

North Central Area Commission Meeting

March 4, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Web site: ncacolumbus.wix.com/ncac

Facebook: North Central Area Commission

Call to Order: Tiffany White called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Carl Lee prayed the invocation.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Alfonso Hooper, Reno Lemons, Tiffany White, Asmara Williams, and Bee Tolber (arrived at 6:15)

Community Liaison Report: Alfred Akainyah; phone is 614-645-7964, cell 614-678-2605, email:

aaakainyah@columbus.gov. – Reminder to keep the website updated. Towing for public streets began March 1st.

Use 311 to report potholes. Recommend we start talking about our budget so it's ready to be submitted in June (funds will likely be \$2,500). Recommend to include best practices and three year terms in our by-laws. There is no standard language for the code of conduct, but he will provided an example. Good Neighbor Agreements - City is not encouraging us to enter into them w/ contractors because they are not enforceable.

Police Liaison Report: Sgt. Ed Daniher, Officer Dan Yanrich; Sgt. Rich, and Sgt. Szabo are here today. Officer Zacher has taken a 6 month temporary job in background. Sgt. Szabo will be new to the area – Lt. Rich will be leaving. We are concerned about the dumping in area, speeding, would like patrols around the cemetery, shootings, drugs, prostitution, speeding happens all through the day, parties in the cemetery, trash, etc. The road that leads into the cemetery is part of the issue - they will try to get with their City contacts too to get this area closed. At what point does this become a nuisance – volume of calls for service is the data to help solve this; run volume; part of the issue is if we go to a court and request nuisance they need on paper evidence.

- We are trying to be proactive but the legal system is reactive, so how can we go about doing this? It's hard to get cruisers to come out. What is it going to take? We are trying to prevent incidents from occurring, but there are lots more shots fired then in the past but we have less patrol.
- Who is our best contact person while Officer Zacher is gone? Officer Shawn Lutz – splutz@columbus.org
- Asked Chassidy Barham - Is there formula for a frequency of patrols for a public nuisance lawsuit? They need phone calls as the records/evidence. Should be Continuous phone calls –we call in anonymously; file police reports about the other activity too.
- Work with Code Enforcement too as it relates to the cemetery.
- The ACE program was a joint effort in the past, Mr. Hooper, wants to bring this program back. There are plans in the works to bring some kind of solution. We want to work together to do something.
- We want them to speak about gun reform and stand your ground too. We would like to receive the crime data more frequently. Also we can go to www.communitycrimemaps.com to see these, it is updated daily.
- CLO's will be told to work with the cemetery property owner and try to get signage, work with Code too. We emphasized it will be hugely helpful for them to reach out to Cemetery, we have tried and not been successful.
- Maybe we should involve news media too?

Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2021: Asmara Williams motioned to approve. Bee Tolber seconded.

Meeting Agenda Approval: Asmara Williams motioned to approve. Bee Tolber seconded.

City Council Liaison: Sandra Lopez, srlopez@columbus.gov, 614-645-8502: They have been following up with concern around the cemetery and community center (Zach Klein looking into this). Public hearing today for Vision Zero – reduce transit fatalities; look at speed limit change, problem corners, etc. (<https://vision-zero-columbus.hub.arcgis.com/>). City allocated money to Habitat of Mid-Ohio for homes that need repair (owner occupied initiate for people over 65 who have a number of code violations), IMPACT also offering home and car repair assistance, rental and utilities assistance too. Program to help seniors to graduate. She will let us know when redistricting committee will start to meet.

Presentations:

- Adam Gray, Refuse Division: District Asst. Manager - Solid Waste Investigation Team asgray@columbus.gov
 - Alise Thompson brought up: someone has been dumping trash in her back yard every few months. She has surveillance now and will save the mail just in case. Refuse will take a look at this.
 - There is an area on Sunbury that gets a lot of trash (across from old Dairy Queen), City owns two parcels but another owner owns some. Maybe a special scenario since this seems to be a known dumping area. How do we get a camera? (it cannot be on private property)
 - Wentworth – almost daily dumping here still; they are still working on identifying the person.
 - City moves cameras around to get a lot of coverage. There are full time illegal dumping crews to clean up – rotate throughout the City. They will be back around to clean up Wentworth.
 - Corridor clean up would be a good thing. Recs and Park should be doing their areas. Keep Columbus Beautiful has not been able to do many clean up events this year.
 - If it's on private property, he will work with Chassidy Barham.
 - Asked if there is a way they would have to serve their community service hours cleaning up North Central, maybe this could be recommended by the Judge? Chassidy Barham will double check if this is a viable recommendation.
 - They post on social media, public services pages, share the photos of suspects to help with try to identify who it is.
 - Last year they billed over \$13,000 for clean-ups. Civil violations they can use too.
 - He will be moving at the end of March to a different role, Jeff Johnson will be taking over then.
- Chassidy Barham:
 - Filed a lawsuit for 1799 E Hudson Sunoco gas station. Set for a hearing on March 15th. 1467 E 17th (A-Z recycling) that property is now in compliance per Code Enforcement
 - 1725 E 25th – status conference on March 26th.
 - Retaliatory evictions – anyone experiencing this, contact Cassondra Scurlock 614-645-3093 clscurlock@columbus.gov
 - Channel 6 called Wallace McLean about the graveyard, he has a camera now.
 - 1725 E 26th – they have been cleaning this out
 - Douglas McDonald
 - 2262 – Dartmouth Avenue – 13 wrecked cars sitting in the back of the property, roof is falling in.
 - 2287 E 5th Ave and Crosby
 - Family Dollar – boarded up windows; we would prefer they have roll downs so the windows don't get broken at night.
- Tim Dietrich – Joe Weithman and Alexa – old Shepard Library building
 - Seeking rezoning to C2 (allows for medical office use), currently part is C4 which is more generally, would limit future uses. This zoning would allow for a Columbus Police and Fire joint wellness center – counseling and mental health wellness, employee assistance personnel, not open to the public.

- Currently 30 parking spaces – want to update to 41 (38 secured and three visitors) - future
 - 3 fleet vehicles will remain overnight
 - If expand in the future (then will have to do new storm plan for this site)
- They plan to keep exterior very similar. Minimal signage on the building but there will be some screening (ornamental metal fence, it will not be completely opaque). Parking lot surrounded by a decorative fence – allow views into park and site.
 - Will eliminate the existing sidewalk that goes from building to public right of away
 - Add a masonry screening wall
 - Change existing drive to a single lane (190 feet from intersection).
- Park and playground equipment are a separate parcel.
- Minor parking lots changes - 28 secured parking spaces for now.
- COTA bus stop will remain.
- We want the statue to remain in the neighborhood and visible to the neighborhood. We don't want them to paint the brick, it will make it stand out. They said they have a limited budget so they will only make minimal exterior updates.
- They already rec'd some comments back from the City: recommended CPD text and add variance for parking lot shade trees (no island trees). CPD makes sense to do because there are multiple variances;
 - No islands and trees – just shade trees around the perimeter.
 - Will often have larger vehicles here too.
- Interior will be completely remodeled
 - Fitness area (not a gym, but really a limited area for yoga studio or limited weights)
 - Will be police and fire offices for personnel in charge of mental health;
 - There will be weapons allowed in this facilities.
 - Normal hours are 8-5, maybe later but if there is a crisis it could be used. It will not be manned 24 hours a day but EAP people are on call.
- Goal is to start this calendar year, but might be next year.
- Variances:
 - 3312.21 perimeter parking screen required – eliminate along east and south property lines (to park)
 - 3312.41 - Eliminate pedestrian sidewalk (from building to sidewalk along nelson)
 - 3312.49 – increase parking spaces from 31 to 41 (won't happen right away)
 - 3321.09 – eliminate screening required along east and south property lines by still providing decorating fencing
 - Reno made a motion to approve the variances as listed, Asmara Williams – none opposed.
 - They will let us know about when they go to the development commission meeting.

Committee Reports

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Wallace McLean

- N/A

ZONING, BUILDING AND HOUSING COMMITTEE: Reno Lemons

- N/A

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE: Bee Tolber

- N/A

RECREATION & PARKS COMMITTEE: Reno Lemons

- N/A

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: Asmara Williams

- N/A

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Carl Lee

- N/A

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE: Sean Ruffin

- N/A

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Airport: Alfonso Hooper and Wallace McLean
- Elections/Bylaws Procedures:
- SmartCity:
- **NEW** Safety Committee – Carl Lee will chair this. There is a neighborhood safety resources center too, they can provide some resources- Alfred will connect them to Carl. Maybe do meetings in the different areas too. Douglas McDonald is willing to work with this too. Marches every Monday. Carl Lee will set up kick off meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. with prayer by Carl Lee.