

SLAC Purpose Statement

To serve as a liaison between neighborhood groups, property owners, residents, developers, and city officials

SOUTH LINDEN AREA COMMISSION (SLAC)

Khadijah LaNai Ashe
Lawrence Calloway, Chair
Sundi Corner
Lois Ferguson
Michelle Jamison
Mayo Makinde
Peggy Williams, Secretary/Zoning Chair

Standing Committee:

Education and Workforce Development
Health and Wellness
Public Safety and Transportation
Retail and Small Business Development
Special Events
Zoning and Code Enforcement

SOUTH LINDEN NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARY



MINUTES

Tuesday, August 18, 2020
6:30pm – 9:00pm

confer with City Council Liaison Sandra Lopez to gain clarity concerning the ‘printer request’ as well as other equipment for future consideration.

		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Projector	\$1,047.00	\$ 1,047.00	\$1,047.00	\$ 1,047.00
Screen	\$ 624.80	\$ 624.80		
Laptop	\$ 839.04	\$ 839.04	\$ 839.04	\$ 839.04
HP Desktop Computer	\$ 650.00			
DELL 20" Display Monitor	\$ 135.99			
Microsoft Office Suite	\$ 149.00		\$ 149.00	\$ 149.00
HP 24" Display Monitor	\$ 183.54		\$ 183.54	
	\$3,629.37	\$ 2,510.84	\$2,218.58	\$ 2,035.04

[It is noted herein, columns showing Options 1 - 3 for cost comparison were made available to Commissioners under separate eMail cover on August 19th].

The Chair further stated, the office of Secretary, which is charged with recordkeeping, would be named as steward for the technology equipment. The Chair moved, with a second from Commissioner Williams, to accept the Technology Enhancement Program opportunity and approve submission of the application in a timely manner prior to the November 30, 2020 deadline. The motion carried and question(s) posed. The Chair called for the Voice Vote.

**Voice Vote Approval: Ashe, Calloway, Ferguson, Makinde, and Williams
Five (5) in Favor, No Opposition, and No Abstention**

MOTION PASSED

2020—2021 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Budget Review:

Commissioner Williams introduced the budget proposal for May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021. Lengthy discussion ensued surrounding line items listed under *Administrative and Special Projects (\$1,616)*, *Space and Rental Costs (\$200)*, *Travel and Registration Expenses (\$750)*, *Consumable Supplies (\$410)*, *Banking Fees (\$60)*, and *Miscellaneous Expenses (\$464)*, for the accumulative total of **\$3,500**. Concern was expressed about some significant line items that included, but was not limited to, liability insurance, fiscal agent fees, marketing expenses, and professional development. Upon closing discussion, it was clarified that based on need, award funds could be re-allocated or modified as appropriate upon prior approval by the City. Commissioner Ferguson moved, with the second by Chair Calloway, to accept the **Budget Proposal in the amount of \$3,500**. The motion carried and question(s) posed. The Chair called for the Voice Vote.

**Voice Vote Approval: Ashe, Calloway, Ferguson, Makinde, and Williams
Five (5) in Favor, No Opposition, and No Abstention**

MOTION PASSED

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Resignation Acknowledgements of Ellison and Tolber

The Chair moved, with the second from Commissioner Ferguson, to accept digital correspondence dated August 4, 2020 from Commissioners Mitchell Ellison and Barbara Tolber, who represented Districts 5 and 6 respectively as official Notice of Resignation. The motion carried with question(s) posed, and a Voice Vote taken. Commissioner Makinde further moved the Area Commission submit correspondence acknowledging the two (2) resignations, to which the Chair dictated the following content.

“With great regret and profound understanding that SLAC accept your resignation; when you see fit do not hesitate to share your concerns; or participate in advocating for Linden because your input matters. You both will be missed at the table; but we expect to see you in the crowd. Thank You for your commitment and dedication to improving the South Linden community”.

**Voice Vote Approval: Ashe, Calloway, Ferguson, Makinde, and Williams
Five (5) in Favor, No Opposition, and No Abstention**

MOTION PASSED

By-Laws Amendments: Article VI: Standing Committees

After reading By-Law Article VI, Standing Committees in its entirety, Chair Calloway entertained Commissioners’ concerns and/or comments for discussion. Commissioner Williams expressed the purpose of each Committee is to actively engage residents of the community. While each Commissioner holds ex-officio status into all Standing Committees with privileges, residents should represent the membership majority. It is within this forum, residents have opportunity to voice complaints, express compliments, and state concerns in an informal and safe environment. It is within each Committee, extensive dialogue occurs between all parties of interest, strategies are developed toward resolving problematic issues, and consensus is reached for recommendation to the full Area Commission for final Vote decision. Standing Committees serve as the strong support equipping the South Linden Area Commission to fulfill its mission and role with efficacy.

Department of Neighborhoods Community Liaison DeLena Scales, came before the Area Commission to add clarity as follows:

- Responded to Commissioner Ashe’s recycling inquiry, the City provides the first container at no cost. However, there is a \$40 cost for the replacement container. Dial the 3-1-1 Call Center to request a recycling container.
- Extended the Education and Workforce Committee report, stating the Urban Scouts cohort is working with Ms. Gillison to identify churches along the Cleveland Avenue corridor that have space and WiFi connection to serve as Learning Extension Services satellites (LES). Commissioner Ferguson interjected; Linden Life Fellowship Church is working with Windsor STEM Academy for the same purpose.

COMMITTEE AND DISTRICT REPORTS

- Education and Workforce Development Health and Wellness Public Safety and Transportation
- Retail and Small Business Development Special Events Zoning and Code Enforcement

District 1
District 2
District 3

District 4
District 5
District 6

District 7
District 8
District 9

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PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (Open to the Public)

The Chair acknowledged Mr. Stuart Hampton who expressed some dissatisfaction about the meeting length and content. He reported hosting a weekly gathering held from 6:00pm until 8:00pm at the shopping strip parking lot along the Cleveland Avenue corridor between 24th and 25th Avenues to disseminate resources and feed the community. He shared serving on the Area Commission briefly and organizing a “Jazz-at-Joyce event”—something he continues to do on Sundays from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. He further admonished the South Linden Area Commission to be more proactive likewise. In closing, Mr. Hampton announced his campaign for City Council in 2021.

In response to Mr. Hampton’s statements, Chair Calloway explained the standard “3-minute” practice for guest speakers which allowed for all parties of interest opportunity to speak and/or rebuttal. Highlighting Mr. Hampton’s main concern that the Area Commission have a visible face within the community, the Chair expressed agreement with Mr. Hampton’s admonition for the Area Commission to be more proactive. Nevertheless, the Area Commission chose on the side of caution at this time because several senior citizens participate on this Area Commission.

Chair Calloway stated the importance of engaging with the existing standing committees versus stand-alone practices. As a former commissioner, Mr. Hampton is familiar with the process and could have gone through committee to better facilitate his weekly events. Fortunately, “I cannot in good conscience say that SLAC may be ready at this time to proceed with hosting physical events. Jazz-In-The-Park was held last year and SLAC could have held the event this year. However, the safety of residents who enjoy Jazz-in-the-Park and the family resources weighed as the priority and SLAC was not willing to potentially put the community at-risk for lack of fuller knowledge and understanding.

Yes, SLAC may be insured through the City and may have additional monies for special events; but while COVID cases remain relatively low, SLAC wanted to keep exposure low too.

Safe distancing’ was not determined at the time (e.g., event set-up, allowable permits with the Governor, Mayor’s Office and the Department of Neighborhoods). In collaborating with all those entities, SLAC could not throw caution to the wind and host an event. The Area Commission needs to ensure it is operating with the best practices and doing everything feasible to be engaged with the community, but not doing it with reckless abandonment.

Mr. Hampton, SLAC welcomes the opportunity to engage with you whenever possible on these events and wants to make sure that it is done in the best and safest way. “We’re all about taking constructive criticism and doing the best we can and using that information to better this Area Commission to serve those who are in need. So, I definitely appreciate your remarks”.

Concluding his response to Mr. Hampton, the Chair extended good fortune on Mr. Hampton’s campaigning for City Council in November 2021. “Please get in contact with us to share those dates and times and we will see if we can get a healthy participation that would be safe and support what you have going on”.

The Chair acknowledged North Central Area Commission Chair Ms. Tiffany White, who expressed interest in collaborative strategic planning to encourage stronger partnerships between neighboring Area Commissions toward resolving mutual concerns surrounding Public Safety (e.g., recent increase in gun incidents). She would welcome meeting with the SLAC Public Safety and Transportation Committee and looks forward to connecting.

With Closing Remarks, the Chair explained that normally the South Linden Area Commission enters RECESS during the month of August. “However, the Area Commission chose to dedicate itself and voted favorably to conduct this meeting for

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logistical purposes. Due to the nature of this meeting, the usual content presented during regularly scheduled meetings, has been removed to allow for a concise and effective way to be able to get the logistical things completed at this time. We appreciate your patience, your dedication, and support during this virtual event during the COVID-19 Pandemic. With that being said, I apologize to anyone who had to sit through the duration of this meeting and felt that this meeting was a little long; but our business is not short business! Anyone sitting on these calls or have the stamina to endure all that we must, two hours is probably a small price to pay for those who are out advocating in the community. There are a lot of behind the scenes work that occurs and it is done voluntarily with extreme dedication and passion. So, Thank You again for tuning in and before we move on—I don't know if there are any other comments or concerns out there—whether in the 'chat room' or from other commissioners. If we have none, we will pursue onto our next slide”.

Secretary Williams further checked all eMail accounts (i.e., slaczoning@gmail.com, slacconnect@gmail.com, and mspegan8@gmail.com) confirming whether or not additional comments and inquiries had been received outside of this meeting. As there were none, and all things being resolved, the Chair moved to adjourn. The Secretary seconded the motion to adjourn. The Chair requested the Voice Vote.

Voice Vote Approval: Ashe, Calloway, Ferguson, and Williams
Four (4) in Favor, No Opposition, and No Abstention

MOTION PASSED

ADJOURNMENT As there was no other business introduced for discussion, the Chair moved, with a second by Commissioner Ashe for adjournment. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the **South Linden Area Commission will convene promptly at 6:00pm in a virtual platform on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.**

Respectfully Submitted,

PEGGY A. WILLIAMS, Secretary
South Linden Area Commission

LAWRENCE CALLOWAY, Chair
South Linden Area Commission