

Livingston Avenue Area Commission



Meeting Minutes

640 S. Ohio Avenue ~ Columbus, OH 43205

January 24, 2012 General Meeting

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by BS.
- 2) Roll call –MS-ue TG-ue
- 3) Presentation by MORPC
 - a. Amelia Castanza – MORPC planning division consists of 4 departments, Housing, Energy, Public Affairs and Transportation. Received funding from the Federal Govt. Role is to transfer money from Fed. Govt. to fund major roadway projects. They create a Metro Transportation Project every 4 years, currently considering the I-70/71 interchange along with Lockbourne within the next 25 years, based on requests from the city of Columbus.
 - Q-Is MORPC connected to ODOT and the cancelled projects?
 - A-The I-70/71 exchange was part of past plans which is funding the current work.
 - Q-Is MORPC's focus on Federal roadways?
 - A-No, major projects can be created for any roadway.
 - Q-Is the Streetcar Plan still active?
 - A-Yes, but it has been placed on the back burner.
 - The Livingston Ave. Corridor should be considered for any further streetcar plans.
 - b. Alex Federowicz – Visual and photo journalist who is working on a photo essay about the areas within German Village and Bexley, from Whittier to Main. Focus will be on community aspect and communication. Also researching the effect of the Obama Administration.
 - This is a very diverse area that should enjoy developments in the near future.
 - Would like to publicize community projects slated for the area, i.e. cleanups, community gardens.
 - Q-How did you choose this area?
 - A-Close to home and it is intriguing that this area has been ignored, considering the neighbors, Bexley and German Village.
- 4) Mike Puckett, City of Columbus- Will be passing the city budget Monday and memorandum of agreement for this AC stipend needs to be completed.
 - There is a current \$120. balance that has been set aside for the LAVA-C website.



-Paperwork for the Mayor's appointment for new commissioners needs to be submitted.

-AC meeting times and dates can be broadcast on Channel 21.

5) Committee Reports

The AC has 10 committees, needs to elect Sergeant at Arms (Steve Maher was elected)

BS-will open the floor to hear from each Commissioner about why they chose to be part of the AC.

BS-A two year resident of OO, City Planner at Otterbein, City and Regional Planner at OSU, was a Union organizer and has been looking for an opportunity to work in the community. Wants to create opportunities for residents to get involved along with a website for the AC that is updated daily. Also has an interest in Government Administration.

DC-grew up in Chicago, and saw how gentrification can be turned around. Has lived in Columbus for 3 years, has been focusing on Economic Development and the need of investment funds for the area. Tried to open a coffee shop in the area, was a former stock broker, former Marine, Financial planner who believes in this area. Recently had a meeting with APS which is a program that deals with at risk kids, so may consider chairing Recs and Parks to get DP Rec. involved in APS projects.

MSa-New to the AC, current owner and operator of the Book Store on Livingston. Believes time is a valuable commodity and would like to see more options for youth and family in the area. Has worked to host festivals, produce give-aways, wants to help organize an AC wide co-op or festival and change the perception of the Livingston Ave. corridor. Believes that to do this, need to develop the people of the area through education and economic development. One key demographic is the 7-12 age group. Has a Bachelors in Science, attended Wilmington and Ohio Dominican for Liberal Arts. Self-educated and looks forward to being part of the change we will see in the area. Need to broaden our volunteer pool and be able to direct volunteers toward projects or interest will be lost.

LS-long time resident and involvement in OO Civic, when it was the Bedford Civic Assoc. Was part of the OO Historic Designation Project, created an art gallery, working with YWCA, last chaired Education Committee, which was difficult due to the structure of the Columbus Public School Board and the tendency to dictate and not listen. Currently focusing on projects to empower women.

CaW-Originally from Youngstown, has a BA in History. Moved to Columbus and applied for a position for the Library 24 years ago. Currently Director of DP Library. Believes the Library should be part of the community, so she joined the AC. Understands the cycle of poverty and the role of education in breaking it. Helps organize projects to help feed children in the summer at the DP Library. Conditions in the area have proven to be worse now than they were in the past. The city has been funding certain areas, which has displaced some people, who have moved on to areas such as this that have not been the focus of the city.

-OSU is the anchor for the north area; this area needs an active anchor. Anchors can provide services and job placement.

-Parent skills are absent in many young parents these days.



LW-Became interested in the area through selling Real Estate. Discovered the OO Historic District and some of the history. Believes that the marketability of OO can spillover to adjacent neighborhoods. There are some venues that can be used for festivals, etc., such as Rickenbacher House. Community Development Corp. needs to be created for this area. Has a background in History, Community Relations, Economic Development and a BA in Photography. Has worked on the Streetcar Designation, Chic Harley Garden.

Q-could Facebook cause a conflict with Sunshine Laws?

A-It is a possibility.

-All Commission seats and committee positions should be filled so that those we represent and work with know where to turn when they have issues.

6) Adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by BS

Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____

Approved By: _____ Date: _____

