

Livingston Avenue Area Commission



Meeting Minutes

640 S. Ohio Avenue ~ Columbus, OH 43205

April 24, 2012 General Meeting

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by BS.
- 2) Roll call –CF-e, DC-ue, TG-ue
- 3) January minutes were approved 5-0-0
- 4) Ed Leonard – Franklin County Treasurer- Franklin Co. Land Bank has been around for a few years, but in 2010 the funding was expanded with the goal of preserving property values. (flyer distributed) They are primarily targeting residential properties that have an end user or strong likelihood of purchase. Has been working with HUD and Fanny Mae and can hold environmentally damaged properties without state penalties. Can also clear tax records to make room for development, seeking community input for properties to pursue. Demo blighted structures, but rebuild when possible along with side lot and Community garden projects. They are not exempt from any process, including demo applications and HRC approval. Program is funded by delinquent tax collections that goes to the districts, which only lose potential interest revenue. Projected to collect 3.5 million this year. The Cleveland Federal study has found a vacant home 500 ft. or more from your property equals a 5% drop in property value. Within 500 ft. equals a 16-22 % drop. Will seek help from City Govt. and CDC's through the process of rebuilding/renovating homes.

Q- Is Rev. John Edgar still in charge?

1. Yes.

Q-Are there any provisions to prohibit gutting homes to studs which Mr. Edgar's programs have done in the past?

-Also, provisions to ensure infill houses match surrounding properties?

Q- How can the land bank clear liens?

A- If due process has been followed, a judge can clear all liens. School Districts would lose potential delinquent charges, but they probably would not receive those funds anyway.

Q- Is it possible to clear a lien on a large factory?

A- Yes, completed a project in Gahanna where an old landfill was turned into a golf course.

Q- If an issue came to the Commission, where a potential homebuyer lost in a vote to acquire properties, would that carry any weight on the County's decision?



A- It would be considered. We may implement a deed and escrow system, where the deed is held by the County until the work is complete.

Q- Is there any apprenticeship program in place?

B- A- No, but there is an opportunity for such a program.

5) Katie O'Lone – Neighborhood Design Center – Created some design sketches for Civic and AC signs. Have an option of contracting with Preferred Sign Design, plan is to have an overall cohesive design.

- Would like to get some things finalized ASAP, also need to scout recommended sites or propose new ones.

- Need to display signs of peace to address crime in the area.

Q- Commission will make a recommendation?

A- Yes, need to also focus on location.

- These signs will be placed in the right of way so the city will replace and maintain as needed. Signs could possibly have 2 sides that reflect different neighborhoods.

6) Lorena Lacey, Columbus Coalition for Responsive Government- Not here as a Democrat or a Republican. Ran for City Council as an Independent in '05 as a result of an issue in her neighborhood where she could not identify which Council Members/Committee to contact regarding the issue. Was given the run around for months. Currently, there are 787,000 citizens in Columbus versus the 180,000 in 1914, when Council adopted current configuration. Ballot initiative will go to City Council first for adoption. If not adopted, will need to collect signatures to place it on the ballot. The majority of current Council members do not live in local neighborhoods. This initiative proposes that the city be divided into 7 wards, each with a Council member plus 4 at-large seats. A board will be created to form more boundaries and then disbanded. With the 7 plus 4 model, on average, each Council Member will represent 112,000 citizens.

Q- How will CC vote on issues?

A- Majority vote will still be enforced; the goal of the initiative is to ensure that the wishes of the citizens are reflected through their elected Ward Commissioner.

Q- How would Committees then be handled within CC?

A- There would be more individuals on each Committee that are in touch with the wishes of those they represent.

Q- Why was Ward system changed in 1914?

A- A matter of control. Concerns on immigration and racism were determining factors at that time.

Q- What served as a catalyst for this initiative?

A- Many issues in Communities city-wide have driven this i.e.: Main St. shoot outs and open air drug sales. Need 9,589 signatures to get this issue on the ballot.

Q- What is to say that the Ward 2 rep. would have any interest in the wishes of say, Ward 5?

A- If Ward 2 is adjacent to Ward 5, there is a possibility of similar concerns or possibility for contention.



- One person can not make a difference at CC, we need a change as they are not responsive.

7) Committee Reports

LS- PSa- Concerning issues with the alley south of Livingston. Has been working with BL and met with Officer John Marshall about Community Crime Patrol. Would like Commission to consider an outreach to local youth. Example, have mounted police patrol that area. According to Officer Marshall, there have been very few calls about issues with prostitution from that area so it would be hard to justify additional resources.

- Area was to be considered for the new crime patrol.
- Website should be used to pull volunteers to patrol area or make calls as needed. Need to create a gun buy-back program for the area.
- There is an issue with the apartments on Bedford where many guns were seized.

MS-HH&HS- Passed out info on sustainable kitchens pertaining to harmful plastics.

BS-PSe – Recycling program will be kicking off soon. Hoping to start a Facebook page to inform residents.

LW-ED- Looking into creating an inmate trash clean up program in OO. Also, committee has been split into two focused areas, Community headed by MSa and City headed by LW. The \$1.8 mil for rehabilitation loans for new owner occupied properties in OO will be based on 5 year residency agreement. Different levels of matching grants based on income. The St. John's CDC initiative now has some funding and is working towards being up and running soon.

MSa-ED- Met April 7th and discussed the South Side Development plan. Would like to update the info concerning this on the LAVA-C website. Working to create a business newsletter for businesses along the Livingston Corridor also discussed ways to reverse the trend of residents leaving the area.

8) Message from the Chair- None

9) Public Comments- Randall Villegas, new owner of 1970 Livingston is looking to get involved in the Community. The building is currently owned by a trust that is working on creating a business plan for the site. Joe Vilva has been investing in the area lately, the most recent project near Ace Hardware on Parsons, where local residents were hired to renovate. City issued a 41 point correction letter for violations. Was granted permission to open residential units, but approval for commercial unit is difficult. Seeking letter of support to purchase 665 22nd St. from the land bank. Was directed to the AC to gain approval. Recently purchased 669 22nd St. from Stillwater. Also owns 617 Ohio Ave., which needs a new roof, etc.

Q- Homes are being remodeled with the idea of selling to which income level?

A- Plan is to market homes to NCH employees.

- Would like to see photos of current projects or set up a site visit.

MSa made a motion to table discussion on letter of approval for Joe Vilva to purchase 665 22nd St. LW seconded, passed 2-1-2.

- Mr. Vilva meets with CC on April 26, 2012. Would like AC to reconsider tabling the issue.



LS made a motion that the LAVA-C write a letter of support to Joe Vilva for the purchase of 665 22nd. Motion passed 3-0-2.

BL- Reminder that there will be an Urban Infrastructure in May to discuss projects that will be funded by the \$6 mil that the city has been granted.

10) Adjourned at 7:56 p.m. by BS

Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____

Approved By: _____ Date: _____

