

SLAC Purpose Statement

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

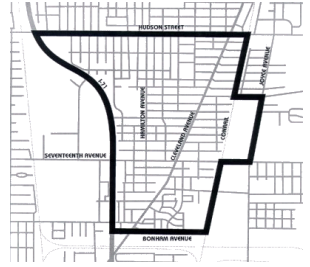
SOUTH LINDEN AREA COMMISSION (SLAC)

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, October 20, 2020

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Regular meeting Number 07-2020 of the South Linden Area Commission, Tuesday, October 20th was Called To Order by Zoning Chair Williams at 6:17pm. Chair Calloway joined at 6:40pm to facilitate the remainder of the meeting.

Invocation led by Commissioner Ferguson
Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Williams

COMMISSIONER ROLL CALL

Present: Lawrence Calloway, Lois Ferguson, and Peggy Williams
Excused: Khadijah Lanai Ashe, Sundi Corner, and Mayo Makinde
Absent: Michelle Jamison

QUORUM STATUS: NOT PRESENT

Based on the Commissioner Roll Call at 6:20pm this date, the quorum requirement of six (6) commissioners in attendance was not met; however, based on By-Law Article V the Area Commission meeting can proceed with four or five commissioners present and time-sensitive matters reaching consensus and ratified during a subsequent meeting will be considered binding. Therefore, only having three Commissioners in attendance, all matters brought before this Area Commission will be received as Information Only

ADMINISTRATION: Acceptance of Meeting Agenda

For lack of quorum, no motion was made or carried to Voice Vote Approval of the Agenda dated October 20, 2020.

Reading of the Minutes:

For lack of quorum, no motion was made or carried to Voice Vote Approval of the Minutes dated September 15, 2020.

CITY AND COMMUNITY REPORTS: City Officials and/or Department Directors; City Council Liaison Sandra Lopez; City Attorney's Office Zoning Initiative Attorney Chassidy Barham; and Department of Neighborhood Community Liaison DeLena Scales

PROCEEDINGS

City Council Liaison Sandra Lopez came before the Area Commission to provide

Shared that chair Calloway challenged with joining meeting—council hear about affordable housing on October 27th at 1:30pm. Will follow up with details for our participation. Couple reached out about re-painting crosswalk—if resident are aware of street that are not visible please contact 311 to be completed before winter months. Willing to do the followup on resident's behalf.

City Attorney Office Zoning Initiative Attorney Chassidy Barham came before the Area Commission to provide a Status Report on The Battery Shop, which is an auto-related business located at 1410 E. 17th Avenue. In 2018, the SLAC Zoning & Code Enforcement granted a "Conditional Recommendation of Approval" contingent upon the property owner's ability to maintain compliance with several code violations. Since that time, Environmental Court has been monitoring compliance and on September 23rd extended Mr. Ryan Esau's probation through December 18, 2023. Mr. Esau is the statutory agent for the LLC that owns the property. In addition to extending his probation, the Court also ordered a number of things that included: (1) strict compliance with all conditions of probation and/or the environmental specialist; (2) no refusal of inspections by probation, environmental specialist, animal control, Columbus Humane Society; (3) he is

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to comply with abatement schedules as set by environmental specialist and/or probation; (4) he is to maintain repair and keep all properties in repair that he owns or have interest and maintain compliance with all applicable law, ordinances, and/or regulations. Mr. Esau has to provide a complete list of all such properties with probation and/or environmental specialist.

Additionally, if the chief environmental specialist verifies before the Environment Court that any of his properties are in compliance by October 21st (which is tomorrow), then the Court's enforcement of five-days incarceration will be vacated further and the Order to complete 48-hours of community service with the community clean-up crew to be served in the Franklinton Hilltop—and Linden when possible. The defendant shall complete all community service hours by March 23, 2021. The defendant shall complete a "Thinking for Change" course by September 23, 2021.

This case came before the Court for a probation revocation hearing on September 23, 2020; so in addition to that, the Court also ordered as follows: along with previous statements to bring all properties he owns and/or have interest and all properties listed in the Chief Environmental Specialist report dated September 22, 2020 by October 21, 2020. If the properties are not in compliance with all applicable laws, the co-defendant shall report to the FCC for five-days incarceration enforcement to begin on October 28, 2020.

Attorney Barham also reiterated the following update:

- Zone 4 includes North Central, Linden, Clintonville, 5th-By-Northwest, and University area.
- Responsible for filing Public Nuisance Abatement; actions based on residential or commercial violations, or criminal activity (e.g. gang activity, sell or use of narcotics, prostitution, etc).
- Illegal Dumping is a problem across the city and punishable with 60-days jail time or up to \$1,000 fine. Residents who observe illegal dumping are encouraged to contact Refuse Collection staff Tim Swager or Refuse Collection Supervisor Adam Gray via eMails: tjswager@columbus.gov and asgrey@columbus.gov respectively.
- Retaliatory Eviction occurs when a tenant contacts Code Enforcement based on either exterior or interior violations and the property owner files an eviction claim in retaliation. If you are at risk, or have been a victim or know someone who may be a victim, please contact Todd Dillard via eMail or telephone call: tbdillard@columbus.gov or (614) 645-5650. Another option is to contact Prosecutor Christopher Clark at ccclark@columbus.gov.
- If you are seeing incidents of criminal activity or housing and/or commercial violations, you are encouraged to contact the appropriate authority.
 - ✓ Emergency criminal activity dial 911
 - ✓ Non-emergency activity dial (614) 645-4545
 - ✓ Narcotics dial (614) 645-4616
 - ✓ Commercial or housing violations, please dial 311

Concluding her report, Attorney Barham reminded everyone to feel comfort with following-up with her whenever the appropriate agency has been contacted. Her direct line is (614) 645-5346 and eMail is chbarham@columbus.gov.

In response to Commissioner Williams' request, Attorney Barham will forward the Battery Shop Status Report for the Zoning Committee's recordkeeping to retain the history of nuisance and/or problematic properties for future development.

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Department of Neighborhoods Community Liaison DeLena Scales, came before the Area Commission to provide the following update:

- Reminder that Area Commission training is scheduled for October 22nd at 6:00pm.
- Recommend two area commissioners for website training
- ONE Linden Area Commission Leadership bi-weekly meetings
- Introduced Michael Nicholas

PRESENTATION(S):

Chosen Few Veterans' Corvette Club—Michael Nicholas

Explaining the club had no political affiliations and simply wanted to encourage residents to vote, Mr. Nicholas came before the Area Commission seeking support to lead a "Get Out and Vote" motorcade on Sunday, November 1st immediately before Election Day Tuesday, November 3rd. Commissioner Ferguson suggested District 1 and accepting the referral, Commissioner Williams captured Mr. Nicholas' contact information for follow-through.

Columbus Policy Works Community Engagement Team—Larry Price and Hannah Webber

Serving as the Public Outreach Liaison for the City, Larry Price of Larry Price & Associates, together with City Staff Hannah Webber, came before the Area Commission to provide an overview of the Hudson Street Improvements Project scheduled to begin in 2021. As part of the ONE Linden Plan, the Hudson Street corridor will be enhanced from I-71 to Cleveland Avenue for a safer, smoother drive. Sidewalks will be installed, adding a shared-use path for pedestrians and cyclists. Mr. Price referenced the map showing a 'design sample' of the area from the I-71 exit onto Hudson and traveling East toward Cleveland Avenue. The acquisition of temporary and permanent Right-of-Ways to proceed with construction is in progress—fortunately not every parcel/property along the Hudson corridor will be affected. Currently working with representatives in the City's Real Estate Division and contacting property owners who will be impacted. Real Estate Specialist Joshua Roberts will be the person that will be in the community and can be contacted via phone at (614) 645-4895 or through eMail at joroberts@columbus.gov. Mr. Price explained that traffic will be maintained traveling East-Bound and west-bound traffic will be re-routed to Weber Road; "so Hudson will NOT be shut-down." The design cost \$1.75 million; acquisition, \$1.9 million; utility relocation, \$1 million; construction, \$15 million, for a total \$19.65 million investment in the Linden community—particularly the south neighborhood. Concluding the presentation, Mr. Price announced there will be a public meeting in virtual platform on Thursday, October 22nd from 5:30m until 6:30pm and shared the meeting link as follows: <http://bit.ly/HudsonSt>

Responding to the inquiry about re-routing westbound traffic on Hudson, Ms. Webber indicated the specifics are still being determined and the official detour would be posted.

FRESH Bloom Bins

Owner Tia Johnson came before the Area Commission for introduction, requested a Letter of Support, and provided a video presentation for the proposed service: curbside trash bin sanitation. She has been working with City Refuse Division staff Tim Swauger who identified a route to pilot the project in the Linden community in November. The service cost is currently covered by the City to sanitize approximately 200 of the 30-gallon trash bins. Ms. Johnson explained that she has been working with Commissioner Williams on the implementation of this project and engaging residents about the process.

Responding to Commissioner Calloway's inquiry, Ms. Johnson explained the equipment is new and custom-built to clean and sanitize trash bins.

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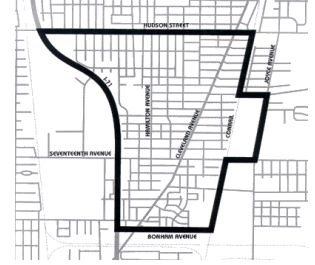
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Chair Calloway acknowledged the Zoning Committee's recommendation to approve issuing a Letter of Support. However, lack of quorum, no motion was made or carried to Voice Vote Approval to issue a Letter of Support of the FRESH Bloom Bin pilot project.

ADMINISTRATION

Treasurer Report:

To fill the office vacated by former Commissioner Tolber, Chair Calloway implemented "executive order" and named Commissioner Williams to serve as Interim Treasurer. Chair Calloway further stated the executive order was made as a temporary solution for compliance.

Commissioner Williams read the Monthly Report for September, detailing income and expenses and stated the month end balance was \$12.95. For lack of quorum, no motion was made or carried to Voice Vote Approval of the September Treasurer Report.

Ratification of City Council Technology Enhancement Program: \$2,065.04

Chair Calloway gave a brief review of the equipment identified and selected in agreement during the September meeting. For lack of quorum, no motion was made or carried to Voice Vote Approval as formal consent to accept and submit our technology equipment request to City Council for completion.

Habitat for Humanity Letter of Support: Recycle Property Known as 2355 Atwood Terrace

Unable to 'share screen', Commissioner Williams read the letter in detail and offered to forward the Draft Letter for further review by each commissioner for comments. For lack of quorum, no motion was made or carried to Voice Vote Approval to issue the Letter of Support for the Habitat Recycle Property project.

Zoning Recommendation Requests:

Commissioner Williams stated the following applications were heard at committee level and gave recommendation as follows:

- 1410 Cleveland Avenue -- Recommendation of Approval for the parking lot expansion. In an effort to meet the BZA Review Board and City Council timelines, a Special Meeting was scheduled for September 29th. Unfortunately, for lack of quorum, no motion or Voice Vote Approval was taken. The matter was tabled for October 20th. Again for lack of quorum at this meeting, no motion can be carried to Voice Vote Approval that would grant the Zoning Chair permission to sign the Recommendation of Approval form to be submitted to the City Department of Development, Building and Zoning Services, and/r Building and Zoning Adjustment Review Board.

Responding to Chair Calloway's inquiry about application review timelines, Commissioner Williams indicated that based on conversation with Finance Department staff Andrew Bobay and the project construction timeline, the month of October would be the final opportunity for the Area Commission in fulfilling its responsibility to issue a recommendation in a timely manner for the City Council agenda.

At the request of the Chair and for the record, the Zoning Committee brought this matter before the Area Commission repeatedly to respect timelines. Therefore, "Area Commissioners need to be informed as to what is occurring if they have not already received information regarding these steps that are happening with properties within our area."

- 844 11th Avenue – Recommendation of Disapproval for lack of sufficient information to make a decision. Known formerly as the Eleventh Avenue Elementary School, the building was destroyed by fire and the property has been

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vacant for more than twenty years. The attorney representing the developer presented at the October 7th Zoning Committee requesting a Council Variance for Permitted Use (AR-2) to build up to sixty-five (65) apartment units on 'prime' commercial property. As the property is currently zoned for commercial and residential, it is the firm position of the Zoning Committee, that future development on this property should be 'mixed used' and comply with our ONE Linden – One Community – Plan.

The Committee is delaying its decision in order to conduct additional research surrounding proposed partnerships and ensure the project not only enhances the community, but also would not cause significant displacement. It is anticipated parking would become another concern.

Commissioner Ferguson requested clarity on the request and in response, Commissioner Williams explained the developer's intent is to build apartment units on property zoned for single family dwellings by combining the six (6) parcels that would be affected. For correction, the developer is requesting 'permitted use' and not re-zoning.

By-Laws and Amendments—Reading, Discussion, and/or Vote Approval: TABLE

- Article VI: Standing Committees—Vote Approval
- Article VII: General Elections—FIRST Reading

COMMITTEE AND DISTRICT REPORTS

Retail, Small Business Development Committee and District 1 Report—Commissioner Lois Ferguson

Commissioner Ferguson stated that by engaging with District 1 residents, frequent shootings is a huge concern right now; a number of residents are upset. Commissioner Ferguson was hoping that Officer Alesia Zacher would be available to comment and explain the incidents. She is aware of surveillance cameras in the area and 'shots fired' to alert the Columbus Police Department as to the exact locations. She explained there are a lot of helicopters flying overhead. Commissioner Ferguson stated that perhaps the Area Commission would be able to do something to build residents' awareness and confidence in police support in these situations. She shared "the last incident happened close to her home and that did not feel good".

Chair Calloway explained that the Linden Concerned Clergy Group has rallied support around this concern. We are planning an initiative that not only provides adult input, but also something that would be youth-driven. We are trying to work on focus groups and be able to take an assessment and get more people more engaged. This is something that the Area Commission could entertain by getting involved with other groups, "allowing them to hear your voice on how it is impacting you". Any ideas that you may have to reduce some of the tension during this pandemic would be helpful because we don't have many of the resources that we once had before. Any insights you have to share would be great.

Commissioner Williams expressed that she would welcome 'off-line' discussion about what the Area Commission could do.

Zoning and Code Enforcement Committee Report and District 2 Report—Commissioner Williams stated nothing new to report concerning District 2 and explained she has been driving through the neighborhood alleys to identify code violations and submit 311 requests online.

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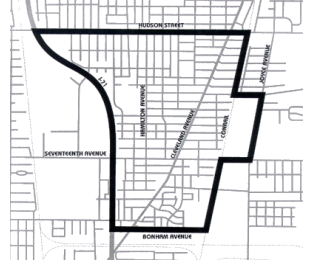
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Education and Workforce Development Committee and District 3 Report—Chair Calloway provided the following: During Site Base Council, LMSA received notification to re-start Columbus City Schools. All teachers were to return on October 14th. A virtual town hall meeting was scheduled with parents for a ‘back-to-school’ orientation. However, with this new update “in-person classes” have been postponed until 2021.

Linden Life Fellowship was conducting an After-School Program with ten (10) kindergarten students, four nights each week from 3:00pm until 6:00pm. They are also working on a proposal to help mitigate the violence in Linden.

... workshops are coming soon and the next will be on Monday, November 2nd at 6:00pm via WebEx. ... except for holidays. That concludes my report for this evening.

PUBLIC CONCERNS & COMMENTS

Community Liaison Scales indicated Healthy Homes Project Manager Patrice Allen-Brady had joined the meeting to provide updates; but was experiencing technical challenges with sound and unable to give the update as anticipated.

Checking the all eMail accounts (slacconnect@gmail.com, slacpublicsafety@gmail.com, and slaczoning@gmail.com there were no inquiries and/or comments for this Area Commission at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Scales announced that the South Linden Area Commission will have its own website, which is scheduled to be launched at the end of December. Two commissioners needed to be identified to attend training and have the responsibility of posting and managing the website. There will be four (4) uniform training sessions with the first being held on October 22nd.

ADJOURNMENT As there was no other business introduced for discussion, the Chair moved, with a second by Commissioner Ferguson for adjournment. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the **South Linden Area Commission will convene promptly at 6:00pm on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.**

Respectfully Submitted,

PEGGY A. WILLIAMS, Secretary
South Linden Area Commission

LAWRENCE CALLOWAY, Chair
South Linden Area Commission