



**Clintonville Area Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 6th, 2021, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Whetstone Library, 3909 N High Street**

Commissioners in attendance: David Vottero (D1), Brian Peifer (D2), Libby Wetherholt (D3), Hugh Crowell (D4), Michael Weinman (D7), Jim Garrison (D8), B.J. White (D9)

Commissioners with an excused absence: Brittany Boulton (D5), Joe Motil (D6)

7:00pm Call to order

7:01pm Commissioner Introductions and District Updates

District 1, Commissioner Vottero: Was also meeting with city on Indianola project. Working with 2864 n high st applicant. Murder occurred at Weber and Indianola.

District 2, Commissioner Peifer: Things pretty quiet, need to follow up with Bank of America left turn lane (always been there, not new). Old college car company coming. New proposal coming there. Making sure that people are informed.

District 3, Commissioner Wetherholt: Indianola redesign – No new meetings. In contact with 3 council members so they are aware of what city plans to do on Indianola and concerns of businesses there. No new contacts since last meeting

District 4, Commissioner Crowell: Recently aware that blueprint next phase coming – final design phase and construction next year. Covers all of parts of Districts 1,2,3,4,5. Plan is to finalize design. Commissioners Wetherholt and Crowell in contact with city. First public meeting is in March. Requesting time with the Area Commission at February meeting to brief us. Chair Vottero asked Commissioner Crowell to be liaison.

District 5, Commissioner Boulton (via email inclusive of Homelessness Task Force update)
Last week, I received an inquiry from Cooper Properties about demoing a garage at 3810 North High Street. This address is for a small multi-unit residential building and the property manager has worked with us before on a garage demo on Acton. Their team is reviewing the code to ensure that their new surface lot will meet all necessary parking requirements.

In December, the CAC Task Force on Homelessness held a personal hygiene kit drive and assembly. Special thanks to District 5 residents Mike Byrne and Susan Meyer for their generous gifts and volunteer time, as well as to Ms. Marjorie Prince, a Spanish teacher and leader of the Peace and Social Justice Club at Immaculate Conception. We appreciate her coming and bringing out her middle school students, who were the most professional and hardworking twelve year olds I've met! The 31 hygiene kits we assembled were dropped off at the CRC and will be distributed to men and women who are housing insecure and in need of toothpaste, soap, masks, tissues, and other basic hygiene needs. The CRC is continuing to collect *travel-

sized* items as well as hats, gloves, socks, gloves, hats, handwarmers, pop-topped canned goods, snacks, and Gatorade.

We are taking off the month of January in light of the Omicron variant and will return Tuesday February 8th at 5:30 PM in the Whetstone Library Community Room to hear a presentation from Star House on the issue of homelessness among teens and young adults in Columbus. There will be the opportunity for Q&A and all members of the community are welcome.

District 7, Commissioner Weinman: Nothing to report. Regarding homicide, talked with Columbus Police detective. There is a new policy; if a car is stolen for too long, they will not prosecute. There was a repeat hit on a car, staked it out, found 2 guns, heroin, suspect then released due to car stolen too long.

District 8, Commissioner Garrison: 1 prospective Chick-Fil-A operator (of 3 being considered) reached out. He is from northern Cincinnati and veteran. Commissioner Garrison has not responded but more information to come. A few reports on people checking houses for packages or other intent observed. No other updates. Birthright thrift store construction progressing.

District 9, Commissioner/Chair White: December was a mild month climate-wise. Had 4th new construction home in District 9; broke ground. Converted vacant lot on Lincoln to be 5th. Real estate is alive and well in District 9. Geyser observed, water coming out of ground, reported to 311. Water crew came out and said not a water main issue. Was going to mark and leave for sewer. Sewer came out, not their issue. Going to recreation and parks department. In their hands. Regarding Aldi – Commissioner White met with rabbit rescue house who was concerned and Aldi created “Bunstruction” time fundraiser to raise \$50,000 for rescue for site improvements. Demo started but responsibly disposing of internals.

Introduction of new Councilmember Nick Bankston

Councilmember Bankston served Mayors Coleman and Ginther. President and CEO of Gladden community house and this position is an evolution of that public service. He is a retired area commissioner from Franklinton and identifies with commissioners. Guiding him as a public servant is accessibility, accountability, and trust. No neighborhood hasn't seen crime and poverty. He is still optimistic and wishes to solve challenges together. Believes everyone have a seat at the table. Accessibility is not agreement but that everyone's opinion valid. Stakeholders are important but voters and residents are the people to be responsible to. There has been an erosion in trust. In order to re-establish trust, he hopes to come more often. JP Dorval will be his liaison with Harrison Pope replacing him. Kevin Jones will be his assistant. He had his first meeting on Monday; Councilmembers Hardin and Brown have been re-elected. Councilmember Bankston will Chair Economic Development Committee as well as Minority and Tech. committees. Born and raised in Columbus; lives in NE Columbus.

7:22pm Consideration of prior meeting minutes – Commissioner Garrison, Secretary
Approval of minutes tabled

7:24pm Treasurer's Report – Chair B.J. White

Starting balance of \$1,348.17 with \$410.76 of expenses resulting in balance of \$937.41. In banked assets, we have monitor, projector and screen, and 2 copies of MS office.

7:28pm Election Committee update

Committee Chair Henkener discussed specifics on adopting revised timeline to align with City of Columbus. Franklin county has more resources than CAC does so there are benefits to the alignment. Things like easier signature comparison, a staff, no need for people providing a self-addressed stamped envelope. The mail has been unreliable locally. With mail in option, Commission can choose between hard deadline or loose timeline for extra time for bad mail. Mail in has always been problematic and recommendation is to get rid of it.

David Vottero – To make things easier, it would be better to get rid of mail in option.

Hugh Crowell – Is mail in balloting being utilized by a large amount of people? During pandemic, yes. Before that, not really.

Hugh Crowell - Is it possible to keep it in rules but disable option when not needed? Election rules easy to change, by-laws more involved.

David Vottero – May be best solution to simplify and stop mail-in but not revise by-laws.

Brian Piefer – Tried to make it easier for people to mail-in but it was a lot of time and effort.

Anne Henkener – In order to affect the next election, we need to change by-laws in February meeting.

B.J. White - Need 2 meetings to discuss, this would be 1, February would be 2, when can we vote on it? Anne Henkener - After discussion at next meeting.

7:41pm – Neighborhood Update, Lynne LaCour, Neighborhood Liaison

- Reiterated major concern on the death of Mr. Santiago. All concerns have been brought to the attention of Patricia Meyers and CAC encouraged to have her at a future meeting.

- Recommended connecting with zone attorney on stolen car time period mentioned previously by Commissioner Weinman.

- Upcoming events page discussed, Upcoming Commissioner training very important, COVID tests will be available again mid-January, local resources/departments. (See below)

I. **Whetstone High School** - one of 17 schools going temporarily into remote <https://www.nbc4i.com/news/local-news/columbus/17-columbus-city-schools-in-remote-learning-thursday/>

II. **Commission Training** – see attachment

<https://www.columbus.gov/neighborhoods/area-commission-training/> registration deadline for Jan. 12th is Jan. 7th (use above link)

III. **Youth Earn and Learn Program** - <https://fcyouthbuild.org/sign-up/>

IV. COVID Isolation and Quarantine Update - www.columbus.gov/coronavirus

V. **Recs & Parks Newsletter** –

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/OHCCC/bulletins/301da94>

VI. **COVID Test Kits** - Cols. Public Health is expecting new shipment mid-January. Possible distribution sites are: 1.)

Whetsone Community Center, 3923 N. High St, Columbus, OH 43214 OR the 2.) Whetsone Branch Library, 3909 N High St, Columbus, OH 43214

VII. **National Alliance of Mental Health** - NAMI Franklin County is offering free Mental Health First Aid training for the faith community. Click on the link for the session you want to attend. The training is being offered virtually, space is limited and advance registration is required. Saturday, [February 12](#) (registration closes January 17); Saturday, [March 12](#); Saturday, [April 16](#); and, Saturday, [June 11](#).

VIII. **New Community Liaison Officer Patricia Meyers** – 614.645.1403 PMeyers@columbuspolice.org

IX. **St. John Learning Center Adult Education Schedule** – see attached boot camp flyer from St. Vincent Development Manager, Katherine Cull kcull@svc.org 614.252.0731 Ext. 1132 www.svfsohio.org

X. **Public Service Prepare for Snowfall** – <https://www.nbc4i.com/news/local-news/columbus/road-crews-are-preparing-for-the-snowfall/>

XI. Housing Stabilization Coalition of Cols./Franklin County Hosting Virtual Roundtables - Beginning Thursday, January 13th, 3:30 – 4:30 pm. Property owners & Mgrs. of rental use link to register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEvC-6qzsqGNYbPFslj7IbQ6y_pHl_dTFd

XII. Library Hours and COVID Info – contact columbuslibrary.org

[Click here](#) to view this message in browser window.

XIII. Columbus Peer Education Program -- see attachment **We are currently recruiting folks from 43211, 43224, 43229, 43219, 43222, 43223, 43204, 43228, 43203, 43205, 43206, 43207, 43227, and 43232 zip codes. If you know someone who lives or goes to school in one of these areas, please share the [online application](#) and let me know if you have any**

questions or concerns! *If you want to talk about how this program could look for a group at your school or organization, we are open to get creative!*

XIV. **New Recreation and Parks Director Bernita A. Reese** -- announcing arrival from Huntsville Alabama

XV. **Free IT and Entrepreneurial Training** – see SmartNet and Pyramid attachments

7:46pm – Introduction of new city council liaison, Harrison Poku-Yeboah

- Columbus pilot program for CCS students getting 2 yr free college
- City council has unveiled opportunity portal which allows someone to seal records for fresh start.
- 2022 city council assignments discussed

7:48pm – Zoning and Variance Committee Report

BZA21-152 - 450 E Tulane

- Applicant indicated that their garage gets hit all the time including Rumpke trucks repeatedly
 - Commissioner Garrison asked how one gets up to upper floor? – Pull down stairs
 - Commissioner Weinman noted that the Rumpke issue changed his mind
- 6 voted yes, chair abstained.

BZA21-158 – 162 E North Broadway

- Applicant noted that the roof slate of existing garage to be reused, matching roof slope of house.
 - Commissioner Crowell asked how one accesses upper floor? - Pull down stairs
- 6 voted yes, chair abstained.

BZA21-162 – 181 Glencoe

- Commissioner Garrison asked if plumbing was proposed? - 1 bathroom is desired
- 5 voted yes, 1 voted no, chair abstained

CV21-126 – 61 W North Broadway

- Commissioner Garrison asked how many bedrooms are in the main house? - Originally 2, made to be 3.
 - Commissioner Piefer noted that he lives close by, there is a comparable structure adjacent. Asked if width of the applicant's lot is narrow? - Yes.
 - Commissioner White noted that adding living space would incur more taxes. And renting it out requires a license. Applicant noted they were aware. Commissioner White asked how many square feet is being added? - 5-600SF
 - Commissioner White noted it looks like an apartment, so you know that changing things would need registration with auditor? - Yes.
 - Chair Vottero noted that if this case were an attached garage, we wouldn't be here.
 - Commissioner Crowell asked about kitchenette, what is intended use? - Planned on being able to use it for entertaining somewhat.
 - Next door neighbor was present and indicated they have been there since 1980 and support the project.
- 5 voted yes, 1 voted no, chair abstained

Indianola graphics variance postponed

BZA21-167 – 2864 N High Street

- Commissioner Garrison asked will the individual kitchen have coolers or freezers within their leased space? - Units shown are shared but ind spaces can have suppl units in spaces too.
- Commissioner Garrison asked what is the increase in demand loads for gas and electric

utilities and will that pose problems relative to existing (timeframe and logistics)? – Applicant noted they have done a utility survey and things seem to work as is or with minor upgrades.

- Commissioner Piefer asked if the trash enclosure will be the same? - Yes
- Commissioner Piefer asked where will employees park? - Hope that employees are from neighborhood but staggering may allow for parking on site.
- Chair Vottero noted that roof top equipment will be screened, better fit for building, be prepared on parking changes for temp use and impact on community.
- Applicant noted that occupancy will be 50/50 restaurant/artisan tenants.
- Commissioner Wetherholt noted that the occupancy of the building will be staggered.
- Applicant expressed interest in restoring the existing building and that some consumers may come but primarily uber eats.
- Commissioner White noted that she was chair of the COmmission when people said building should be office and that this is essentially kitchen office space.
- Kari Engen asked if there were other projects in operation? - Yes, multiple
7 voted yes.

8:37pm – Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Weinman motioned, Commissioner Crowell seconded, no objections.