



Clintonville Area Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 4th, 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), Brittany Boulton (D5), Joe Motil (D6), Michael Weinman (D7), BJ White (D9)
-Jim Garrison (D8) excused

Thanks to Columbus Metropolitan Libraries for making accommodations for tonight's meeting schedule.

7:00 Call to order

Welcome, Housekeeping Remarks, Approval of Agenda – approved by acclamation.

Commissioner Vottero, Chair

Garrison is absent with excuse.

Commissioner Introductions and District Updates

Weinman: submitted letter to Council for budget stuff

Crowell: No Update

White: Curb and resurfacing in D9 looks nice. Deer are a concern.

Boulton: Nothing specific to the district. Homelessness Task Force held first meeting. Next meeting 11/16 at 5:30 in library conference room. CRC and Bill Owens will speak. Walk with Mayor Ginther around Park of Roses to talk informally: access to affordable housing; small business; speed limits; community space for gatherings were some of the topics discussed.

Motil: (first meeting) follow up on Aldrich Road parking issues; meeting with one resident next week; results of city's survey are available; just getting started and scheduling meetings. Concern about bus benches from constituents.

White: re Aldrich Road parking problems – BWHS stated that their new parking lot would ease the burden of parking on the neighborhood—publicly viewable on Channel Clintonville.com

Vottero: City Attorney's office and Midway Bar: city attorney is following up with hearings; police have been monitoring. Hearing soon. Urban Forestry Master Plan working group to maintain tree canopy over entire city: It appears the city is working toward developing strategy to work more equitably within the city to get more coverage in more neighborhoods

Wetherholt: Indianola Re-surfacing meeting coming November 30.

Peifer: talking with local business owner regarding a situation; beaver activity on street trees

7:20 Consideration of prior meeting minutes – *Commissioner Garrison, Secretary*
Approved by voice vote

Treasurer's Report – *Commissioner White, Treasurer (report attached)*

- *Election chair reimbursed for PO box*
- *White reimbursed for security fees at library*
- *CAC for PO box*

- CAC name tags
- Foshey from Clintonville GreenSpot has spent funds for special project tree planting; consumables for special projects

\$1288.23 for tax reimbursable projects; 51% of budget used; current balance: \$1211.77

7:25 Neighborhood Update – Katherine Cull, Neighborhood Community Liaison and J.P. Dorval, City Council

*Reminder to Commission about virtual training about engaging in difficult conversations – public invited
Vottero thanked City Attorney's office for follow-up on Midway Bar; Cull said City Attorney is looking at all options regarding the situation*

J.P. Dorval - Capital Improvement budget is complete and there are conversations in the offing about a second part for the Capital Budget process

After November 10 the community will have a chance to comment on 3 map choices for the Council Districting Plan

Snack and Learn meetings have been scheduled for November 20 at COSI; and November 17, location TBD

*Community Reinvestment Area
November 17 at 5:00, council hearing on this*

Vottero thanked JP for getting CAC's statement regarding the Districting Map and encouraged all to comment on the maps

7:22 Zoning & Variance Report

1. BZA21-119, 416 Midgard W. The applicant seeks a variance to increase the maximum garage height from 15' to 27'. CC3332.38(G).

Attorney for applicant present: current garage is non-conforming; new garage will conform to all standards except height. Height is to match with house architecture. Roof pitch goes to 27' to mimic house—12:12 pitch. Top eave is 18' tall. Only the very top peak is 27'. The attorney presented other variance approvals nearby: 364 E Tulane was approved at 25'. Tulane house is shorter by almost 3 feet. Midgard lot is 2.3 times larger than Weber lot. Weber covers 36% of rear yard; Midgard covers 16%.

White: the wrongs being corrected outweigh any other problems.

Crowell: second floor will be used for home office; no plumbing

Peifer: North elevation faces alley; south faces house

Motil: 100% increase in height; nearly half of the garages nearby are box garages similar to current garage; because of narrowness of alley the new garage will stick out like a sore thumb, new structure will be a monstrosity

Wetherholt: I am not a fan of alleys and I think this will improve the alley.

Applicant: with new setback the alley will be wider and better;

Vottero: what we are being asked tonight is that is it improving things for the neighborhood? We still have garage height variances that are very common. Zoning language measures house height by mean, not by peak—different from garages.

White: alley access accessory building turning radius—creating a better turning radius with new design.

Public Comment:

Carole Tomko – property owner should be able to use property as they see fit. Improving one property often leads to more improvements.

Vote: 5 yes; 2 no; 1 abstain

2. 2. BZA21-113, 156 E. Lakeview Ave. The applicant seeks a variance to reduce the rear yard area from 25% of the lot to 18% CC3332.27.

Hardwick: Placement of house makes this an easy vote. Percentage of backyard is already lower than standard. No comments from neighbors.

John Long from Suncraft (contractor). Homeowners want more living area so want to build a 3 season room.

Public commenter Carole Tomko: House is very small, very unusual layout.

Vote: 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain

Comments from Hardwick regarding Z&V Standing Rules:

main purpose (top of rules) states the mission of the committee. Goal is to avoid delays; waiving rules is the last resort. Commission members are full committee members except for voting. Special meetings are also a last resort in exceptional circumstances.

Vottero: appreciate the time Hardwick has taken in thinking through the rules and the ways the committee operates. This will help institutional memory and transitional circumstances.

Weinman: concern about Rule 4—does this throw out all other rules? Hardwick stated that this shows that the commission is the final check for the Z&V committee. If Z&V messes up, there is a way for the commission to remedy and judge the problem.

Vottero: Right now there are no rules for how the committee works.

What happens if rules get broken?

Weinman would like notice to have consent of chair of the commission in order for rules to be waived.

Vottero: Robert's Rules acknowledges that rules sometimes need to be suspended

Public comment:

Tomko – This sounds like a plan for failure and then put the burden on the applicant to chase the forms around

Osborne – first sentence of number 4; please be specific about which chair is being talked about.

Osborne: #17f – chair has the right to limit time of “any meeting participant”.

Vote to approve standing rules with the typos changed and the amended language in Rule 4: 6 yes; 0 no; 2 abstain

8:10 – Hardwick update on schools. District has come up with maps of the city with grids and boxes that represent numbers of students. District has 10,000 more blocks of space than we have students.

To get state money the students and space must match. Most of newer buildings are on south and east side. Challenge: how to make matching work

The schools plan to put out 8.5X11 paper with grids.

Next facilities meetings:

- 12/1, 6 pm at Whetstone Region 4
- 11/30, 6 pm at CAHS Region 6
- 12/4, 10 am at Main Library
- Google: Columbus City Schools FMP for more detailed information

8:20 City Capital Budget Update – Commissioner Vottero, Chair

Attended hearing for Capital Budget. Has asked P&D to go through UIRF funds and Capital requests. This year's budget unfolded very differently from past years. CAC has made an effort to speak up to tell them what has NOT been funded. We will continue to communicate what our needs are. CAC will stay engaged.

8:23 Public Comment

JP Dorval – There is funding designated for UIRF in the current budget. UIRF has been underfunded as a rule in past years.

Motil – UIRF \$ makes our neighborhood feel like we are being appeased when the Capital Budget does not meet the neighborhood needs.

Osborne – ironic that she was cut off during discussion about public comment and she wanted to finish her comment

Kyle – survey from OSU—asking for insights about how to create spaces that make people feel welcome. Expect new survey link.

Boulton reading Garrison District 8 update: 2 items of major concern – large buck was killed by a handgun in the middle of Indianola Avenue north of Morse. At 37 Morse Road a car crashed into the house leaving a large hole.

Andrew Bahrou – OSU Graduate Student – working on impact to community of BluePrint Columbus. Asking for input from residents. Brought a handout to share with residents (OSU advisor – Jeremy Brooks)

The next meeting will be at 7pm on December 2nd, in the Whetstone Community Meeting Room of the Whetstone Library

8:34 Adjourn