



Clintonville Area Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 5, 2015, 7-9 pm
Whetstone Library Community Room
(all times are approximate)

Members present: David Vottero, Libby Wetherholt, Judy Minister, Randy Ketcham, Jason Meek, Kris Keller, D Searcy

Members excused: Nancy Kuhel, Matt Cull

1. **7:00 p.m.** Call to order by Chairperson Kris Keller and introduction of commissioners
2. **7:05 p.m.** Consideration of prior meeting minutes
The minutes were approved as written by unanimous voice vote.
3. **7:06 p.m.** Community Update- Isom Nivins
 - *Area commission trainings are in the planning stages. Nivins requested that commissioners pass along any topics that need to be covered or any topics desired.*
 - *Walhalla Ravine: public service department assessed need for signage and felt no signage was needed to improve safety. Trimming will occur in November about one foot back from curb.*
 - *An administrator from Our Lady of Peace expressed concerns about curbs on east side of High Street; the number of storm sewer drains in the area; broken up handicap ramps; west side of High Street needs concrete path near bus stop; bus stop on High near Henderson causes back-ups. Isom has put in service requests for all of these problems.*
4. **7:10 p.m.** Treasurer's report - Commissioner Meek
Meek reported \$390 in account; waiting on estimates on website costs; also having talks about meeting signage. First estimate on initial outlay for the website would be about \$300; also has a final invoice on the illustrated map. Meek encouraged commissioners to move to wrap up any expenses so that the money can be returned to the city in preparation for getting the second distribution of funds.
Keller noted that the version the website was built on is no longer supported, so the website update is not a simple task
Vottero moved to authorize up to \$400 for expenses related to website development. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

5. **7:12 p.m.** Columbus Police Community Liaison – Officer Ted Stacy
- *Officer Stacy noted the high number of car break-ins and thefts and urged residents to not leave items in cars (including cups of change). Activity was extremely heavy south of Hudson and in OSU area.*
 - *Citizens can find information on the raidsonline site within 4-6 hours of event (<https://www.raidsonline.com>).*
 - *Another way to find the information is to use the NextDoor website: <https://nextdoor.com/>*
 - *Officer Stacy also sends out information to those who have expressed the desire to hear about it. Contact him at: stacy@columbuspolice.org and he will add you to his list.*
 - *To mark property and avoid losing it after a theft, Stacy suggests using ultraviolet pens. Use OH plus your driver's license number to mark your property.*
6. **7:30 p.m.** City Attorney's Office- Zone initiative – Katarina Karac
- Karac is part of the Zone Initiative Team, a special division in the City Attorney's office. The team specializes in quality of life issues. She encouraged citizens to keep her in the loop about such issues. The team also will work on blighted housing issues, any code enforcement issues. The team also works with civic associations and area commissions for law interpretation and community issues. She will speak at civic associations. She can be contacted at 614.645.8619 – she answers her own phone if she's available. She also can be contacted by email at kskarac@columbus.gov .*
7. **7:40 p.m.** Zoning and Variance Committee (Chairperson Bagwell)
- Bagwell reported that at their last meeting BZA approved Studio 35, Bibibop, and 68 Walhalla.
- Ketcham expressed comments regarding the Bibibop approval. He felt that the BZA was not listening to citizens' concerns. He noted that the city staff had not approved Bibibop and BZA approved it anyway.
 - Bagwell noted that the city staff changed their recommendation and did approve Bibibop once they had the parking agreement.
 - Minister (who was the Realtor for the sale) said that this use was the best use that the owner of the building could find. The owner had numerous inquiries and/or offers from other uses including: a gentlemen's smoke shop, a tattoo parlor and a beer retail store.
 - Searcy inquired regarding former parking agreements that had been called for; Bagwell responded that the city had no current parking on file for the insurance company where Bibibop's parking agreement is.

3645-3665 North High Street (Sbarro):

Variance to use existing drive thru to sell items other than coffee. Current use only allows coffee to be sold through the drive thru window.

This is a variance against a condition that was set for the previous tenants. Neighbors were upset about upkeep of the lot being done at 3 am. Bagwell will work on this. Previous condition had not been enforced.

Z&V vote: 5 yes; 0 no.

Searcy: at the time of original condition, the thinking was that loudspeakers would intrude on neighborhood.

The variance was approved: 5 yes; 1 no (Searcy); 1 abstain (Keller).

99 East Cooke Road (Watterson):

Variance from 3376.09(A)(1) (permanent signs for other uses in residential districts); to install an automatic changeable copy sign as a permanent on-premise sign.

Z&V vote: 5 yes; 0 no

- Applicant: the current sign is non-conforming because more than 50% is changeable copy; new sign will conform to that requirement;
- Vottero: expressed qualms about all night signs in the residential area
- Answer from applicant: there are requirements to dim the sign at certain hours and Watterson will meet those requirements. If there are complaints, Watterson will look at requirements and dim the sign to meet neighbors' complaints.
- Bagwell: principal stated at Z&V meeting that she will respond to requests
- Searcy: asked about the location of sign and other signs on the property.
- Answer: There will be a second variance because of stone sign that is extant.
- Sign will NOT scroll; code requires that message change instantaneously
- Bagwell responded about input from residents.

The variance was approved: 5 yes; 1 no (Searcy); 1 abstain (Keller).

8. 7:45 p.m.

Clintonville Energy Collaborative – Debby Crawford

- Crawford presented information about the collaborative. 25-30 neighbors who are passionate about conservation and renewable energy. They are using an Amish barn-raising model to get solar installed on homes. Janine Sands owns house where the first installation went in and she presented information regarding her installation.

- Goal of cooperative: to have one installation on each of the 220 streets in Cville. Solar in Ohio is very doable. The collaborative wants to increase energy efficiency and people's skill sets. They are trying to get 40 new members and to have 4 additional engineers and trades people.
- Walgreen's has solar covering its roof
- How to finance: through credit unions; different uses of collateral; KEMBA will help finance; approximate cost is \$16,500 for production system. A 30% tax credit is available until the end of this year.
- Average system will be paid for in savings in 8-12 years.
- More information about the collaborative can be obtained at: <http://cec-freedom.org> or at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CvilleEnergyC>
- Their next meeting is November 9 at 6:30 at Clinton Heights Lutheran Church.

9. 8:05 p.m. Porous Pavers – Susan Ashbrook

Asst. Dir. For Sustainability in Columbus Department of Public Utilities – part of BluePrint Columbus which is aiming to eliminate sewage overflows in Columbus.

- Green infrastructure will be going in: wetlands, porous pavement
- The color of pavers is still up in the air. Ashbrook will return to the commission with colors of pavers to choose from.
- Dominion Boulevard will have porous pavers and concrete sidewalks going in and Public Service Dept. has agreed to extend the sidewalks all the way to Dominion Middle School.
- Dixon Court, Cooke Way, Cooke Road and Foster near Watterson (parking lane only) are slated to get porous pavers.
- Columbus is committed to BluePrint, so if EPA gives the go ahead, Columbus will continue with other areas next year.
- Porous pavers are being done instead of rain gardens in some areas where houses are too dense for rain gardens. Rain Garden locations are available on website. All maps are on website and comments are being taken. An example of porous pavement is available on the basketball court near South Side Settlement house.
- Green infrastructure will be built before the lining of the sewer pipes which is also part of BluePrint Columbus. Sump pumps will be installed “in the zone” at no cost to the resident.

10. 8:25 p.m. Bat Boxes – Dylan Williams

- Chandler Franken is the Boy Scout who began this project. He built the boxes which are well-crafted with shingle roofs. A bat box similar to this retails for \$300 online. A bat box this size will hold 100-150 bats the first year; it could fit about 200. Each bat consumes its own weight in insects (predator-based control).
- The plan is that each Clintonville district will have 1 bat box. That will offset 1 ton of insects each summer. The City of Columbus could save \$15,000 per year by using these boxes and not spraying the area with insecticide.

- Dylan asked that people fill out an application and provide information regarding the spot that they have for installation. January 7, 2016 is deadline for applications. At the February CAC meeting sites will be approved. March is the desired installation time.
- In response to a question regarding rabies, Dylan stated that there is a possibility if someone is bitten; however, there have only been 12 people bitten by bats in the most recent time available.
- Maintenance issues should be negligible except for bat droppings.
- Unit like this has 83% success rate within first year.

8. 8:45 p.m. Public comments
None

9. 8:50 p.m. District Reports

- **Vottero:** he intends to look again at train noise and will use P&D as a resource.
- **Wetherholt:** Mary Rodgers from Clintonville Historical Society left a canister for fund donations to benefit high school art programs who recently decorated windows in stores in Clintonville. She also asked that we all Micaela Stratton, who died within the last two weeks, who had served as recording secretary of CAC for two years and was a friend of Clintonville in general.
- **Minister:** parking complaint regarding Farmers' Market
- **Keller:** new health food store will be opened just south of Portia's Café for vendors who used Clintonville Co-op
- **Ketcham:** Slice of Clintonville was tonight at Clintonville Woman's Club; Bibibop will open in district; Weir-Arend Funeral home will be developed in the next year.
- **Meek:** issue from earlier meeting—residential variances that we approved one and not the other were both approved
- **Searcy:** care contract on street trees on High Street has ended; stump removal on her property took two years; but a new tree was put in soon after.

10. 8:53 p.m. Adjournment