



**Livingston Avenue Area Commission
Meeting Minutes
640 S. Ohio Ave, Columbus, OH 43205
March 17, 2015
6:30pm – 8:00pm**

Meeting Called to Order at 6:34pm

Roll Call

Terry Elliott – Present
Brian Scarpino – Excused
Josephine Copeland – Present
Mustafaa Shabazz – Present
Margaret Nesbitt – Present
Latrice Holmes – Present
Lucy Wolfe – Present

Guest Speakers

Hearcel Craig, Ohio State Representative, District 26

<http://www.ohiohouse.gov/hearcel-f-craig/biography>

Craig has introduced to Bills to the House of Representatives:

HB102 – Regarding amendments to the Ohio Revised Code to provide a bid preference for state contracts to a veteran-owned business and to authorize a personal income and commercial activity tax credit for a business that hires and employs a veteran for at least one year.

HB105 – Regarding amendments to the Ohio Revised Code to permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.

Both House Bills have bi-partisan co-sponsorship: Representative Niraj Antani - (HB102)and Representative Rick Pereles (105)

Craig also co-sponsored John Crawford Law (gun control) which was approved by Governor Kasich.

HB53 - Regarding the State Transportation Budget was passed unanimously. It is a two-year, \$7 billion state transportation budget that largely funds Ohio's infrastructure projects over the next two fiscal years. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will receive \$2.88 billion in FY16 and \$2.99 billion in FY17, while Public Safety and funding for local infrastructure projects will see \$1.19 billion over the next two years. H.B. 53 also adds training course requirements for prospective drivers and requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to allow credit and debit card payments at local branches.

Today, Craig was honored and inducted into the [Military Order of the Purple Heart](#) at the Ohio Statehouse. He is a Vietnam era veteran. This organization, Composed exclusively of Purple Heart recipients, is the only veterans service organization comprised strictly of "combat" veterans.

Discussion:

Commissioner Shabazz – What is the status of the legalization of marijuana in the state of Ohio? Like far too many liquor stores in our community, we don't want too many marijuana dispensaries. We don't want a disproportionate amount of dispensaries in an area that is already burdened. What do we do to protect our community?

Clarence Wicks – supporting Commissioner Shabazz's concerns, where like the Liquor Control Board, he does not wish to have unlimited dispensaries. There needs to be some oversight.

Craig – There are petition drives to see if the public will support it's legalization, but currently, it's not in legislation. Thousands and thousands of verified signatures are needed for it to reach the ballot for vote. Be sure to contact your legislator.

Monica Hawkins, Organizer for Andrew Ginther, Candidate for Columbus Mayor

Hawkins was raised on the South side of Columbus and resides on the East side. She and her son are both OSU graduates. An attorney and former social worker, she unsuccessfully ran for Judge, Franklin County Common Pleas Court. She believes people are reactionary. As an organizer she is part of the outreach staff for the African-American community for Ginther's campaign. Is mother raised over 50 kids in foster care, of which he is one. He has served on the Columbus School Board, is the current President, City Council and actively advocates to reduce the infant mortality rate by serving on the Infant Mortality Taskforce, amongst other things. Ginther has the experience, wherewithal and city governance to be successful.

Discussion:

Commissioner Shabazz – African-American relations are not what they appear to be. More minority police officers need to be recruited, with advertisements.

Hawkins – She will take this back to the Chief of Police and Ginther.

Commissioner Nesbitt – Ginther is visiting other communities, not ours.

Commissioner Elliott – Thanked Hawkins for coming and invited her to come back and extended an invitation to bring Ginther with her.

Kevin Bolding – Karimah Homes

Karimah Homes is a home re-modeling and fire restoration veteran-owned business. Bolding is MBE, DBE, EDGE and RRP certified. He is a retired union pipe fitter, Local 189. He is on the list of contractors for the James A. Johnson Home Repair Grant Program. He just completed a home restoration at 165 Rainbow, where his goal is not to flip houses, but to turn them around so that they are liveable. In the past, he has bid low, for the benefit of his client, not because he is incapable of doing the work. He wants to make his services available for any upcoming projects.

Discussion:

Commissioner Elliott – Kevin is a commendable father and husband. He is no-nonsense. He bids low to help out in the community and she is hopeful that his business will flourish.

Committee Reports:

Economic Development – Commissioner Shabazz

Nothing to report; next meeting to be the first Saturday in April.

Parks and Recreation – Commissioner Holmes

Nothing to report

Government - Commissioner Wolfe

City Budget/Mayor Coleman, March 18, 2015, Driving Park Recreation Center

*Commissioner Elliott will introduce Mayor Coleman

Zoning – Commissioner Elliott

Demolitions

#1506077 – unsafe building; garage private owner
no vote needed

954 Miller, #1505596 – not a landbank

Lakeside REO Ventures, LLC

Approved for demolition by the John Whitten, President, Driving Park Civic Association

Kevin Bolding – How does this [demolitions] work?

Commissioner Elliott – The City of Columbus presents us with a list in goodwill in case property demolitions are up for challenge, as in for historical significance.

Commissioner Wolfe motioned to demolish; Commissioner Nesbitt 2nd

aye 4, 2 abstentions; Motion passes

Health Department – Commissioner Nesbitt

Cookbook is almost ready

Education – Commissioner Copeland

Copeland attended the “World Café” meeting on 2/23, the 3rd of three listening tour meetings hosted by Columbus City Schools. This meeting consisted of representatives from the government, community, teachers and students.

There were 3 main questions:

- 1) What key principals need to be included in the Columbus City Schools 2020 Vision Statement?
- 2) What community assets (resources) do we need?
- 3) How might the district and community work together to achieve this vision?

The first listening session was a focus group (government) and the second listening session was a Town Hall meeting.

Treasury Report

2013 Budget = \$1,250.00

Spent \$900.00

Can account for \$575.05

The bank statements are needed from Commissioner Scarpino, website fees and additional \$30 - \$40 in miscellaneous expenses. These are needed to complete the report and close the books.

The bank account was previously in the name of Commissioners Shabazz (Treasurer) and Commissioner Scarpino (President) until a new bank account was opened when Ryan Reisiger became Treasurer in November 2013, where he and Commissioner Scarpino were signors on a new account.

Commissioner Shabazz is not liable and will not sign-off on an incomplete book. 2014 funds were lost. The last bank statement received was dated 10/17/14. Commissioner Scarpino is no longer receiving bank statements. Rachel Silsdorf, City of Columbus, Neighborhood Pride Center, is out of the office. Commissioner Elliott will submit what is available upon her return.

Commissioner Holmes motioned to adjourn; Commissioner Wolfe 2nd

All in favor

Meeting adjourned 7:55pm