

Southwest Area Commission
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Meeting Place: New Horizons United Methodist Church
1665 Harrisburg Pike, Columbus, Ohio 43223
www.columbusswac.org

Minutes
Wednesday October 21, 2009

Location: New Horizon United Methodist Church
1665 Harrisburg Pike
Columbus, Ohio 43223

Call To Order: Chairperson, Jason Waltke, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present; Ralph Horn, Rita Miller, Jason Waltke, Juanita Kaufman, Clyde Miller, Jennifer Miller, Kathy Hatfield (late), Ed Walters, & Stefanie Coe Also Present: Tim Guyton, Franklin Township Trustee, Don Cook, Franklin Township Trustee. Quorum Present.

Absent: Kathleen Williamson-Thacker

Time Guidelines: Time guidelines were reviewed and J. Waltke indicated that all speakers should remember to respect all of those present.

Zoning: S. Coe indicated that Jeff Brown contacted her and asked to be included on the November agenda because he and his client are not prepared to address the commission at this time.

Zoning: J. Waltke indicated that Stanly Young contacted him because the hearing for their graphics variance had been moved from November to October 20, 2009. J. Waltke indicated that although the hearing may have already taken place we should take a position. C. Miller moved to support the variance request made by Speedway. E. Walters seconded the motion. Voice Vote Taken: R. Horn, R. Miller, J. Waltke, J. Kaufman, C. Miller, J. Miller, E. Walters and S. Coe all voted in favor of the motion. Result: Motion Approved.

Guests: Jon Blackwood, Program Coordinator for Paving the Way presented information on their organization. He provided each Commissioner with his business card and encouraged us to contact him with any questions or check the website for information. Mr. Blackwood indicated that Paving the Way is a central location for road construction information. They are federally funded and hosted by the City of Columbus with cooperation from Franklin County and ODOT. They have two primary focuses, education and coordination of efforts. Once a month on the first Tuesday of the month they organize a meeting to discuss upcoming projects. They also support educational campaigns for issues like deer season, danger of blocking intersections etc. He highlighted a few ongoing projects in the southwest area. Clime Road is closed in both directions for a short time now but when it reopens in late November traffic will flow in both directions. The Harrisburg Pike project should be halfway completed by late December. He also indicated that the Alkire Road project will start in 2010 and some water line work on Brown Road may cause some closures as well. Paving the Way can be reached via email or at 645. PAVE.

Public Announcements: Tim Guyton indicated that Franklin Township leaf pick up will start November 9th and continue through December 4th. During this time brush pick up will be suspended. T. Guyton reminded everyone to

go out and vote on November 3rd. He also indicated that last year there was a salt shortage for winter road treatment but this year they are in a better position. He indicated that they committed to 180-220 tons early to secure plenty of salt. He indicated that although they should have plenty of salt they still plan to be conservative with the amount they use for two main reasons. They want to conserve money and protect the environment. He also indicated that the township is getting bids to have some trees that are dead or dying and are located in the right of way removed. Once the trees are cut down the firewood will be available to township residents and then other members of the community. C. Miller asked if there had been any follow up regarding ODOT's plans to run 36 inch storm lines into 10 inch lines on Hopkins Road. T. Guyton indicated that there have been some meetings but to date no satisfactory resolution has been reached. The township has confirmed that the drain lines on Hopkins Road are clear and in good repair.

Public Announcements: D. Parsons indicated that he circulated a petition to the residents near the XTRA Truck Lease site on Frank Road. He indicated that they are unhappy about the gravel. He took the petition to the BZA and the BZA granted the variance. He indicated that the Commission should make all residents come out and give their opinion. C. Miller asked why the people weren't at our meeting. R. Miller indicated that every single house in that area received a flyer regarding our election and the Commission. S. Coe explained that we listen and ask questions regarding these requests at one meeting and then vote a month later. So if he or others have concerns they have time to come to the next meeting. R. Horn indicated that when a request like this is made all the adjoining property owners are given notice. S. Coe asked for a copy of the petition so we could contact the people who signed and asked them to come to our meetings. E. Walters asked Mr. Parsons how he suggested we get more people to attend our meetings. C. Miller indicated a "point of order" and the discussion ended.

Routine Business: The commission reviewed the agenda and it was approved.

Routine Business: The minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and approved.

Unfinished Business: S. Coe indicated that following the last meeting she contacted Joe Sugar, the attorney for the developer of the Cooper Stadium site. Mr. Sugar responded by email that he would be happy to attend a meeting and present information on the project. He indicated that they were preparing to file their application for Zoning. He provided a contact name and number to set up a time for them to address the Commission. C. Miller expressed concern that we may need to take a position on the development sooner rather than later. S. Coe indicated that we will need to take a position but without more information we don't know what we are taking a position on. S. Coe will follow up with the contact to set up a meeting.

New Business: C. Miller contacted Priscilla Tyson's office to arrange a discussion about the improvements we would like to see in the Southwest Area. He was referred to Rick Tilton in Development. Rick indicated that there are two bike path projects in the works for 2010 or 2011. Rick indicated we could provide a list of locations where we think sidewalks and streetlights are needed. The Commission discussed the list of projects we are interested in seeing get started or planned for. We discussed sidewalks or shared use paths along Frank Road and Brown Road. We also discussed sidewalks on Hardy Parkway, Gantz Road and Harrisburg Pike. Street lighting is still needed in sections of Willow Creek and Stoneridge. The Commission also discussed the potential need for a traffic light at Gantz Road and Hardy Parkway. The Commission agreed to focus on the Area Plan and the necessity that all the involved jurisdictions work together. S. Coe will draft a letter to all involved governmental officials to discuss at the November meeting.

New Business: S. Coe indicated that we received an application for the City of Columbus 2010 Neighborhood Pride events. Although there is some confusion as to how the event works and how small of an area we can focus on the Commission agreed to submit an application. S. Coe will try and get more information and suggestions from other communities and will draft an application for review at the November meeting.

Reports: K. Hatfield reported that the mailbox is \$60 and she will be sending a check this week since the expenditure was approved at the September meeting. The account balance is \$193.82. S. Coe indicated that we need to complete the reports required by the City so we can get the second half of the money. C. Miller indicated that we should pay the church rent ahead so we don't lose the money at the end of the year. C. Miller moved to allocate \$160 for rent of the church. S. Coe seconded the motion. Result: Unanimous Approval.

Reports: R. Miller indicated that during the September Neighborhood Clean Up Event they noticed graffiti in Stoneridge Park. She reported the graffiti to the City.

Reports: J. Kaufman reminded everyone that Trick or Treat is from 6-8 on October 29th and to look out for the children.

Campaign Guests: Claire Hummer, Franklin County Municipal Court Judge Candidate Mark Hummer's sister, was present and distributed some literature for her brother. She asked everyone to support him in the November election.

J. Miller moved to adjourn the meeting and E. Walters seconded the motion.
Result: Unanimous Approval.

Meeting Adjourned 8:32pm.
Submitted by S. Coe