



Livingston Avenue Area Commission
Meeting Minutes
640 S. Ohio Ave, Columbus, OH 43205
April 15, 2014
6:30pm – 8:00pm

Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes
- Demolition Permits
- Election, 2014
- Rachelle Randolph, Franklin County Juvenile Court, Restorative Circles
- Clarence Mingo, Franklin County Auditor
- Andrew Smith, COWIC
- Public Comments
- Comments from the Commissioners and the Chair
- Adjournment Comments

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by President, Brian Scarpino.

Roll Call

Brian Scarpino – Present
Terry Elliott - Present
Lucy Wolfe - Present
Clarence Wicks –Present
Latrice Holmes – Present
Mustafaa Shabazz – Present

Rachelle Randolph, Community Coordinator - Franklin County Juvenile Court, Restorative Circle Program

Ms. Randolph presented for the program. Currently, there are 3 Community Restorative Circles up and running successfully (since August 2013) in the areas of Franklinton, the South Side and Weinland Park.

The purpose of the program is to keep first time offenders out of the criminal justice system by exploring other alternatives for their particular situation. They are in the process of starting another 4 Circles by the

end of Summer in the areas of the Near East Side, North Linden, Milo Grogan and Westerville.

2014 Election for Commission

Candidates' speech presentations

- Brenten Johnson
- Ella Moody
- Josephine Copeland
- Margaret Nesbitt
- Michael Aaron
- Monica Stith
- Nina Craddolph
- Patricia Allen
- Peter Elencovf

Clarence Mingo, Auditor - Franklin County Ohio

Mr. Mingo informed us that property is valued every 6 years, due Summer 2014, for all 88 Ohio counties. He noted that this valuation may have a marginal impact on property taxes. . New values indicate worth on the open market value, which may have a marginal impact on property taxes. Tax reduction opportunities that can save up to several hundred dollars include:

Homestead Exemption – a program that assists senior (age 65 or older) and disabled citizens in Franklin County by providing a substantial tax savings on the real estate or manufactured home taxes. allows up to a \$25,000.00 deduction for seniors or homeowners. He states that most senior citizens save \$40.00 - \$100.00 per month with this exemption. Eligible applicants should apply and can receive a retroactive credit for up to one year. On any mortgage or deed only one spouse needs to be 65 years or older to apply if he or she is a homeowner and makes less than \$30,000.00 (aggregate for all persons listed on the deed) per year (as of January 2013). Homestead exemptions are not impacted by reverse mortgages. Persons with a Homestead Exemption granted before January 2014 are grandfathered into the exemption.

2 ½% Supplemental Property Tax Rollback - given to homeowners on their annual tax bill for their primary place of residence.

For more information, go to <http://www.franklincountyauditor.com/tax-reductions> or call (614)525-HOME or (614)525-4663

Andrew Smith, Community Relations Coordinator - Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation (COWIC)

Mr. Smith presented for COWIC, Central Ohio's one-stop employment services provider. Personalized job and development resources are provided for youth, adult, veteran and transitional employees, including ex-offenders. There are over 310 companies as employers in industries including manufacturing and retail for both the public and private sectors.

COWIC services include:

Ohio Means – job center for businesses and job seekers, <http://www.ohiomeansjobs.com>

Basic Computer Literacy Classes

Work Readiness Workshops – resume development and interview techniques

Register by calling (614)221-3398 or (614)559-5052

Roads2Work – 5 week training program for employment in the truck/transportation industry
Call (614)559-5150

Commissioner Shabazz asked if there will be a new access point for COWIC. Mr. Smith noted that one is being opened near the Michael B. Coleman Health Center, Columbus West Side. The current locations:

COWIC – Headquarters Office

1111 E. Broad St., Suite 201
Columbus, Ohio 43205
614-559-5052
<http://cowic.org/>

COWIC Satellite Office

Jewish Family Services
1070 College Avenue
Columbus OH 43209
614-237-9675
<http://www.jfscolumbus.org/JobSeeker.asp>

COWIC Satellite Office

Goodwill Columbus
1331 Edgehill Rd, Columbus, OH 43212
614-583-0365
<http://www.goodwillcolumbus.org/job-training/>

COWIC also has a Jobs Mobile, a 38 foot mobile coach with 12 Wi-Fi Accessible computers.

Commissioner Scarpino mentioned that Driving Park was awarded as a Neighborhood Pride neighborhood for 2014 and would like COWIC to participate.

Mr. Smith informed us that COWIC is taking part as a resource organization.

Commissioner Holmes inquired about times and scheduling for the Jobs Mobile.

Mr. Smith informed us that the Jobs Mobile are scheduled according to events, i.e., on site for 2 hours to a half-day.

Commissioner Elliott asked if there is a connection with COWIC and AARP (employment and training services for seniors).

Mr. Smith informed us that AARP is one of the service providers which can be accessed through COWIC. He will provide more detailed information.

Shannon Hardin, Community Relations Coordinator - Office of Mayor Coleman

Mr. Hardin presented on behalf of City Councilman Hearcel Craig, Candidate for State Representative, 26th House District. Craig is currently in Washington DC as the representative for the Veterans Affairs, Special Task Force, appointed by President Obama. He has served the community via City Council for several years. He is accessible, caring, and a lifelong Columbus resident. He also Chairs the APPS Program, where the program works:

- for gang reduction to remove guns
- to intervenes in the lives of those who won't come into the recreation centers
- to open the recreation centers as a positive place to meet

Craig is supported by Mayor Coleman and Senator Beatty.

Demolition Permits

Commissioner Wicks

699 Ohio Ave, Demo #406212

On the demo list since April 2014

1 1/2 story single family residence with an adjacent vacant home at 705 Ohio, which has since been purchased

Reasons for demolition - loaded gun found on the property, state of the property; length of time it has been vacant; and no historical value

Commissioner Wicks - Motion to approve demolition; 2nd (Elliott)

No comments

Chair abstains, all others in favor

- 752-754 Gilbert has been applied for demolition

Commissioner Elliott

Referenced four demolitions which she will review with the Driving Park Civic Association for approval for demolition during the May Commission meeting:

- 791-793 Seymour, Demo #408477 – City-owned, land bank signed off on 4/7/2014
- 801-803 Kelton Ave, Demo #408499 - City-owned, land bank, expires June 2014
- 700 Miller Ave, Demo #408474 – City-owned, land bank, expires June 2014
- 1012 Lockbourne Demo #407392 - Issued 3/27/2014; Received 4/13/2014; Expires 5/26/2014

Comments from Commissioners and the Chair

Commissioner Shabazz applauded the Elections Committee.

Commissioner Elliott referenced the commercial property for sale at Livingston and Geers Avenues. The last sale went to Thomas C. Smith. They were planning to open a Flamingo Club which is a hotel upstairs and a bar and restaurant downstairs. She asked code enforcers to find out if people were working with permits. They were working without permits. The building is now for sale again.

Commissioner Holmes has contacted the Neighborhood Pride Center for street sweeping signage and to request to have the LAVA-C areas designated as official areas for scheduled street sweeping, as with other neighborhoods like German Village and Harrison West.

She also noted that she made requests for sidewalks, street repairs and bicycle paths for Driving Park, submitted to the Department of Development via the Urban Infrastructure Recovery Fund. .

Commissioner Holmes mentioned her concern over Brooke Gaberle taking the meeting minutes as an official record of business, not being a Commissioner. It was agreed that Ms. Gaberle take meeting minutes as a back-up to supplement Commissioner Holmes' meeting minutes and in her absences as the official record of meeting minutes.

There was a motion made for the approval of the March meeting minutes. The vote was carried with a vote of two in favor and three abstentions.

Public Comments

Erica Coleman, Secretary - Livingston Avenue Business Association

Ms. Coleman informed us that that Association met on Saturday, April 5 and will continue to meet every 1st Saturday from 3:00pm – 5:00pm at the Driving Park Library to discuss local business decisions.

Patrica Allen, Receptionist - Buckeye Preparatory Academy

Ms. Allen has been hired as the Receptionist, start date, April 24, 2014. The school location is: 1414 Gault Street, Columbus OH 43205. The school has a donation request for books and gym equipment.

She also provided more information, as the liaison for the Franklin County Juvenile Courts, Restorative Circles program, indicating that volunteers will be drug-tested and a background will performed.

Peter Elencovf, community resident addressed the fees for the drug test and background check. Ms. Allen affirmed that those fees are paid through the program, not by the volunteer.

John Whitten, President - Driving Park Civic Association

Mr. Whitten is the new President of the DPCA, succeeding James Johnson. Meetings are held every 3rd Wednesday, 5:30pm – 7:00pm at Hope Lutheran Church, 820 Lilley Avenue Columbus OH 43205.

Mr. Whitten informed us that there is a community clean-up this weekend and that he will be working with Commissioner Shabazz for Neighborhood Pride in October. There are many activities planned at the recreation center that he invited residents to have their children and grandchildren attend.

2014 Commissioners

Assistant City Attorney Shayla Favor and Sergeant-at-Arms/community resident, Attorney Steve Maher tallied the votes for the 214 Commission Election. The newly elected Commissioners:

Josephine Copeland
Nina Craddolph
Margaret Nesbitt

Favor swore in the new Commissioners.

*Candidate Ella Moody, who left the meeting after giving her speech for candidacy returned after the vote and swearing in of officers to challenge the vote. Commissioner Elliott announced the tallied votes, where Ms. Moody received the least of all with 5 total votes. Ballots were collected and sealed. Ms. Moody indicated that she plans to challenge the vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm