



## **Clintonville Area Commission Meeting Minutes** **Thursday, June 6, 2019, 7-8:55 pm** **Whetstone Library Meeting Room**

**Commissioners in attendance:** David Vottero, Libby Wetherholt, Judy Minister, Dana Bagwell, Randy Ketcham, John Eschenbrenner, B.J. White

**Commissioner(s) absent and excused:** Khara Nemitz

7:00 p.m. Call to order by Chair & introduction of commissioners

7:03 p.m. City Council President Shannon Hardin, talks about the projected growth of the city and how to accommodate the growth with mass transportation like bus rapid transportation with an elevated platform. It's about focused growth and development. Discusses the challenge with having an inventory of affordable housing. Transportation is another bug issue. How do we develop a transit system that benefits the city at large. Our sister cities like Nashville is playing catch-up with the transit issue and the housing issue. The 2050 corridor study states that if we do incentivizing the right kind of development and doing some strategic planning. Citing Rickenbacker Airport and Alum Creek area as a high growth area. How do we implement a transit system that accommodates that growth. Another example of backing ourselves into an issue is the Short North. The right-of-way is gone. We have nothing to work with and the parking is not ideal. Dedicate bus lanes is our future of improved transit, not light rail, because of the cost difference. Another focus area is an elevated platform. How do we afford this option? Is it something we cannot afford o consider? We need to be in front of these issues and lean into the difficult conversation. We have really good constituent services and partners like Katherine Cull with the Department of Neighborhoods.

7:13 p.m. Q & A

Commr. Bagwell: I would encourage city council to please educate the public about tax abatements and explain why they are beneficial and to whom. My son goes to Columbus Public Schools and I love these schools and its teachers.

Shannon Hardin: An abatement should be used only to get our civic interest out of something. Building here is really expensive. The developers come to us and ask us for an abatement. What do we get in return for these abatements? For example, the Easton

deal was not one of my favorites at all. I think that the compelling argument is that outside of Downtown Columbus, it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest economic producer in the city. \$150M is generated back to the city.

Commr. Bagwell: That money doesn't go back into the pockets from where it is sourced. That's my point. I understand abatements where there is a blighted area and developers need that incentive where a community can benefit from job creation and revitalization. I can get behind that. When you are talking about an already developed area like Easton, someone is saying that they are going to pack up and leave without the \$60 million tax abatement.

Shannon Hardin: That wasn't their pitch. Their pitch was that box chain stores are changing and how do we protect the economic engine that does benefit the city. I hear what you are saying.

Commr. Bagwell: I appreciate you hearing me.

Commr. Minister: I ran the stats on the tax abatements on midtown, Grandview etc. The average price is \$515,000 for a home that is receiving tax abatements for their property taxes. This is basically being to draw people downtown yet someone with a \$500,000 home in Clintonville would be paying \$14,000 in real estate taxes. It seems like that the residential abatements is located in the core area, not in Linden or the far east side.

Shannon Hardin: Council Member Liz Brown did an analysis of the map of Columbus and removed those areas that had received tax abatements and reallocated them to other qualifying areas. We are trying to restructure the incentive map so that communities like Linden, the area where I live, and those areas. This is part of our affordable housing tract.

Commr. Minister It's good to know there is that progress.

Shannon Hardin: And there is accountability to that as well.

Helen Sweeney, Schreyer Pl: What about "the now"? The curbs and streets need resurfacing due in part to the city's construction. Sewer line installation, Get rid of the 3<sup>rd</sup> party project management. Wrangling with the city for 1 ½ years about the curbs, and it's tough holding the attention of the city to pay attention to these things.

Shannon Hardin: Is this about the rai garden construction?

H. Sweeney: Well, ours was a sewer line installation. The project is never-ending and the curbs are left in disrepair.

Shannon Hardin: I can appreciate that concern and I appreciate you bringing that to my attention.

Dave Wyckoff, 254 W Schreyer: We have simultaneous projects going on at once. Columbia Gas, Miller Pipeline, City of Columbus Blueprint Construction, and 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractors like Fields Excavating, sprayed hydroseed, and left ruts in the yard. The other contractor tramped on it and sprayed paint to mark over it. I worked at the Southeast Career Center where there were so many roof leaks, they had to tarp off the roof. Why does there get to be a brand new median in front of the Clintonville Farmer's Market area with top notch landscaping and we can't get any follow through on the repairs to our yards from the damage caused by the construction.

Chair Wetherholt: We will have Michael Liggett here in July to discuss resurfacing projects and this type of projects.

Shannon Hardin: I will give you my business card to continue this conversation.

7:26 p.m. Consideration of prior meeting minutes – Commissioner White  
Everyone received the PDF of the draft of the minutes on May 6<sup>th</sup>. I received feedback from Chair Wetherholt that there were a few typos which have been corrected. In the spirit of Clintonville GreenSpot, I asked if anyone wanted printed copies and no one responded. Assuming that everyone reviewed the PDF minutes, we are ready to vote.

7-0 to approve the May Minutes.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

7:31 p.m. Election Committee Report – Chair Ann Henkener  
24 votes Libby Wetherholt, District 3  
35 votes for Kendra Carpenter, District 6  
11 votes Jim Garrison, 8 votes Ty Hulbert, District

- Report on Challenges (attached at end of minutes)
- Report on Certified Candidates
- Discussion of District 8

Ann Henkener, Chair of the Election Committee: 3 complaints filed after the election, not on the results, but with the processes. Please see the election committee report for details of the complaints. There were some things that could be done differently with regard to process. They did not challenge the results of the election. All results stand. Copies of the complaints are attached to the agenda. I received the complaints while the election process was under way and I did not feel like it was appropriate to comment or respond to an election already in progress. I want to be very forthcoming that I do not want the election committee to be part of the conversation of who's right and who's wrong during the process.

Commr. Minister: The complaints are not provided as attachments. There is missing information. It was a process. The letter from the candidate who resigned from the

election is the only thing that is missing.

Ann Henkener: The committee did address that in the report. The candidate packet did address that the candidate may provide the mail-in ballot request form.

Commr. Minister: Except that in the bylaws, when campaigning, candidates are suppose to encourage in-person voting. The last resort is to hand someone an absentee ballot.

Ann Henkener: I was not there to observe these interactions so I cannot say if there was any impropriety.

Commr. Minister: For 100 to come back, that is quite something and the reason why Mary Relotto resigned.

Commr. Ketcham: I realize that technically your decision not to count the mail-ballots was right but you are disenfranchise 42 voters, that is not good especially when we are trying to get folks out to vote. In reality, Kendra got 75 votes. I think the intent of the voters was to vote for Kendra and even 2 for Mary. Why did Mary's name remain on the ballot when she withdrew form the election? I think this is something that needs to be done for next year's election.

Ann Henkener: We were preparing for the possibility that people would challenge these votes that were not counted. We were very careful to keep accurate records. I felt there was a way that I the commission needed to render the decision, then the information would be available to you.

Commr. Ketcham: I think that you did a really good job. Absentee ballots are legal and Kendra was ahead of the curve in promoting these.

Commr. Minister: The reason Mary dropped out was that she was not told she could hand out absentee ballots.

Ann Henkener: I will repeat that this was stipulated in the instructions of the candidate packet.

Commr. Minister: Candidates should encourage in-person voting.

Commr. Vottero: There should be something the commission should clarify.

Commr. Ketcham: I think you have done a wonderful job of managing all of this.

Commr. Bagwell: Under the circumstances, you did what you needed to do. I wish that Mary had not withdrawn and seen the election through, whether one candidate handed out 500 mail-in ballots, it was that all of them were received in one big envelope. The issue is not that the candidate did this but you were in no position to encourage Mary to

do the same. You did the best job you could do under those circumstances and I appreciate it.

Ann Henkener: Thank you and I had a great committee who helped.

Chair Wetherholt: We need to vote to accept the certification of candidates.

CAC Voted 7-0 to approve

Presentation of the Election Survey (attached):

Kari Engen, member of the election committee: The biggest inclusion was the canvassing effect which had the greatest motivation to come to the polls. People are reading the information in The Booster. Physical fliers had an effect, we delivered and posted them in various public places. Nancy Stewart was right because I made signs that were placed on High St. Early advertising had a positive effect on interest of candidates, we had 9 people who were interested in running. The biggest impact that the advertising had was getting people in the door in March. The on-the-ground stuff had an impact.

Commr. White: I commend you for staying under the approved budget.

Chair Wetherholt: Do we want to take action with these complaints?

Commr. White: If we still had an active contender, it might warrant something actionable but we don't.

Commr. Bagwell: I think everything has been addressed in the election report.

Commr. Vottero: I think if we vote to accept the report, we acknowledge that no further action is required to the complaints. It might prompt the commission to Iron out some of the wrinkles that occurred this year so that it is more clear moving forward.

Chair Wetherholt: Last month we had some discussion about District 8 and the vacated position of Chris Allwein who resigned early to accept a job relocation in Oregon. We discussed about seating the candidate early.

Commr. Vottero: The appointment is done by the mayor and we allow the process to play out. It won't hurt a district to be without a commissioner for one month.

Commr. Bagwell: They can be seated early if the letter of appointment form the mayor is received early.

Chair Wetherholt: We will seat them on July 1<sup>st</sup> business as usual. Announcing the new commissioners, Kendra Carpenter and Jim Garrison.

7:48 p.m. Community Update – Katherine Cull, Liaison

Street resurfacing, curbs reconstruction, so many complaints that she is creating a spreadsheet. I have received probably 30 emails over the last month. Michael Liggett is on vacation this week. We try to follow up with every project manager. I am gathering all of the info on a spreadsheet and will address every concern with a site visit when Mr. Liggett returns.

7:50 p.m. Treasurer's report - Commissioner Eschenbrenner  
\$828 is our balance.

7:51 p.m. Zoning & Variance Committee – Stephen Hardwick, Chair

Consideration of the **waiver of the waiting period** for the demolition of 3589 Indianola (Starlite Cleaners).

Approve the waiver of waiting period for the demolition  
CAC 7-0 to approve

**BZA19-051, 425 Walhalla.**

David Eppard seeks a variance:

to increase the permitted height for a garage from 15' to 19.5',  
[CC3332.38G](#).

Z & V voted 6-0 to approve with 1 abstention.

Chair Wetherholt: What about the low hanging lines?

David Eppard: The one low hanging line is the TV cable.

Commr. Vottero: Why are you asking for the height variance?

David Eppard: To match the height of the house.

CAC 7-0 to approve the height variance

**BZA19-060, 3721 Weston Place.**

John Nicholson for homeowner Thomas Decker requests a variance:

to reduce the existing non-conforming lot's rear yard's setback to 3'  
from the property line to allow infill of an existing covered porch and  
a small addition. [CC3332.27](#).

Z & V 6-1 without the condition

Z & V 6-1 with the condition to work with the neighbor to do  
landscape screening.

Neighborhoodly agreement to add the condition to be included on the Standard Recommendation Form. All in favor to include the Neighbor Agreement with the Standard Recommendation Form. CAC voted 7-0 to approve.

CAC voted 7-0 to approve the variance with the condition \* See written agreement produced by the neighbors. INCLUDE ON THE STANDARD RECOMMENDATION FORMS.

**CV18-112, 3726 N. High.**

Aigool Zhumasheva (Zoom-ah-sheva) presents a revised application to: permit residential use on the first floor of this commercial office (C-2) property. [CC3353.03](#).

CAC to approve 7-0

**BZA19-056, 2973-2977 N. High St.**

NOA Housing Property LLC seeks variances from the current CPD to:

1. Reduce the number of trees required in the parking lot from 6 to 0  
(no trees to be removed, a 2014 variance already allows 0 trees)  
[CC3312.21A](#).
2. Reduce the required parking from 60 to 56 spots,  
[CC3312.49](#).

Commr. Bagwell: What is your hardship? Is it just that you want a larger patio? Is there a statement of hardship?

Condado Presenter: We submitted it with the application for the city's review.

Commr. Vottero: The patio is seasonal and it is a fair request to permit the parking variance because it is a 3-season parking space variance. But will this project evolve to an enclosed patio with the roll-away vinyl walls/windows. Do you have 38 seats on the patio plan?

Condado Presenter: We are not trying to get more crowded but gain more elbow room.

Commr. Eschenbrenner: Have you talked to Lavash?

Condado Owner: We spoke today and we are reciprocating the need for parking as the trends demand. We are friendly.

Commr. Eschenbrenner: For the parking calculation, are you using is it just for Condado or the total strip center?

Condado Presenter: The entire center.

Commr. Minister: Did we receive the staff review notes? I do not see them on-line yet.

Condado Presenter: I was not present during the staff review.

Z&V Chair, Stephen Hardwick: I did not receive and staff notes.

Parking variance Z&V voted to approve 5-2

Tree Reduction with condition place and maintain 4 additional trees and one will be a canopy tree. The CAC voted 7-0 to approve reduction in trees.

3-3-1 for the parking variance, the motion fails.

Commr. Vottero: The vote exercised was a 3-3-1 which is not to the affirmative so the motion fails. The abstention by Commr. Minister was because she did not have all of the information. I would prefer we table it until next month so that we have all of the information.

Commr. Bagwell: Do you know when you go before the BZA?

Condado Presenter: I believe it is the middle of July.

Commr. Vottero: I make a motion that we dismiss the vote and table it until next month.

Commr. White: What do the bylaws say if we already exercised the vote?

Commr. Vottero: We have the discretion to “undo” the vote.

Commr. White: We do?



Z & V Chair Hardwick: In Roberts Rules of Order, the prevailing vote can ask that it be reconsidered.

Commr. Bagwell: There is no prevailer. The motion failed.

Commr. Vottero: I cast a vote against it and I would like the applicant to have the opportunity to be reconsidered in this matter.

Commr. Bagwell: I make a motion to reconsider the vote until the July meeting.

Vote to table the vote for reconsideration for the parking variance.  
5-1-1 to table the vote for July.

8:40 p.m. Police Chief Search Committee Outreach – Danny Palmor

8:45 p.m. Tribute to Outgoing Commissioner, Randy Ketcham

8:50 p.m. Planning & Development Report – Chair Andrew Overbeck

Traffic Signal operation boxes – call for artists

Evaluation ride with the city engineers.

8:55 p.m. GreenSpot Committee Progress – Chair Libby Wetherholt  
(attached at end of minutes)

8:56 p.m. Public Comments

Virginia Songstad, District 6 Resident: What can we do about the deer?

Kari Engen, E Kanawha Ave: Point of Order, Roberts Rules of Order states that the reconsideration of the vote must be done in the same session. A motion for the rescission of the vote must be done by the prevailing side.

Some discussion of the person who made a motion, Commr. Vottero or Commr. Bagwell. Tabled vote stands as agreed.

8:58 p.m. June organizational meeting IS PUBLIC and will be held on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at EM Engineering Group 625 E N Broadway, Columbus, OH

Report of the Election Committee  
Clintonville Area Commission  
May 11, 2019

The Election for CAC Commissioners concluded on May 4, 2019. The uncertified results were:

District 3

Libby Wetherholt - In-person votes - 24 votes

District 6

Kendra Carpenter - In-person votes - 32 votes; Mail-in votes - 3 votes; TOTAL - 35 votes

Mary B. Relotto - In-person votes - 8 votes; Mail-in votes - 2 votes; TOTAL - 10 votes

It appears that while the requests for ballots appear to have been filled out by the individual voters, someone other than the individual voters mailed most of the requests for mail-in ballots. We see no reason to believe the integrity of the process was violated. However under rule VII B. (3), the individual voter must mail in the Ballot Request Form: "The prospective voters will complete the Ballot Request Form and mail the completed form, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope, to the CAC P.O. Box." Ballot Requests 1-3, and 8-14 were received in individual envelopes. Ballot Requests 4-7 came in one envelope and were from voters not living at the same address. Ballot Requests 15-118 came in one large envelope and were not from voters living at the same address. We have not included the votes associated with Ballot Requests 4-7 and 15-118 in the total votes. Had they been included they would have added 40 votes for Kendra Carpenter and 2 votes for Mary B. Relotto. Many self addressed envelopes appeared to come from a common source. However, there is no rule prohibiting a person other than the voter from providing the self addressed stamped envelope. So that did not play a part in our not counting the votes from Ballot Requests 4-7 and 15-118.

Mary B. Relotto withdrew her candidacy on April 19, 2019. Under rule IX.B. candidates who withdraw will not be included in the final certified results.

District 8

Jim Garrison - In-person votes - 11 votes

Ty Hulbert - In-person votes - 8 votes

The Committee Chair received three complaints after the election:

Judy Minister, May 6, 2019 (Attachment 1)

Mary B. Relotto, May 7, 2019 (Attachment 2)

Mary B. Relotto, May 8, 2019 (Attachment 3)

The complaints did not directly challenge the results of the election. Therefore the certified results are the same as the uncertified results, with the exception of District 6, in which Mary B. Relotto withdraw her candidacy:

District 3

Libby Wetherholt - In-person votes - 24 votes

District 6

Kendra Carpenter - In-person votes - 32 votes; Mail-in votes - 3 votes; TOTAL - 35 votes

## District 8

Jim Garrison - In-person votes - 11 votes

Ty Hulbert - In-person votes - 8 votes

The three complaints address several events that took place before the election and some recommended changes in the election process.

There was a complaint about the Chair of the Commission, who later became a candidate, being involved with the election orientation meeting for prospective candidates. The Elections Committee sees nothing inappropriate about any Commissioner, whether a prospective candidate or not, participating in the orientation meeting. The meeting was not intended for voters nor was the invitation directed to voters, and therefore did not give the CAC Commissioner a forum in which to persuade voters to vote for them. All prospective candidates were invited, so no candidates were given information that was not available to all.

There was a complaint about the Chair of the CAC giving information to one candidate about using the mail in ballot request form in a campaign. Candidates are permitted to use Mail-in Ballot Request Forms as part of their campaign. On the third page of the General Information hand-out given to all prospective candidates along with the Candidate Petition, under the section titled "Mail-in Balloting" it states: "Mail-in Ballot Request Forms are included in this packet and may be duplicated and given to residents by the candidate." The Election Committee did have concerns with numerous requests being mailed in together, as indicated above.

There was a complaint about a lack of response to Mary B. Relotto's letter withdrawing her candidacy. The withdrawal was acknowledged by the Chair of the Elections Committee. The Election Committee can't advise people on whether to file complaints. In addition, the withdrawal letter seemed to contain an explanation of why the candidate withdrew rather than being a complaint. The letter is attached to this report as Attachment 4.

The complaints address proposed changes in the Election Rules. Copies of the complaints are attached to this report and could be used in the review of the rules routinely done at the February Commission meeting.

## Progress Report for GreenSpot Committee

March 2019

Two charging stations established: (P5)  
Donatos @ N. High & Orchard Lane  
Huntington Bank on Indianola

April, 2019

Tree Giveaway implemented in all 9 districts, 300 trees given out (P1)  
Whetstone Prairie Volunteers: Clean Up and Planting in April 2019. (P3)  
Green Ambassadors appointed. (P1)  
Social Media sites developed. (P1 and P4)  
CRC offices were transferred to AEP service to begin progress for solar (P2)  
Upon resignation of Donna Leigh-Osborne from litter cleanup project, Brenda Chaney was drafted to begin organization (P3)

June, 2019

2<sup>nd</sup> Bike Ride exploring Neighborhood Bikeway. (P5)

New home members Jan – May 2019

41 new home members (25% of our goal for the year)

New businesses Jan – May 2019

Social Media Sites:

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Clintonville-GreenSpot-254967972065225/>

Twitter

@CvilleGreenSpot

Instagram

Clintonville GreenSpot

## CAC P&D Project Progress

### 1. Traffic Signal Box Art update (Megan)

- Three submissions
- Getting a lot of questions
- Getting the word out...June 19<sup>th</sup>
- Add to CDF
- Promoted to GCAC, This Week, CCAD
- Ohio State?
- Send to local artists (Andrew, Matt...Armory (Katie, Malcolm, Leah))
- Extend deadline...make decision closer to date
- Install partnership with University District, email about their artists
- Gofundme? Ask Mike
- Libby, other interest? Lion's / Rotary / Historic Society? Waiting to hear back
- Flags on High took in a lot of donations in Nancy's memory (Sharon Heights) BJ to inquire

### 2. Neighborhood Bike Ride prep; ride is June 1! (Andrew)

- Refreshments at Sharon Woods
- Promotion via CDF
- 25 (or more) riders participated

### 3. Median Tree Replacement (Andrew/Libby)

- Friends of the Median to pay for it and install it
- Checking on install timing and final cost

### 4. Memorial Grove update (Libby)

- In touch with Troy Euton at Parks and Recreation
- Como location
- UIRF money? (Matt Lorenz)
- Soil and water \$?
- Planting

### 5. Development sites update (Jim)

- Tabled until next meeting
- Developer meeting July?

## Mary B. Relotto (email 5/8/2019)

Ann et al,

I felt the need to add more to my earlier letter, requesting that the CAC election process be examined.

I respectfully request that the election process, not only in District 6, but the with the entire CAC, be examined.

The end goal is to:

- revamp the election bylaws to ensure fairness and trust
- protect the process from conflicts of interest
- provide protection from misuse of information
- and to promote complete transparency in all election matters.

1.

The Bylaws state that: “The Commission shall not endorse any candidate for public office.” I understand this to mean the Commission as a whole/unit, and not the individual Commissioner. Toward the future, I believe the bylaws should include individual commissioners and be rewritten as, ‘Individual Commissioners and the Commission as a whole, shall not endorse or act in favor of any candidate for public office.’

Here is my reasoning.

For the 2019 Spring Election, I believe one or more of the active Clintonville Area Commissioners favored my opponent, giving her specific strategy to secure more votes. This to me isn't just favoring a candidate, but it's a back-handed endorsement.

**Fact:** When I met with Libby W., Chair of the CAC on April 17, 2019, at Panera on High Street, she shared with me that the CAC had received an unusual amount of absentee ballot applications in a large envelope. Once I heard this during our meeting, I recalled several conversations from friends in the district who were canvassed by my opponent and/or team member, having received an application for an absentee ballot. I asked Libby how my opponent knew to do this and complimented that it was a savvy move.

Libby admitted that she told my opponent that she could hand out the applications to District 6 residents. From here, my opponent secured and mailed in mail-in-ballots in numbers unprecedented in past elections. In fact, according to an email received by Anne H., Chair of the Election Committee, many mail in ballots were returned in valid.

Libby did not share this strategy with any other candidate and admitted after I questioned her motive, throwing her arms in the air during our conversation at Panera, that she should have told everyone. "You're right, I should have mentioned it."

**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.

I believe that #6 should be added, to include, 'Candidates running for CAC should be in good standing with the community and not be under any investigation for violations related to any city or district matter.'

**Fact:** My opponent is in violation of the process for a new build on private property, and is not in good standing with the City of Columbus. She moved forward without permits or variance approvals for a four-car garage build in Old Beechwold, in a size of yard that wouldn't warrant such a build. From what I surmise, permits were indeed needed and not applied for, prior to building. If indeed my opponent knew or didn't know the rules of a new-build, as an attorney, you might think that such a person would make sure everything is in order, BEFORE work starts. She did not, evading the law and putting her own needs above all else.

These are my two biggest concerns. The other is the fact that the CAC Chair ran the Candidate orientation meeting while running opposed, with her opposition present at the meeting. This was weird and suspicious.

I would ask that in the future, Commissioners running opposed or incumbents be completely absent from the election process.

I believe in continuous improvement of area commissions' processes and practices and in complete transparency. And I hope the process improves for the next election, with my suggestions.

For now, I want to see improvements for future election processes. This year's election seemed, at first, normal and all was in order. And then it seemed unnatural, dishonest, manipulative and in control of the powers that be. That's when I determined that this race wasn't for an honest, law abiding citizen like me, who only wants to represent the people and work with other Commissioners, equally.

I hope that you look into these issues and put into place practices that protect citizens like me. I'm sure there is much more to this than what I experienced. Let's look toward total transparency!

Respectfully,  
Mary B. Relotto

**Mary B. Relotto (email 5/1/2019)**

Dear Commissioners,

On April 19, 2019, I sent a letter withdrawing my name from the election for District 6. I wanted to write to the Election Committee first to share my insights, not knowing what I wanted to do at the time. I was hoping I might get some direction on whether or not filing a formal complaint would deem appropriate, and if it would actually be helpful. All I received was acknowledgement of my withdrawal.

In light of tomorrow's CAC meeting I thought it would be important to share with all commissioners, my experience. Unfortunately, I will not be in attendance due to other obligations but I am happy to answer any questions via email.

I am sharing this so that going forward the CAC's election process can improve. As you know, area commissions are always striving to do better.

Here were the two areas of concern:

First, CAC Chair Libby W., with Election Committee member Ann Henkener led the election orientation for all candidates on March 11. Libby had an opponent at that time who was there. Libby participated quite a bit, practically running the meeting. I've suggested that the CAC have someone not running in the election play that role in the future. It's not fair to put the Chair, who at the time was running opposed, to manage the meeting, and it's not fair to the process.

Second. I met with several of the commissioners to get their take on CAC needs. When I met with Libby on April 17, the topic of mail-in applications for absentee ballots came up. She shared with me that she told my former opponent that she could hand out the applications to district 6 residents. This came up because she also shared that there was a big envelope of requests for absentee ballots which was very unusual for CAC elections. I applauded that she was very candid with me! I was neither aware to do this, nor do I think other candidates were. In fact, I doubt this process was ever done before?

I believe in continuous improvement of area commissions' processes and practices and in complete transparency. And I hope the process improves for the next election. I will continue to be a positive, active community member including helping the CAC in the future.

Thank you for serving the community!  
Respectfully,  
Mary B. Relotto



# CAC Election Committee Publicity Plan Report

June 6, 2019, CAC regular meeting

Author: Kari L Engen, Election Committee member

Publicity effort results:

In addition to the paid ads, and social media, an election sign was posted outside library on Early Voting day and on Election day. The corrugated plastic sign material cost approximately \$5 per sign. We recycled metal sign supports from other political and fundraising signs, and used Stencils for hand-lettering the information onto the signs. Total cost - \$16 +/- .

Several people visited the polls on both days solely because of the sign outside the building. All of those visitors lived in Districts that were not up for election.

At the poll, adjacent to each ballot box, a form was placed, requesting that the voter make a “check” next to any item that informed them of the election. An “other” category was provided for the voter to self-report something that did not align to any of the available choices. The results of that survey are below:

Clintonville Area Commission Election Exit Poll Survey - Publicity				
Source of Information (as reported)	District 6	District 3	District 8	Total
Candidate	15	7	8	30
Clintonville Booster/ThisWeek Newspaper Article	11	6	5	22
Neighbor	7	3	4	14
Flyer on door	3	4	4	11
CAC website	3	1	3	7
Sign outside library	3	3		6
Advertisement Clintonville Spotlight	3	3	0	6
CAC meeting	4	1		5
Clintonville Spotlight article	4	1	0	5
N Broadway St association	0	5		5
Advertisement Clintonville Booster	3	1	0	4
Other Facebook page	0	2	2	4
CAC Facebook page	0	0	3	3
CDF Facebook page	0	1	2	3
neighborhood mailer		2		2
Flyer at Library/elsewhere	1	0	0	1
Clintonville Area Progressives Meeting	1			1
Mailer (from Candidate)	1			1
Email ad	0	0	0	0

## Conclusions:

- 1) The intensity of canvassing activity had a large effect on voters' motivation to come to the polls.
- 2) Voters do read the Booster and vote when they are aware of the election.
- 3) Physical flyers appear to be somewhat effective when delivered to the residents' addresses. Note that only 1000 flyers were printed, and only a small percentage were placed on doors (about 200). Most flyers were placed at public places for individuals to pick up or were posted on message boards.
- 4) Nancy Stewart was right – people do respond to signs. The “hand-made” signs were an inexpensive advertisement that got attention from passers-by.
- 5) Early advertisement efforts appeared to have a positive effect on interest in candidacy. There were 8 persons who were interested in running for candidacy who attended the orientation meeting. We did not have a survey at the meeting, so we do not know which publicity strategy they were responding to.
- 6) Early advertisements did not appear to have much effect on actual voter turnout, or, voters forgot or did not report whether they noticed the advertisements.

Next year, perhaps the election committee can find a way to deliver flyers, encourage the candidates to canvass, and make more signs, posting in strategic locations within each district.