



Clintonville Area Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 3rd, 2022, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Whetstone Library, 3909 N High Street

Commissioners in attendance: David Vottero (D1), Brian Peifer (D2), Hugh Crowell (D4), Brittany Boulton (D5), Joe Motil (D6), Michael Weinman (D7), Jim Garrison (D8), B.J. White (D9)

Commissioners with an excused absence: Libby Wetherholt (D3)

7:00 Call to order

Welcome, Housekeeping, Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Vottero, Chair Commissioner Introductions and District Updates

District 1, Commissioner/Chair Vottero: Attended meeting with Old Beechwold resident with Commissioner Motil. Also met with constituents on Indianola roadway project. Received calls from residents asking about projects (building as well as a new build).

District 2, Commissioner Peifer: Weber Rd/High Street apartments may be coming in the April meeting but nothing yet.

District 4, Commissioner Crowell: Not a lot to report. Farmers market is coming back April 30th.

District 5, Commissioner Boulton: An Acton Rd resident had concerns on ice buildup on the road and they were directed to 311. Watched Council Member Rob Dorans, Committee Zoning Chair's, presentation on zoning and there is great content on city website. Background was given on redlining and history of racism. Homelessness task force will not meet next week. On Tuesday April 12 at 5:30 pm there will be a community housing network presentation. May 10 there will be a meeting with Franklin County auditor Stinziano on housing affordability.

District 6 Commissioner Motil: Regarding COTA's Delawanda property, they are reviewing inventory properties and there will be some time to decide on property future. COTA's community relations manager has been made aware of residents' desire for a community garden on the lot and will keep residents aware if this becomes an opportunity.

Waiting on input from a Delwanda committee on bike plans. The groups had difficulty getting into the online meeting.

Online meeting was held on Tuesday 5:30pm between 24 Old Beechwold residents, CAC Chair Vottero, Planning Committee Chair Andrew Overbeck, and CAC District 6 representative Joe Motil. Concerns raised included:

- Revising surface to gravel and reducing width
- Looking for alternative connectors
- More bikes is more dangerous
- Rustic Bridge and other areas have blind spots
- Lack of proper notification on the project to those effected
- Question on who maintains this path
- Possibility of installing landscape boulders to prevent vehicles from entering the path.

Old Beechwold president Jennifer Alexander will compile a list of concerns, present to Commissioner Motil who will convey to the commission.

Additional miscellaneous items:

- A resident in the district will be seeking variances on some upcoming garage work.
- Repeat complaint received from a resident regarding noise at Eldorado's
- Participated in zoning committee meeting and testified on concerns

District 7, Commissioner Weinman: Nothing to report.

District 8, Commissioner Garrison: Received a report from an Old Beechwold resident who contacted the commission previously in the fall about Eldorado's noise again. Escalated the issue to owner via their architect Gene Milhoan architect (ref. October mtg) and the issue seemed to get resolved.

District 9, Commissioner White: Aldi has broken ground and the community is excited. Billiards building at 5342 N High Street now in contract; buyer and selling realtor is unknown. Location has been unused since 2009 and has seen issues with homeless occupation and trespassing in prior years. Commissioner expects that building will be torn down.

Agenda approved without opposition

7:15 Consideration of prior meeting minutes – Commissioner Garrison, Secretary

Minutes were tabled for approval next meeting.

7:20 Treasurer's Report – Commissioner White, Treasurer

Account was refunded \$100 due to normal hour resuming and security schedule change.

Balance is \$1037.31 after \$100 deposit

No other action on account. Continuing discussion on webcam was encouraged.

7:25 Neighborhood Update – Lynne LaCour, Department of Neighborhoods

Potholes are an issue; public service has asked residents to report issues to 311, CAC, or community liaison in order for things to be addressed.

Mayor will address the city on March 15th from noon to 1:30pm. 80 recommendations on CPD to be presented. Community liaison officers will be directly under Chief of Police.

Mask mandate will be voted on March 7th. If passed, the order will be signed by Mayor Ginther.

The CAC is encouraged to spend their allocated budget by April 30th.

Postcards now need to be budgeted

Harrison PokuYeboah, Columbus City Council

Council Zoning Committee meeting was held yesterday – video to be sent out

This month is women's history month and a presentation was given on empowering women

Nick Bankston to hold virtual community meetings in the spring. Kevin Jones will be scheduling.

7:21 Zoning & Variance Report – Committee Chair Stephen Hardwick

Virtual meetings were decided on and the Committee prefers to meet in person.

BZA22-007, 105 Acton Rd.

Commissioner Weinman asked if second story was habitable? - Can be occupied but will not be a living space.

Commissioner White asked if the plan would be to have a powder room with sink and toilet? -

Correct. Also asked if the areas would be ducted with heating and cooling, perhaps a mini split. Lastly reminded applicant that added square footage will add to taxes? – Yes to all.

Commissioner Garrison questioned whether the relationship of the proposed location to side property line the same as existing? - Yes.

Committee Chair Hardin reminded that code prevents applicant from using the space other than what current zoning allows.

Vote: 6-1-1 (Chair abstains)

7:30 Non-Agenda item – Gena Shelton (Brevort Rd resident)

Has worked for Auditor Stinziano for 3yrs. Switched from legal department to external affairs.

Introduced herself and indicated materials for sharing with business cards in back

Gave overview of the homeowner's assistance program which was established because low/middle income families do not participate in the process. Volunteers with experience get paired with homeowners to help with discussions on property valuations. They are also looking for volunteers or applicants

Dog license renewal season ends March 31st

7:32 Blueprint Columbus – Clintonville 3 – Commissioner Hugh Crowell

Commissioner Crowell gave background on the meeting and how the purpose of the program is to decrease water into the sewer.

Blueprint team gave an overview at the last CAC meeting and identified the 4 elements.

Program is current working in District 5 and 7; Blueprint 3 will affect Districts 1,2,3,4, and 5 running until 2029. There is a March 16th meeting which will be online at 6pm

Regarding history of the program, Ohio EPA identified issues with Columbus's water and issued consent orders. Clintonville 1 was the pilot. Blueprint had received message from residents on the last install and has expressed interest in not repeating the same mistakes. OSU's Dr. Jay Martin is monitoring and measuring performance of the work. They are also doing survey work and resurveying later this year. Focus groups will be organized with Commissions on Clintonville 3. Commissioners have already received complaints regarding the aesthetics, ice related to sump pump discharge, and work zone conditions.

Commissioner Peifer - Website doesn't indicate topic so there's no easy way to prepare.

Commissioner Crowell – There is no agenda, just brief flyer. Potential locations are being identified.

Commissioner White – Is interested. However, she has received no response received from Dr.

Martin despite repeated requests. Reminded everyone that the #1 contaminant identified previously was deer.

Commissioner Crowell – The report is being released in fall. There has been silence because of the EPA consent order having been issued.

Commissioner Vottero – Should we expect a summary data report for identifying cause and effect?

7:47 Clintonville Area Business Association Presentation – Nancy Kuehl, Executive Director

The mission of the Association is to support the Clintonville business community and is technically a chamber of commerce. There are benefits available to its members including health, retirement, and energy program (programs tailored to business types). Members receive a free 20-minute consultation with business attorneys. Additionally, there are networking opportunities, business after hour meetings and "coffee with CABA" (1 each per month). Members are able to host those events.

The Association provides a collective advocacy voice in the community. There is also a residential membership level where they can join and access benefits. Brochures will be ready tomorrow

Commissioner Vottero asked for the resident level cost? - \$150/yr. (but doesn't have free legal consultation). Also asked how long the Association was up and running? - Since July, but the process has been worked on for over a year.

Commissioner Boulton clarified that she is on the board of CABA. And asked if there were things that the Commissioner can do to support the Association? - Keep CABA updated on upcoming changes.

7:53 Discussion of Indianola Complete Streets Study & Proposal – Commissioner Vottero, Chair

Commissioner Vottero gave overview of last few meetings, street walks, and meetings with public service. Concerns on the issue were strong enough to put this on the agenda. Question was asked to other Commissioners. Do we do anything?

Eric Brembeck – 198 Amazon Place – owner of studio 35 – Was asked by city to be part of a study group; to represent business. Clarified that his position is not anti-bike. He was supportive of options but felt the latest version came out of nowhere too suddenly. Asked the Commission to escalate issue to the mayor's office. His presence was a result of more reduction of parking proposed by the city. He had several meetings, but city did not seem receptive. He is opposed to option 5. The previous plan was to retain parking 3 blocks north and south; was preferred by all but then changed. He is opposed to how the city's study was performed (during covid). His business contributes \$150,000 property taxes annually and feels they are valuable to community. Would like to see option 4; 3 blocks of shared bike lane. Collected 2300 signatures and dropped off with city last Friday.

Will – Former operator of Coworking space The Salt Mines – Making it convenient to bike to office (place to park bikes) brought in more people via bike with limited parking.

Dr Andrew Simonson - 710 village drive – Part of Transit Columbus as well as coalition which created the open letter. Strongly opposed to plans exhibiting a shared bike lane. He feels it is unsafe currently. This is for people who are not comfortable biking in traffic. Young families wouldn't bike on Indianola. He encourages people to try biking. Prefers to avoid conflict points and that Sharrows are a bad design. 1-2 people biking is 1 less parking spot needed.

Jane – homeless in Clintonville – Hit by a car 5 weeks ago; broke leg, face, and eardrum. Feels that biking in traffic is traumatic and cars purposely harass bikers, swerve, and use their horn. Is happy about biking and helps get friends. Believes bike lanes will bring more business. Noted that Indianola is dangerous and that bike lanes save lives.

Eliza Pinedexter - 2821 Kensington – Has kids and frequents businesses in the area. Would like safety and lower speed for everyone. Doesn't feel safe on Indianola and notes it is a high injury network of vision zero. Noted that currently there are areas where parking is restricted which might be opened up. Would like Clintonville Area Commission to look past bikes versus parking.

April – owns Little Light Collective – 484 Crestview – Her kids go to school around corner and loves the issue of safety. Aligned with Eric (Studio35); are pro bike lanes. However, for these 3 blocks we need a compromise. [A lot of vendors from her shop were present in support]. No parking on east side of Indianola forces cars parking on side streets which makes those unsafe. This issue only affects 3 blocks. She rides on Indianola and feels ok but doesn't ride with baby. Perhaps bike lanes can use a side street in this area; need compromise. This is a really important issue for her and has also been hit by a car.

Seth Marsh – Longview Ave – 15 yr. resident – avid biker, frequent shopper at business, rode bike all over. Says he can ride everywhere and make it work without bike lanes. Sometimes he prefers car but there are bike lanes north of N Broadway currently underutilized and would like a shared solution.

Jo - 2200 Indianola - Was rear ended on their bike at 45mph, broke 6 vertebrae in their back. They feel it is dangerous to merge into traffic. They are upset about parking being more important than lives. Cars harass bikers; throw things. They've been grabbed, had doors opened, their backpack grabbed. This occurs 4-5 times a week and has been hit by studio 35. They were told to get on sidewalk by drivers. Suggests all to work towards better transportation and biking and look into induced demand.

Mark Morris – Says they're in favor of option 5 believing it is an easy solution with minimal impact. If you build bike lanes, they will come. Wife in accident. Plenty of parking per studies.

Sandy Simbro – Orchard Lane – Previously was CAC representative for District 2. She noted she was present in the neighborhood prior to SR315 and the Olentangy Trail. Says that demographics of Clintonville are not all people under 50. Removing close parking adversely affects other age groups and people who don't bike. She has had bad experiences with cars and bikes and not everyone in Clintonville is under 50 or will ride a bike. Most people don't commute via bike. Farmers market is a good example of how people drive to destinations; they will drive a block away and then walk over.

Scott Winzig - 167 E Como – Electric bikes are the future; we are not looking to future. Suggests thinking about long term solution; not narrowly.

Jacob Miller - 1827 N 4th street – Feels that only the Summit cycle track and Olentangy trail are safe places. This option is a compromise since it is still not isolated.

Shaun O'Shaughnessy - 256 piedmont – City has given us all crappy options. Everyone is looking to the CAC to tell city this design/study needs to be redone.

Commissioner Vottero – Asked Planning Committee Chair Andrew Overbeck to give context
Andrew Overbeck – Repaving by ODOT is an opportunity. This has been talked about for years and desired by community. Need to have something better than today. The study looked at impact of road diet North of North Broadway.

Commissioner White – Used to be a cyclist; clipped on High Street at Graceland. Driver ran, police caught them, but they were not cited. Apparently hitting cyclists not a big deal. We're not groomed for cyclists. Indianola between Lincoln and Morse is an example of unsafe area for cyclists and a big problem. We need to assert some due diligence before we unify on a position.

Commissioner Weinman – Thinks plan 4 is a good plan

Commissioner Peifer – Keep on thinking on pushing people on different connectors. Nothing unified.

Andrew Overbeck – Neighborhood bikeway plan; meant to fill in blanks connecting big pieces.

Commissioner Boulton – Keep in mind our role in Area Commission. Share community concerns with city. We're not voting on this design.

Commissioner Motil – Has been in Clintonville for 52 years, been bike rider. Last 35 years only as exercise. Almost died before. IN favor of getting rid of turn lane in order to get past arguing.

Commissioner Vottero – Having a resolution is clunky; our goal is to convey sentiment. Sending a letter would be appropriate.

Commissioner Garrison – Will we miss a deadline in the short term? Commissioner Vottero believes there is 90 days at least.

Commissioner Weinman – Can't support a letter, doesn't feel as though it accomplishes anything.

Commissioner White – We need to see the data

Question from Nancy Kuehl/CABA – City came up with plan and hired an engineer. What happened to the study?

9:06pm – Meeting adjourned.