



**Clintonville Area Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 7th, 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), Michael Weinman (D7), Jim Garrison (D8), BJ White (D9)
-District 6 Vacant

7:00 p.m. Call to order & welcome by new Chairperson Vottero

- Chair Vottero expressed thanks to Commissioner/Vice Chair Bolton for chairing September's meeting in his absence.

Commissioner Introductions and District Updates

District 1, Commissioner Vottero: Noise issues in d1 are coming from campus area Midway bar. Permit violations on high street. Ghost kitchen coming to former Clintonville Outfitters. Street study update: continuation of road diet North of N Broadway. City has been tracking speed, accidents, and volume; speeds are 20% lower and 20% less accidents. People are encouraged to get involved with this process.

District 2, Commissioner Peifer: Olentangy trail progress is being made. Resident had concerns on released graphic of where trail was supposed to go and where surveyors are. More information about scooters forthcoming. Short North district has restricted where scooters can go and regulate their speed.

District 3, Commissioner Wetherholt: Attended Indianola redesign meeting and talked with 2 residents on the proposed work and their concerns. Attended preliminary blueprint zoom meeting with Walhalla ravine. Talked to resident about variance application, attended Zoning and Variance Committee meeting and talked with another resident about neighbor property. Met with Burger King demolition crew and talked with the architect; distributed info to area.

District 4, Commissioner Crowell: There are increased level of complaints on Starbucks drive-thru. Incidents of car contacts but no damages or injuries. Event illustrates the concern about traffic there and was a result of someone trying to go by another car and hitting another, back up into a third. Families are trying to navigate the sidewalk while this all goes on as well. Hopes that the city will take a look at the situation.

District 5, Commissioner Boulton: Resident was concerned about speed on Chatham Rd and referred to 311. Also attended public hearing on Indianola resurfacing. Commissioner Boulton plans to will handle website/tech/PR updates while Ty Hulbert is out.

District 6: vacant

District 7, Commissioner Weinman: Some thefts in the area but otherwise nothing to report.

District 8, Commissioner Garrison: Catalytic converter thefts an ongoing issue. An armed robbery was reported on E Royal Forest. Complaints were received from Eldorado's bar.

District 9, Commissioner/Chair White: Working in tandem w/ architect presenting cat café. Parking arrangement has been made with adjacent businesses.

7:15 p.m. Treasurer report – Commissioner White, Treasurer

We have used \$574.71 of the \$3500 allotted and \$2,925.29 was removed from our account. A budget has been created for allocation of funds to committees. Costs have been used towards reimbursements for security guard at meetings, postage, website administration and updates in November. \$500 for 5 months of use of the Columbus library. \$50/hr x 2 hr \$148.75 – to media prints, and \$60 of 64.50 to Ryan Foshee for green spot committee use.

7:18 p.m. Consideration of prior meeting minutes – Commissioner Garrison, Secretary

For August minutes, Commissioner Boulton moved to approve, Commissioner Crowell seconded. Approved 8-0.

For September minutes, Commissioner Wetherholt moved to approve, Commissioner Peifer seconded, Chair Vottero abstained. Approved 7-0-1.

7:20 p.m. Update on the appointment process for District 6 Commissioner

There are 2 applicants; Joe Motil and Tom Miller. Candidates were verified as eligible. Chair Vottero thanked the election committee, and each candidate gave personal information about themselves and expressed their desire to fulfill the role of Commissioner. Chair Vottero noted for votes on candidates to be open and the Commissioner voted as follows:
Commissioner Peifer: Joe Motil
Commissioner Wetherholt: Joe Motil
Commissioner Crowell: Joe Motil
Commissioner Boulton: Joe Motil
Commissioner Weinman: Tom Miller
Commissioner Garrison: Joe Motil
Commissioner White: Tom Miller
Commissioner Vottero: abstains
Joe Motil to be seated at the November meeting.

7:29 pm. Election Committee Update

Committee will look at by-laws and recommend looking into pilot project. Chair Vottero noted he was initially leery of the plan but encouraged now and that this can dovetail reform into a more streamlined fashion. If the process can be made less burdensome, it is better. Commissioner Garrison echoed similar thoughts to Chair Vottero; apprehensive on integration but feel it'll reduce burden on election committee and CAC. Committee Chair Henkener indicated she would assemble list of pros and cons. Commissioner Boulton asked for timeline of adopting/making a decision. Chair Henkener will look at the CAC by-laws and report by February. Community Liaison Katherine Cull offered this process would only affect elections after August 2022 and terms extended at that point.

An East North Broadway resident indicated they were unsure why the CAC would not allow for similar opportunities for mail-in voting; seems as though we need more volunteers. She had concerns about the CAC adopting new process before outreach with community. One thing to have open meeting, another thing to revise voting rules without notice.

7:35 p.m. Stephen Hardwick, Co-Chair for Region 4, CCS Facilities Master Plan

Updated that they were looking to move to something less abstract on routing of school paths; what people want versus number of students. Clintonville is in Region 4 and Monday, October 11th @ 6pm would be date/time for building tour.

7:41 p.m. Neighborhood Update - Kathryn Cull, Neighborhood Community Liaison

- Clintonville has a new temporary Police Community Liaison Officer, Officer Hicks. Discussions were had to potentially have him sit at Starbucks to enforce the intersection blocking as well as concerns on sign pollution.
- Input is requested on updates to the zoning code changes; Wednesday, October 20th 3 or 6pm – 2 sessions to review results.
- There is a Landlord series coming – 1st meeting is October 19th @ Barack Community Recreation Center. Space is limited due to COVID but it will also be streamed via zoom.
- Chair Vottero indicated he would be attending an urban forestry presentation.
- Commissioner Peifer discussed scooters and that the city has a lot of concerns on scooters. These are particularly problematic in the Shorth North. There, they have restricted areas on High Street to function. Scooter contacts planned to be distributed in order to be able to respond more quickly. Current providers known are Bird, Spin, Lift, and Lime. Commissioner Peifer asked if there are any plans in future beyond contacting companies when issues arise. Katherine Cull did not know but can follow up. However, there has been increased enforcement by Columbus Police and they are pulling people over when on sidewalks. Tom Miller asked if city gets revenue from the scooters to which Katherine Cull did not know. Mr. Miller offered that they are a nuisance Commissioner Peifer noted he likes Columbus go stations where bikes get docked. Commissioner Wetherholt mentioned that at least there is a license fee and Commissioner White followed that the city's Right-of-Way is free for all; advertising benches are not regulated.
- Chassidy Barham, Assistant City Attorney spoke on how her department addresses adverse property issues. They know that Burger King on Indianola was an issue. The city filed against them a few months ago and they did not come into compliance by August 20th, contempt fines of \$250/day are being charged. Stephen Glasgow notified that a demo permit is on the docket. Contempt fines running still.
- Ms. Barham also is aware of complaints against Midway bar but contacting non-emergency police about noise is important for residents. They need information to track the issue. This is also important relative to the Eldorado's noise issue. Residential property is different from commercial, and noise needs to be "unreasonably loud" and residents need to be sure that the noise is direct from certain properties when reporting. Chair Vottero said it was important to note that Midway is violating their own signed order and Commissioner White noted that speakers are mounted to front of their building; is this allowed? Ms. Barham responded that this was not and Chair Vottero stressed the importance of addressing consent decree.
A question was asked, if they are in violation, why is liquor license allowed to

continue? The This was a conversation city is having with Midway and they need court permission on action.

- Revisiting Burger King, a question of ownership was raised. The answer is that the property is being bought by a franchisee. The injunction is on the property and stays with the land. Franchisee will need to bring the property into compliance. Many times, if the new owner brings into compliance, they can work to resolve injunctions quickly; depends on several factors.
- A resident at 84 Acton Road expressed problems with a house 3 doors to east which is vacant and is falling down. Asked what the proper course of action is. The response was that 311 is correct action and resident can email Ms. Barham directly and look at with code enforcement; depends on where code enforcement is on property.

8:07 p.m. Discussion of updated city council map

New maps released www.columbus.gov/redistrictingcommission - goes straight to redistricting tool. The new maps are meant to align with charter requirements.

Commissioner White revisited the concern that with consideration of area commissions, District 9 was chopped out of the map. Commissioner Boulton noted that 1 of 3 maps now show District 9 back in.

It was clarified that maps are only meant to show where council member needs to live, not meant to represent district.

The public and Commission was encourages to make comments on the website.

Chair Vottero asked the Commissioner whether they wanted to make a single comment. To which Commissioner White noted she was working with Commissioner Wetherholt on a unified statement.

Chair Vottero asked for a motion to make a unified statement; Commissioner White moved, Commissioner Garrison seconds – no opposed. Comments can be sent to crdc@columbus.gov

8:17 p.m. Zoning and Variance Committee reports

The report was presented by Drew Miller, Vice-Chair of the ZVC.

Demo permit - 3330 Indianola – Request to waive waiting period for demolition of the Burger King property. Applicant of demolition company was present. Chair Vottero asked if there was any discussion of repurposing greenhouse structure. Response was that they were asked to try to save anything historical in the building. All Commissioners voted affirmative to waive waiting period; Chair Vottero abstains.

BZA21-103 – 132 W Weisheimer – Commissioner Weinman asked why the project is 2 stories, if it was at the back of the property and whether it could block sunlight to other yards. The applicant confirmed it was in back and intent was to replace a 1 car garage torn down and that the building would not block sunrise or sunset.

Chair Vottero asked about setbacks. Applicant indicated there are utility setbacks and intention of the location of project further from setbacks was to move off the property line to respect neighbors. Also offered that they never parked in garage and intent is to make sure there was enough maneuverability.

Chair Vottero noted letters sent in support and some concerns.

Applicant offered additional letters of support.

Chair Vottero asked whether there were any other questions / comments.

Neighbor directly behind property at 137 Sheffield Rd as well as other neighbor at 125 Sheffield

both have 1.5x wide lots. This garage will be split between yards and noted it will be very close and very tall. Didn't feel like added height is warranted.

Neighbor at 136 Sheffield indicated that it doesn't seem to go with neighborhood; all lots are like this property.

Former owner of the home and relative of applicant, Doug Morgan, said that traffic has been increased a lot with speed bumps and is more hazardous. He appreciated that the house will stay in his family and that the condition supports the work; an 1850 timber frame barn.

A few commissioners had reservations on voting. Commissioner Weinman opposed the request and other Commissioners supported; Chair Vottero abstained.

GC21-033 – 5152 N High Street

Request for menu board smaller and not visible from the Right-of-Way. (East side of property)

All Commissioners voted yes; Chair Vottero abstained.

8:38 p.m. Homelessness Task Force

Intent is to create a space to have compassionate dialogue and discuss concerns and identify resources. Commissioner Boulton thanked Katherine Cull, Chair Vottero, and Commissioner White helping this issue rise to the top of public consciousness. 1st meeting will be on Tuesday 5:30 pm. With central Ohio homelessness funding arms and presentations. Conversations being held with the Clintonville-Beechwood Community Resources Center (CRC). Presentations will be followed by questions. There are hopes that the library will present as well. Commissioner Boulton was open to new ideas and hoping that would grow into action like assemblance of hygiene kits or some other beneficial tangible element.

A resident noted that Mayor Coleman used to have a person who explained the homeless aspect well but there has since been a distinct change. They questioned what Mayor Ginther's office has done. Katherine Cull said there is a person appointed and they can come out to discuss. Commissioner Boulton followed that a lot of people are qualified, and this is not intended to solve homelessness but we would like to have connections with resources.

Additional items:

8:44 p.m. – A certificate of appreciation from the Commission to Wildflower Café was presented to the public.

8:47 p.m. – Gene Milhoan, architect for Eldorado's, spoke to the Commission regarding the recent noise complaint and offered that owner Nebbie was going to monitor the condition. The bar has an exterior area and he speculated that the DJ that night, who was in charge, was unaware of the sound level. On a related topic, Mr. Milhoan noted there was pending room addition to the property, an exterior porch but enclosed. Separately, there has been a group gathering in the parking lot adjacent to Eldorado's and the owner will report this if they notice it again.

Call for Public Comment

A resident asked about changing of the by-laws mentioned in a previous meeting. It was clarified that the discussion was regarding changes to the standing rules of the Zoning and Variance Committee and that the rules were based on existing practices, not a proposed change to existing by-laws.

Ryan Foshee updated that work at the fire station has kicked off and email him at ryan.foshee@gmail.com if anyone is interested in helping. They will be meeting every 2 weeks hedging and planting native plants.

8:59 p.m. Meeting Adjourned