

Livingston Avenue Area Commission



Meeting Minutes 640 S. Ohio Avenue ~ Columbus, OH 43205 Annual Meeting Highlights January 12, 2013

Meeting called to order at 10am by BS.

-6 Candidates for 4 open LAVA-C seats will have 3 minutes to speak

-Cathy Fithian-Mgr. of DP Library for 3 years, VP for 1 year, is hoping to diversify info on the web at the Library. Has collaborated on Community Projects Area plans and Street Car Sculpture. This is an opportunity to serve the community in a way that often changes lives.

-Mary Simons- 40 year resident, has focused on treatments of alcoholism, housing preservation and education. A member of the South Side HEALTH Advisory and is involved in area planning. Believes AC's work best with community input.

-Terry Elliott- 33 year resident of DP, growing up DP was a walking neighborhood and kids were different. Cares about the neighborhood and the quality of life of the people. Would like to follow in the footsteps of community leaders. Neighborhood dynamics have changed and it is time for the next generation to step forward and bring the area back to where it was-

-Latrice Holmes- 8 year resident of DP, originally from Kentucky. Would like to see better access to resources. AEP employee in the past where Employee safety was a staple. Interested in safety and economic development. Was a member of the Board of Directors for the Columbus Coalition of the Homeless. Made an application for a neighborhood grant and programs that pair youth with seniors as part of the DP walking club.

-Gina Hawthorn Hill- Former DP and LAVA-C Commissioner, has worked with the FBI to get Most Wanted criminals out of the area where 15 High Grade offenders were arrested. Founder and President of Maple Tree Society which extends help to youth caught up in drugs and prostitution as they return home, including help with law clinics and paying for their immediate needs once they are released. Working with the Governor for expungements of offenders records in instances where it is a federal case. Expungements require approval from the US President. Has helped 6 recently released males with trade training and support for their families and mitigates between police and offenders families.

-Clarence Wicks- 8 year resident of Old Oaks, purchased grandparents home which has been in the family since 1964. Began involvement with OO Civic as Sargeant at Arms, attended a couple DP AC to LAVA-C planning meetings. Has been LAVA-C secretary since 2008. Also the LAVA-C Zoning Chair. Works with Code Enforcement on any city code related issues including vacant housing, simple code



violations. When the City cut code enforcement budget, began doing code rides throughout the LAVA-C boundaries and began working with the city, Department of Development, to find ways that citizens could assist Code Enforcement Officers in their area. This work led to 2 pilot programs in OO where the city would pay to board up vacant structures and the Matching Funds Grant program in OO. Is also responsible for removing the “We Buy Houses” signs often seen on city poles in the area. Would like community involvement to expand these initiatives to other Civics within the LAVA-C area.

-Treasury- 2011 stipend has been resolved and approved by City of Columbus, currently waiting for receipts to close out 2012. Will be receiving 2013 stipend during the first quarter of 2013.

-Carla Fountaine, NCH, book published in the mid '90s called Children's Grows Up. NCH has ranked # 10 Nationally. Recently built new Hospital at Parsons and Livingston. NCH now has 450 beds with additional space at OSU and Ohio Health. Will hold annual Spring Beautification which will provide flowers for local neighborhood groups and NCH owned home tenants. Call 722-3635 to volunteer at the hospital. Will be hosting a Farmers Market, dates to be announced. Also supports community gardens with 20 raised beds for community residents and employees. Has supported St. John/Holy Rosary Church. Is supporting Ganthers Place in hosting a home tour Feb. 9th from 2-4 pm. CF contact #'s 355-0788 and 355-0715.

- Driving Park Library, Alison Circle- CML has 26 locations encompassed in 7 Library Systems within I-270. Holdings Nation, Model for Community Service #1 ranking in US. Only Urban Public Library to win this distinction. 2012 there were 7 million visits, 2 million computer sessions, helped with 40 thousand job searches and 67 thousand students serviced by Homework Help Center. Strategic focus on young minds, life skills, foundation for success, My Library (Library that works for me) and a community that is successful. Will be implementing the 20/20 vision plan. The first new Library will be the new Driving Park Library and a Whitehall Library. One of the architects involved in creating plan for the DP Library is from the DP area. New location will be corner of Kelton & Y Livingston where CML purchased 7 lots including the Hair Supply Store. Working on concepts that are open and inviting, building will receive Lead Green Buildings Gold Certification. Will incorporate more exploration opportunities for kids in the new 15k sq ft building. Project will break ground in 2013, with grand opening in 2014. There will be 9 more buildings in Columbus suburbs. For updates, log on to Columbuslibrary.org/buildings.

- NDC- founded 20 years ago, is employing local college students to collaborate with neighborhoods to determine each neighborhoods needs. Has been working with LAVA-C on the Streetscape project for 2 years and based on info gathered from students efforts, made recommendations to CC for intersection pavers, street lights, and Nelson RR bridge. Move focus to Streetcar District branding and helped coordinate design plans for 200 Columbus signs and is working on a Street Sculpture series for LAVA-C neighborhood.

- Courtney Rowland- Central Community House services all LAVA-C neighborhoods and children of all ages. Has a child care and after school program,



transit arts, works with area residents to address issues, such as, safety and vacant/abandoned houses. Hosts summer block parties at Main& Champion and is working on long term strategies such as the Cease Fire model that they would like to see implemented in Columbus. Has been in the community for 75 years, and is renovating the original building at Bryden & Wilson to be used for youth programming. Should be having an open house in May and will be coordinating the Columbus Children's Parade for Sept. 7, 2013.

-James Johnson, Driving Park- Supports LAVA-C efforts and progress on the 3 C's, encourages Commissioners to be mindful of their ABC's (attitude, behavior and conduct).

-LS-OO- Meets the second Monday of each month, economics have had an impact on fund raising. Will still be organizing Wednesdays on the porch this summer. Most pressing issues in the area are dealing with absentee landlords. Believes efforts to preserve our neighborhood benefit adjacent neighborhoods.

-MS-LPNIA created in 1983, meets the second Monday of each month, 5:30 pm at St. John's .

-On Jan. 24, 6:30 pm Central Community House will be broadcasting (East Gates Civic)

-SM-Treasure Report, 2011 has been resolved. Waiting on receipts for 2012. Will be receiving 2013 stipend, fielding ideas from Commissioners on 2013 expenditures.

Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____

Approved By: _____ Date: _____

