

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: Hybrid - Online & In-Person  
In-Person Location - Hope Central Church  
1553 Brown Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43223

Minutes for: November 17, 2020

7:30 p.m. Meeting called to order.

**Commissioners:**

Present: Maurice Jenkins, Barbara Parsons, Don Parsons, Liz Reed, FeLisa Jenkins, Kristin Hayes, Peggy Fossett, Jacob Barker, and Patty Spencer.

Absent: George Wagner

**Special Presentation:**

Scott Perry - Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) - Reported on the Columbus Solar Park, which is a partnership SWACO and BQ Energy. Through this partnership, the old landfill that is located near I-270, I-71, and State Route 104 will be redeveloped into a renewable energy source for the City of Columbus.

Paul Kern - BQ Energy - This project will be the largest solar based landfill project in the United States. This project will have \$70 million dollars of investment and they are planning on a 2022 start. The project developers will follow all necessary codes and will work with the Ohio EPA. Public meetings will be held about this project. This project will connect with the nearby power grid and work cooperatively with the City of Columbus to interlock with the City's electric grid. Electric will be sold to the City. BQ Energy was selected from a competitive solicitation by AEP.

Commissioners' Comments and Questions:

Reed indicated that she was excited for the project and thought that it was good for the area.

D. Parsons expressed his concern for the wildlife in the area and about chemicals and dirty electricity. The presenters indicated that Harvard University's School of Public Health wrote a letter indicating that there are no adverse effects of using this technology. The presenters also

said fences will be put up in the area and the technology is wildlife friendly. The solar panels are not made with heavy metals. The technology will absorb the light, and will result in cooling instead of heat and there will be no net temperature change.

Spencer asked if there would be an increased price of electricity. The presenters were not able to answer this question.

M. Jenkins asked about the electricity conversion process. The presenters explained that there is electricity conversion when there is less sunlight, but that the electricity conversion will be much less than during the peak sunlight seasons.

D. Parsons asked if the SWAC will have increased funds through this project. There was a discussion of a pilot payment based on megawatt capacity.

### **Regular Reports:**

Beth Fairman Kinney – Spoke about the following items:

- Community Choice Aggregation
- Martin Luther King, Jr. oratorical for K-12 students.
- Regarding the area between Harmon Ave. and the Scioto River, the north side of Greenlawn, Franklinton Area Commission would like more discussion. There is not currently an area commission in jurisdiction in that area. There needs to be a legislative notion to get this into the city code. When there are zoning requests for this area, there is no need to present to either area commission. In regards to 972 Harmon Ave., there is an opportunity to speak about it. There will be a presentation to the BZA for a variance request. The contractor will set up a meeting between the SWAC and Franklinton AC. The SWAC had recently changed their bylaws to cover this area as part of the SWAC jurisdiction, but since it is not in city code yet, this is not officially part of the Commission's purview. It is the entry into the city code that makes this coverage official.
- Mayor's Budget Meeting - thanked all of those who attended the virtual meeting for their attendance.

Nancy Pryor Sully – Provided information on the upcoming meetings: Interfaith, Franklin County Commissioners Meeting, and the safety measures for the City and County to slow the spread of COVID-19. Information was also provided regarding an upcoming action plan meeting and joint public meeting on Issue 1.

### **Chair's Announcements:**

#### **Routine Business:**

Zoning Chair: M. Jenkins motioned to vote Spencer as the Zoning Chair of the SWAC; Reed seconded the motion. Result: Unanimous Approval

M. Jenkins noted that the Vice-Chair of the SWAC is currently open and indicated that he would like to nominate D. Parsons for this position, if D. Parsons would accept it. D. Parsons stated that he is not interested in this position right now. Reed also indicated that she is not interested. It was

explained that while the Vice-Chair position is open, those duties related to Vice-Chair go to the Secretary. No commissioners self-nominated for this open position.

Spencer asked if it would be possible for the SWAC to have a key to the church for the meetings. Barker said that he would have to ask.

A previous meeting attendee of the SWAC reached out to the commission to see if he could have his name removed from the record from that meeting. Fairman Kinney indicated that she would look into a public records question and will contact the City Attorney regarding this. Reed said that it's not a requirement to have SWAC meeting minutes posted on the Commission's website, and those specific meeting minutes could be taken down.

Barker motioned to remove the September 2020 meeting minutes from the SWAC website. M. Jenkins seconded the motion. Result: Unanimous Approval. Reed to take this specific meeting minutes off the website.

### **Unfinished Business:**

### **New Business:**

Upcoming Zonings within the SWAC jurisdiction:

- 2333 Harrisburg Pike - Fairman Kinney said that this group asked to postpone their January 2021 site visit. The last time this property came to the Commission, a number of visitors were present for the meeting. Due to COVID-19, Fairman Kinney asked if the Commission would like to have a completely virtual meeting if neighbors want to speak when this property returns. She explained that, as of right now, the Commission does not know what the Governor's orders will be regarding COVID-19 and the number of people allowed to gather. Barker noted that the church is waiting on the Governor's orders as well and if there would be larger turnout in person, the church would need to prepare in advance. He said they will need to know who will attend so that assigned seating can be determined to meet capacity protocol. Fairman Kinney stated that RSVPs can not be required at public meetings. Reed suggested a virtual meeting, since all people can call in and listen with a phone and Fairman Kinney can mute and unmute participants.
- Cooper Stadium - will be coming back again soon.
- F. Jenkins stated that individuals who are interested in asking questions at the virtual meetings can RSVP ahead of time and submit questions beforehand so that everyone can be prepared. She suggested a meeting for the commissioners at the end of December 2020 to make sure that the commissioners are prepared for virtual meetings.
- Fairman Kinney to continue to set up virtual meetings for the Commission. Additionally, she is able to schedule a test for the commissioners. Additionally, it was suggested that commissioners can share computers for the virtual meeting if they wanted to.

Reed motioned for a technology test (online or over the phone) for the SWAC on December 8th, 2020 at 7:30pm to ensure access to virtual meeting platforms. M. Jenkins seconded the motion. Result: Unanimous Approval.
- 1908 Brown Road - disabled trucks at the north side of the lot in Franklin Township. Placards are on the vehicles that show what types of materials are carried by these trucks; the placards say radioactive on them.

- D. Parsons said that people in the SWAC deserve better and that he is trying to get a hold of the appropriate person at Vango Drive Thru.
- M. Jenkins confirmed with Fairman Kinney that checks can be mailed to her office.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:30pm.

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

Meeting End Time: 9:24pm.