



Livingston Avenue Area Commission
Meeting Minutes
640 S. Ohio Ave, Columbus, OH 43205
March 18, 2014
6:30pm – 8:00pm

Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes
- Candidates, 2014 Commissioner Election
- Demolition Permits
- Election, 2014
- Mark Dravallis, City of Columbus, Urban Infrastructure Funding
- 2014 Election, Livingston Avenue Area Commission
- Public Comments
- Comments from the Commissioners and the Chair
- Adjournment Comments

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by President, Brian Scarpino. Copies of the meeting agenda were distributed.

Roll Call

Brian Scarpino – Present
Terry Elliott - Present
Lucy Wolfe - Present
Clarence Wicks –Present
Latrice Holmes – Present
Mustafaa Shabazz – Present
Cathy Fithian - Late
Latrice Holmes – Excused
Clarence Wicks – Excused

Commissioner Scarpino, Candidates - 2014 Election

Peter Elencovf brought up his petition and photo ID. He stated that his address is current on his license which shows him at 1030 Geers Ave; Columbus, OH 43206.

Ella Moody brought her photo ID, and it was acknowledged that we have previously received her petition list which had 15 signatures. Ms. Moody's address on her Ohio Driver License shows her at 1325 Kent St; Columbus, OH 43205.

Brian Scarpino mentioned that on April 5, 2014, the Commission will accept final petitions and resumes for 2014 Commissioner Election at the Driving Park Library between 4:00PM and 5:00PM. 15 signatures of people who are in the neighborhood, must live or work in the neighborhood, be 18 years of age. Signatories of petition must be 18 years old and live in the community. A resume of the previous five years must be typed and submitted and a photo ID must be presented. The election will be at the next Commission meeting on April 15th, 2014, and Candidates will be allowed to make a three minute speech.

Commissioner Elliott asked if we have Ella Moody's signatures. She stated that she is under the impression that because we are restarting the election process we are asking everybody to start anew. Ms. Moody stated that she gave the petitions to Commissioner Wicks. She stated that she is not going to repeat her movements and that she is disabled.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Wolfe motioned for approval of the February meeting minutes. It was seconded by Commissioner Elliott.

The vote was carried with four in favor, zero opposed, and no abstentions.

Demolitions

Commissioner Scarpino read into the record, an email from Commissioner Wicks which was sent to Commissioner Scarpino yesterday. "I spoke with Reverend Foster about 612 and 614 Carpenter, and he has approved the demo." A motion was called for regarding this demolition, and Commissioner Shabazz requested more information. The February meeting minutes were referred to, and it was determined that there was enough recorded information for a vote to proceed.

Commissioner Wolfe moved for the demolition of 612 and 614 Carpenter. Commissioner Elliott seconded the motion, and it was carried with three in favor and one abstention, Commissioner Scarpino.

Patricia Allen, Community Liaison, Franklin County Juvenile Court, Restorative Circle

The new coordinator is Rachelle Randolph and Ms. Allen is on the Board and is the LAVA-C community liaison for the Near East Side. She will be attending the meetings, beginning with an orientation class, Saturday, March 22. They need more volunteers and are trying to get up and running as soon as possible. The program provides support to first time offenders to avoid getting a record by getting together resources for a support system.

Mary Simons asked for information on the boundaries. She mentioned zip codes 43205 and 43206. Ms. Allen offered to have the boundaries at the next meeting.

Commissioner Shabazz asked Ms. Allen to ask Ms. Randolph to come to the next meeting to provide more information. Commissioner Scarpino asked if there have been any substantive changes to the plan of the program. Ms. Allen stated that there have not been changes to the way the program is being run, though she described personnel changes. There is a conflict for the meetings with the Commission and the Circle which are currently being held. Upcoming meetings for this new area will be confirmed.

Commissioner Scarpino opened up the floor for new business.

Melvin Jones, Manager, Driving Park Library

Mr. Jones introduced himself as the new manager of the Driving Park Library. He informed us that many of our email addresses have been given to the Library so we may get emails for marketing purposes. Realtors can be contacted regarding the existing Driving Park Library at 1560 Livingston Avenue.

Commissioner Wolfe asked for the building's realtor information. Mr. Jones was unsure, but informed us that the building will be occupied until just before June 14, and that meeting rooms will be available in the new building after it is opened.

Commissioner Scarpino asked if the new building will still be called the Driving Park Branch. Mr. Jones responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Elliott asked what considerations could be made to change the name. Mr. Jones stated that this would be very expensive. He stated that he cannot see a circumstance that would cause the Library to change the name. Commissioner Elliott asked who we could contact to find out information about changing the name.

A community member asked if they will be having a grand opening. Mr. Jones responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Scarpino asked if they will have a big book sale. Mr. Jones responded in the negative.

Mark Dravillas, City of Columbus, Department of Development

Mr. Dravillas presented for the Urban Infrastructure Recovery Fund, whereby community members can list specific improvements which can be made. These suggestions for improvement will be reviewed by the City of Columbus for approval for funding. He stated that he has already received several suggestions from the convened group. He provided his business cards and stated that the City will have an online survey for approximately the next week so that community members can list, on the survey, any suggestions we have.

Commissioner Scarpino stated that he thinks Facebook would be a good place to put this information to drive more traffic to the survey site. A community member stated that she

received a survey in the mail and asked if the it was in reference to this funding. Mr. Dravillas said he is not sure if this is the same survey as the online survey.

Commissioner Shabazz asked if they can put cameras on the list of requested items. Mr. Dravillas responded that another neighborhood has asked about cameras, and that they have started a list of new ideas (including this one) which they will review before they make the next round of changes.

Commissioner Elliott asked if the UIRF is a fund that just applies to brick and mortar. Mr. Dravillas stated that this is funded with City bond money which is for brick and mortar, long-term improvements. Commissioner Elliott stated that we have been told that the date has passed. Rachel Silsdorf, Neighborhood Pride Center stated that the deadline has been extended to the March 25th and Mr. Dravillas stated that we can send emails with requests for improvements to medravillas@columbus.gov

Just before the conclusion of the meeting, former Commissioners arrived and were informed of the same items that the people at the beginning of the meeting were informed of.

Commissioner Shabazz asked Rachel Silsdorf, Neighborhood Pride Center, about the newsletters she sends out. He stated that he does not think anybody here has sent out emails about this meeting, and Ms. Silsdorf stated that they do send them out. He asked if there is a way that those people who are getting the newsletter can get information about the meeting. Ms. Silsdorf stated that she is happy to send emails out to her distribution list. Commissioner Scarpino stated that we have an email list which has never been organized and entered into a database. Commissioner Shabazz asked if he can send Ms. Silsdorf a note about the LAVA-C Commissioner election one week before the election. Ms. Silsdorf stated that she will make a note to include the election information in the next released newsletter.

Commissioner Scarpino: Community Comments

Peter Elencovf, community resident, has applied for a State Farm Grant for \$25,000. He will find out if it can be used as funding to facilitate an art center within the community. He is asking for a recommendation letter from the Livingston Avenue Area Commission to State Farm. Commissioner Scarpino stated the Commission's email address and asked Mr. Elencovf to include in the recommendation letter what he would like the Commission to state and vote on. Commissioner Shabazz asked for the project to be summarized, including who, what, when, why and where. Commissioner Scarpino stated that if he receives the recommendation letter in time to have it reviewed by the Commissioners, it can be put to a vote at the April Commission meeting. A discussion continued including Commissioner Shabazz and two community members involving the purchase of the library for the use of an art center with the combined efforts of Mary Simons, Patricia Allen, Peter Elencovf, and Commissioner Shabazz.

Brooke Gaberle, community resident, expressed concern that Mr. Elencovf informed her that he is a defrocked minister due to allegations of sexual misconduct. He denied this and accused Ms. Gaberle of libel. Commissioner Scarpino asked that the conversation come to an end.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57PM.