4. The voter need not be a registered voter on the rolls of the County Board of Elections.
  - 5. No voter shall cast more than one ballot.
- D. Election Results
  - 1. The candidate in each district receiving a plurality of valid votes cast shall be the winner of his or her district.
  - 2. If the candidate who receives the most votes is disqualified, the person with the second highest number of votes should be declared the winner.
  - 3. In the event of a tie vote, the relevant ballots shall be recounted. If the tie is verified, the tie shall be resolved by lots drawn by the chairperson of the Election Committee in the presence of a majority of the members of the Commission.
  - 4. The Election Committee shall certify the election results, including the votes, in writing to the Commission Chairperson after six days but within ten days following Election Day. The Commission Chairperson shall, on behalf of the Commission, certify the elected candidates to the Office of the Mayor of the City of Columbus, in writing, within forty days of receipt of certification from the Committee, but not before any complaint or appeal is resolved.
  - 5. Only a person who has, before the election, been certified as a qualified candidate by the Election Committee may be certified as the winner of an election.

E. Complaints/Challenges

1. A person who seeks reconsideration of a decision by the Election Committee may file a written complaint, specifying the decision to be reconsidered, with the committee chairperson no later than five days after the election. The committee shall rule on the request within five days.
2. Any candidate, any Commissioner, or the person who requested reconsideration may file a written appeal of the Election Committee's decision with the Chairperson of the Commission within three days of notification of the committee's decision. The Commission, excluding any Commissioner whose election is the subject to the appeal, shall consider the appeal as a special order of business at its next regular meeting after receiving the appeal. The complaint is sustained if a majority of the Commissioners present and eligible to vote sustain the complaint. The Commission shall issue a written decision on the appeal within five days after hearing the appeal, but may issue an oral decision sooner.
3. The resolution of any election-related dispute by the Commission is final.

## **IX. By-Law Amendments**

These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Commission by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the entire membership of the Commission provided that the amendments were submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting. The Secretary shall file any approved amendment immediately after its adoption with the city clerk for publication in the city bulletin. Such amendments shall take effect ten (10) days after such publication per C.C. 121.05.

By-law amendments adopted: 4-3-2004, 3-5-2005, 9-1-2005, 2-1-2007, 10-2008, 5-2010, 6-2013, 7-2013, 12-2013, 4-2015, 6-2015, 6-2016.