

Southwest Area Commission
Meeting Place: Hope Central Church
1553 Brown Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43223

Southwest Area Commission (SWAC)
Prepared for approval by Kristin Hayes

Chair: FeLisa Jenkins
Vice-Chair: Open
Secretary: Kristin Hayes
Fiscal Officer: Maurice Jenkins

Meeting Location: Online

Minutes for: January 19, 2021

6:30 p.m. Meeting called to order.

Commissioners:

Present: Maurice Jenkins, Liz Reed, FeLisa Jenkins, Kristin Hayes, Peggy Fossett, George Wagner, and Patty Spencer.

Absent: Don Parsons, Barbara Parsons, and Jacob Barker (approved leave of absence)

Special Presentation:

Kevin Wheeler, Department of Development - City Department's growth policy is focusing on many issues, including transportation, housing, and development. The purpose of this presentation to the SWAC is to talk about zoning. When properly used, zoning is a powerful tool to encourage investment and it is also an important tool when considering future law. The Columbus City zoning code has not had a comprehensive update since the 1950's. The annexation of land into the City jurisdiction has been modest in the last decade. The population in Columbus is also projected to grow to approximately 300,000 in the next 30 years. Additionally the City is experiencing rising housing costs and an inadequate supply of housing. There is an increased demand for smaller homes, walkable neighborhoods are desirable, as are choices of transportation. The City will now be working to update the zoning plan. This is a two-phase plan and right now the priority is to complete phase one and begin phase two in the fall. This process will take time and will involve a consultant's help, time, and attention. The plan will come back to area commissions and other stakeholders and will need City Council's approval. A survey will be emailed to stakeholders in the next couple of weeks. There also is a project website so future updates can be obtained. Stakeholders are encouraged to fill out the survey.

Commissioners' Questions and Concerns:

F. Jenkins asked if it was known where further land annexation to the City will take place. Wheeler explained that there are reasons why future growth is limited across the city. The City works with local municipalities and that complicates annexation.

P. Spencer introduced herself as the zoning chair for the SWAC. Wheeler said that she was welcome to contact him with any questions.

M. Jenkins asked what phase one of the plan primarily focuses on. Wheeler explained that phase one is related to the text that is on the city code website. They will look at the system to figure out what is working well, not working, and what changes should be made in the future. They will be trying to anticipate changes. This summer the department will learn from this process to set priorities for actual phase two of the project. Phase two is when the changes will be made.

Regular Reports:

Jeremy Alder was announced as replacing Randall Hipsher at Columbus Code Enforcement.

Beth Fairman Kinney – Spoke about the following items:

- Recently sent an email out with updates.
- A change in schedule for refuge and recycling calendar due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.
- My Brothers' Keeper recently partnered with Homage, and a t-shirt is being sold by Homage with a portion of the proceeds going to the Re Rise scholarship fund.
- Questions related to the COVID-19 vaccine should be directed to Public Health. There is a new social worker in this office.
- The Department of Neighborhoods offices have recently moved. Beth's office is still the same at the Reeb Avenue Center. The department head is located at the Linden office by Cleveland Ave.
- Recreation and Parks will have a free produce market beginning in February 2021.

Nancy Pryor Sully – Spoke about the following items:

- Confirmed that any city announcement emails should be sent to the SWAC Secretary (Hayes) to be forwarded to the commission.
- There is an upcoming Housing for All public meeting.
- Councilmember Favors will be holding a town hall meeting on safety. This can be watched on the City website.
- The first City Council meeting for 2021 is upcoming and can be watched online.

Zach Gwin – Said that Jeremy Alder is an awesome code officer and does great work. The City Attorney's office did not have an update on any police issues in the City.

Jeremy Alder – Introduced himself as the SWAC's Code Enforcement Officer liaison. His email is jalder@columbus.gov.

Kristin Hayes – Said next month there will be an update on the Keep the Southwest Area Beautiful program.

Chair's Announcements: None

Routine Business:

P. Spencer indicated that she needs the SWAC meeting agenda sent out in a timely manner so that she can post it on Nextdoor.

Zoning Updates:

- 2333 Harrisburg Pike - this property (an overnight trucking parking lot) is not ready for another site visit or to attend another SWAC meeting. Spencer indicated that she was not sure if they wanted to come to the next meeting. She wants to make sure there is enough time to get postcards sent out announcing the meeting. Overall, she doesn't see a lot of traffic coming in and out of the property.
- Brown Road/Vango Drive Thru - Spencer has not heard anything regarding this property recently. She said that she recently reached out to the attorney for the property and is not sure how to proceed. F. Jenkins said that she would reach out to the former chair of the SWAC, Stefanie Coe, to ask her questions about this property.

There were no meeting minutes from prior meetings to review. It was clarified that the Secretary (Hayes) is to send the draft of the meeting notes to the entire commission for review before the next meeting.

M. Jenkins said there was no financial review for this meeting. He said that the bank information for the SWAC has been transitioned from Stefanie Coe to himself.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- Reed attended a train-the-trainer program for the climate action plan and is now able to facilitate discussions about the plan. There is also a survey that the plan sponsors are trying to get completed. Any participant in this focus group will receive a one-time payment of \$15. Reed asked if the SWAC is interested in participating and hosting this program. She said that this plan is related to items that are brought up in Commission meetings. Spencer and F. Jenkins supported the idea. Reed said that she can schedule the meeting and post it on the website, email it, and post on Nextdoor to have as much participation as possible. Spencer said she would post it on Nextdoor.
- Reed asked for clarification on the meeting times for the SWAC and thought that the start time was 7:30pm and not 6:30pm. F. Jenkins said that the meeting time is 7:30pm going forward, as it was voted on at the last meeting. The February meeting will start at 7:30pm.
- Going forward, the Secretary (Hayes) will work with the Chair (F. Jenkins) to come up with the meeting agenda. It is the Secretary's responsibility to send the agenda out to the entire Commission for review.
- M. Jenkins asked if there were any updates on the Frank Road interchange. Spencer said she would find out who to contact regarding this project and will reach out to them for an update.

- Hayes talked about a training that she attended with the Department of Neighborhoods in which ways to promote area commissions were discussed. She suggested the SWAC invest in yard signs for commissioners to put in their yards to promote the Commission and also City 311 and Franklin Township services. This was suggested because not everyone uses social media sites, but everyone drives through neighborhoods. Hayes put together a draft of signs that she will email to the commissioners after the meeting to get their feedback and approval to go forward with the project. If the SWAC approves this project, the support of a professional graphic designer could be used to design the signs.
- Spencer asked if the SWAC meeting notices can also be sent to the Southwest Messenger newspaper to be publicized. F. Jenkins said that she thought that meeting notices previously were sent to this newspaper.
- F. Jenkins talked about a social media training that she attended through the Department of Neighborhoods. She learned that surveys are a good way to engage people. Spencer said that something needs to come from the surveys and that surveys can also be posted on various platforms. Spencer also suggested that a focus group be conducted to help the SWAC grow meeting attendance. In the future, a face to face event, like an open house with treats provided, could be a good opportunity to engage the community.
- Barker was mentioned as being on an approved leave of absence.
- Beth Fairman Kinney provided an update about the area just outside of the SWAC jurisdiction but also outside of the Franklinton Area Commission. The Franklinton Area Commission wants to discuss this area with the SWAC Chair and Zoning Chair. Fairman Kinney will coordinate this meeting with F. Jenkins and Spencer and the Franklinton Area Commission.
- David Howie introduced himself as Beth Fairman Kinney's supervisor with the Department of Neighborhoods.
- Fossett spoke about Hopkins Road and Brown Road intersection with Frank Road. She expressed her concern about the visual appeal of a property near this intersection. Additionally, she spoke about the truck traffic near this area. She suggested that someone ride around that area to get a better understanding of what is happening there.
- The February 2021 meeting time was confirmed to start at 7:30pm.

Spencer moved to adjourn the meeting; M. Jenkins seconded. Result: Unanimous Approval

Meeting End Time: 7:52pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:30pm.