

Southwest Area Commission
Minutes
Wednesday, July 16, 2008
New Horizons United Methodist Church, 1665 Harrisburg Pike

Call to Order: Chairperson, Ralph Horn, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: R. Bertossi, R.Horn, J. Kaufman, E. Kirk, E.McCleaf, C.Miller, J. Miller, R. Miller, E. Walters. M.Hammonds and K. Williamson-Thacker arrived after the roll call. Absent: B. Collignon. Also present: B.Lee, Neighborhood Services J.Lee, Code Enforcement., J. Spurlock, Zone Officer, Assistant City Attorney.

Planning Division: Ben Weiner, County Planning Department, thanked Franklin County Commissioners for providing the funds that allowed usage of the school for the Public Workshop on June 24. He also discussed information gathered at that meeting.

Invited Guests: Representatives from the County and the City were invited to discuss the proposal to use Cooper Stadium as a motor racetrack. SWAC did not receive a response from any of the invited guests. Commissioners expressed disappointment and frustration due to the lack of response.

R.Bertossi stated that he received a letter from a private citizen suggesting that the Cooper Stadium site be used for the Franklin County dog Shelter. Additional suggestions for usage of the site should be forwarded to the citizen group R.O.A.R.

Zoning: J.Lee, Code Enforcement stated that Roof to Road is in the process of completing paperwork for variance requests.

Crime in America: Toni Daniels explained the new program, Crime in America. This is a crime prevention program geared for adults. A community resource guide with self help suggestions to fight crime will be available to the public.

Routine Business:

1. Review of Agenda. Agenda approved.
2. Review of Minutes. Motion to approve made by E. Kirk. Seconded by E.Walters

Chairperson, R.Horn stated the order on the Agenda will changed due to the number of persons attending the meeting with interest in the vote concerning annexation. Discussion about the concept of annexation of land on Jackson Pike to the City of Columbus ensued. Presentation was made by opponents to the annexation. M..Lilly (Jackson Township Administrator); Attorney J. Chester (Manheim Auto Auction); C. Boso (Development Director, Grove City) and B.Lutz (Jackson Township Trustee), discussed the reasons for their opposition.

Motion made by C.Miller to vote for the approval of the concept of annexation of the land on Jackson Pike into the City of Columbus. Motion seconded by E.Kirk. Vote: 10 against; 1 abstained (Ralph Horn). Motion failed.

New Business:

1. C. Miller requested a motion to approve a check of up to \$30. for R.Miller for printing and supplies. Motion to approve the amount as requested made by R.Bertossi. Seconded by K.Williamson-Thacker.. Vote: unanimous approval.

2. R. Miller stated that B. Collingnon had missed 3 meeting as of the June meeting. A letter was sent to him reminding him that our bylaws state 4 missed meetings are considered a resignation unless there is extenuating circumstances. The July meeting was the 4th missed meeting. He submitted reasons for missing the meetings. As our bylaws require, a vote is required to determine if he can continue to maintain his position due to extenuating circumstances. Motion made by R.Bertossi that 3 meetings be excused due to extenuating circumstance. Seconded by: C. Miller. Vote: unanimous approval.

3. E. Kirk had submitted his resignation due to health reasons. Due to an improvement in his health, he withdrew the resignation and will continue to maintain his position as a Commissioner.

4. C. Miller stated that as a Commission, we need to start participating in the development of the Capital City Improvement budget and the City budget. This is where funding comes from for improvements to the Commission Area.

5. Election update: K. Williamson-Thacker discussed details for the election. Fliers will be printed and distributed. Motion made by R. Bertossi to approve \$150. for the printing of fliers. Seconded by R. Miller. Vote: unanimous approval.

6. J. Kaufman discussed the details of National Night Out.

7. Private citizen D.Parsons had questions about the Agenda process. He also expressed frustrations with lack of delivery of The Messenger to parts of the commission area.

8. R.Miller stated that due to time constraints suggested changes to the bylaws would not be reviewed during this meeting.

9:10 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by R. Bertossi. Seconded by C. Miller

Next Meeting: August 20, 2008

Submitted by: R. Miller

