

SOUTH LINDEN AREA COMMISSION

Serving as the Liaison between city officials, developers,, neighborhood groups, property owners, and residents

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 1, 2020

6:00pm -- 8:00pm

Regular Meeting Number 08-2020 of the South Linden Area Commission was called to order by Chair Calloway at 6:01pm.

Invocation offered by Minister Khadijah Lanai Ashe
Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Michelle Jamison

COMMISSIONER ROLL CALL:

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

QUORUM STATUS: **PRESENT**

Based on the Commissioner Roll Call at 6:05pm this date, the requirement of six (6) Commissioners in attendance has been met. All matters heard and requiring Voice Vote will be considered binding.

Acceptance of the Agenda:

Chair opened discussion for any changes to the Agenda. Commissioner Makinde recommended District Reports, Action Items, including the SLAC Vacancy Process, to be moved to the front of the Agenda. Lengthy debate ensued surrounding the order in which business should be heard for discussion and requiring quorum. Once clarity was reached with the understanding the SLAC Vacancy Process should not Commissioner Makinde motioned, with a second from Commissioner Jamison to modify tonight's meeting Agenda as follows.

- District Reports
- By-Law Article VI: Standing Committees (to be ratified)
- City Technology Enhancement Program (to be ratified)
- Resume 'Standard Agenda' (i.e., City Reports, Presentations, Proceedings, etc.)

The Chair called for the Voice Vote with results as follows:

- District Reports: Ashe, Calloway, Corner, Jamison, Makinde, and Williams
Four (4) in Favor, Two (2) Opposed, and No Abstentions

Motion Carried and Passed to hear District Reports First

- By-Law Article VI, Standing Committees: Ashe, Calloway, Corner, Jamison Makinde and Williams
Six (6) in Favor, No Opposers, and No Abstentions

Motion Carried and Passed to hear and revisit By-Law Article VI, Standing Committees for ratification Second

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- City Technology Enhancement Program:
Ashe, Calloway, Corner, Jamison, Makinde, and Williams
Motion Carried and Passed to hear Technology Enhancement Program for ratification
Third

Reading of the Minutes: DRAFT of Minutes dated October 20, 2020 was distributed for Commissioners' review and/or comments. Hearing no questions posed, the Secretary moved, with a second from Commissioner Ashe, to accept the Minutes dated October 20, 2020 as submitted. The Chair called for the Voice Vote.

Voice Vote Approval: Ashe, Calloway, Corner, Jamison, Makinde, and Williams
Six (6) In Favor, No Oppositions, and No Abstentions
MOTION PASSED

Treasurer Report: Commissioner Williams provided a share-screen of Income and Expenses detail showing month-end balances for September as \$12.95 and October as \$3,507.95. Anticipating there should be no banking fees incurred for processing electronic statements, Commissioner Williams explained the forthcoming month-end balance projection for November should read \$3,507.95. Acknowledging Commissioner Makinde's valid concern about the potential conflict of interest in having any one commissioner fulfilling multiple offices, Chair would welcome a volunteer to fill the Treasurer office, moved with the second from Commissioner Jamison, to accept the Treasurer Report as submitted. Having answered question(s) posed, the Chair called for the Voice Vote.

Voice Vote Approval: Ashe, Calloway, Corner, Jamison, Makinde, and Williams
Five (5) In Favor, No Opposition, and One Abstention
MOTION PASSED

CITY AND COMMUNITY REPORTS: City Officials and/or Department Directors; Columbus Police Department Community Liaison Officer Alesia Zacher; City Council Liaison Sandra Lopez; City Attorney Office Zoning Initiative Attorney Chassidy Barham; SMART Columbus Community Engagement Liaisons Alyssa and/or Carl Lee; and Department of Neighborhoods Community Liaison DeLena Scales

PROCEEDINGS

ADMINISTRATION: DISTRICT REPORTS 1 -- 9

- **District 9 Commissioner Makinde** reported two matters: (1) frequent accidents at the intersection of 26th and Cleveland and (2) the ongoing accumulation of debris and trash in the area. Concluding his report, Commissioner Makinde expressed appreciation for CPD Liaison Officer Zacher and Zoning Initiative Attorney Barham on their follow-through on these concerns.
- **District 4 Commissioner Ashe** reported a list of registered voters could be obtained from the Board of Elections. This information will prove helpful to validate voter eligibility and signatures of residents collected during Area Commission campaign and general elections. Concluding her report, Commissioner Ashe indicated the contact person is Mr. Howard Heard.
- **District 8 Commissioner Jamison** reported "nothing new at this time".

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- **District 7 Commissioner Corner** reported concerns about illegal dumping and suggested installing a flashing light signal at 26th and Cleveland to more seriously address reducing traffic accidents from occurring at that intersection. Concluding her report, Commissioner Corner inquired who should be contacted, or is there a liaison to help resolve.
- **District 2 Commissioner Williams** reported “nothing new at this time”.
- **District 3 Commissioner Calloway** reported that Douglas Recreation Center is currently closed and under quarantine because of ‘positive’ COVID exposure; St. Stephen’s is hosting a Christmas Food Box Drive-Thru on December 17 and the registration deadline is December 10th; and inquired whether Commissioners were aware of an incident that occurred in the Linden community involving the Life Care Alliance senior meal delivery service and a 14 year old youth.

ADMINISTRATION: By-Law Article VI, Standing Committee (for ratification)

Standing Committee ratification: October meeting 4 Commissioner voted in favor--open for additional discussion for commissioners who were not present during the October meeting.

Corner requested a brief overview for clarification of By-Law Article VI, Standing Committee--Chair gave clarity on the SLAC By-Law review. Focus lies on “having read” the By-Laws versus “knowing who” authored the By-Laws in order for this Area Commission to engage meaningful discussion and reach firm “Vote” decisions. Whether or not we agree, we become authors of the document under review. Completing limited discussion ensued in which questions were answered to satisfaction, Commissioner Corner moved, with a second by Commissioner Jamison to accept and approve Article VI, Standing Committee. The Chair called for the Voice Vote.

Voice Vote Approval: Ashe, Calloway, Corner, Jamison, Makinde, and Williams
Five (5) In Favor, No Opposition, and One Abstention

MOTION PASSED

ADMINISTRATION: City Technology Enhancement Program (for ratification)

Although the submission deadline of November 30th has passed, Chair Calloway explained it was extended to December 2nd and this Area Commission needs to approve moving forward with submitting the application in order to receive equipment that would enable the Area Commission to operate more efficiently and enhance our service to the Linden community. After share-screening a brief overview detailing the equipment (Laptop, Microsoft package, and projector) selected, the Chair moved, with a second from Commissioner Williams, to submit the application for the amount of \$2,065.04. The Chair called for the Voice Vote

Voice Vote Approval: Ashe, Calloway, Corner, Jamison, Makinde, and Williams
Five (5) In Favor, No Opposition, and One Abstention

MOTION PASSED

It is duly noted herein that later in this meeting as a point of order, Commissioners Williams and Jamison rescinded the first motion for the amount of \$2,065.04 and properly entered a second motion for the Corrected Amount of \$2,035.04. The Chair called for the Voice Vote for the Second Motion.

Voice Vote Approval: Ashe, Calloway, Corner, Jamison, Makinde, and Williams
Five (5) In Favor, No Opposition, and One Abstention

MOTION PASSED

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CITY AND COMMUNITY REPORTS

City Council Liaison Sandra Lopez came before the Area Commission to report as follows:

- Announced the City Council created a Commission to work on recommending Council districts. Currently 7 seats and increased to 9. Application process to be a part of the commission to be five members--one appointed by the Mayor--welcome questions about process
- Operating Budget (1) Capital, (2) Operation salaries; encouraged Area Commission participate with the public hearing process
- Ashe inquiry about City Council seats. 2 years ago voters chose to have "wards". Two seats were added to City Council--new seating for City Council to include the 9 seats.

City Attorney Office Zoning Initiative Attorney Chassidy Barham came before the Area Commission to report as follows:

- The City Attorney Office filed Objections to Liquor Permits for Sixteen (16) businesses and will keep the Area Commission apprised of status. Objections will be presented before the City Council and Ordinances passed for the official record.
- November 7th 1135 Cleveland Avenue pronounced deceased at the scene and will keep Area Commission apprised as the investigation progresses.
- Contact numbers for submitting complaints (e.,g., 311 Customer Service, 911, (614) 645-4545 and 645-4616, etc.) Central Ohio Crime Stoppers ... english somali or french contact law enforcement anonymously.
- Working with Refuse department on Illegal Dumping along Billiter--punishable up to 60 days incarceration and \$1,000 fine
- Retaliatory Evictions--contact Todd Dillard
- Shooting regard victim delivering meals to the elderly (Life Care Alliance)--believe November 20th retired delivery driver shot 14 year old perpetrator ...
- Youth having avenues to channel energy as an alternative to criminal activity

Commissioner Corner encouraged the Area Commission to initiate a community forum that would allow residents to engage conversation about alternative solutions.

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

- Executive Order to host virtual meeting extended to July 2021 as an attempt to reduce the spread of COVID
- One Linden Neighborhood Safety meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 3rd. Presenters include City Attorney Barham, CPD Commander Dennis Jeffrey, CPD Youth-to-Youth Division and Department of Neighborhoods. The CPD Youth Division collaborates with the CARE Coalition following the comprehensive safety strategy to find results in Linden. Please join Curtis Brown at 6-7pm
- Linden CBA Construction event 5-6--building trades December 2nd Mayor's attempt to engage more women in the building trades. Offered to forward to Commission Chair and/or provide in 'chat box'
- December 12th Area Commission training: Effective Meeting training -- last for the year; WORTH organization
- The Department of Neighborhoods officially moved into 1410 Cleveland; includes 311, My Brothers Keepers, New American Leadership Academy, and the community liaison's office.

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- SLAC webpage will be launching by first of 2021. Need Area Commission to identify two (2) members as managers. Next Area Commission Training is from 1-3, *. Final training for 2020 is scheduled for Thursday from 5-6pm.

ADMINISTRATION

Letters of Support Requested by FRESH Blooms Bins, Habitat for Humanity, and Healthy Homes Project. Chair explained presentations came before the Area Commission several times previously; however, for lack of quorum business could not move forward. For all commissioners to be well-informed, clarity was given on utilizing an eMail exchange to craft letters. Commissioner Williams moved, with the second from Commissioner Jamison, to table discussion until the regularly scheduled meeting in January. The motion carried with questions posed. The Chair called for the Voice Vote.

Voice Vote Approval: Ashe, Calloway, Corner, Jamison, Makinde, and Williams
Six (6) In Favor, No Opposition, and No Abstention

MOTION PASSED

Zoning Recommendation Request(s) and Update(s)

- **Z20-067: 1410 Cleveland Avenue -- Parking Lot Expansion Request** -- City staff Shawn Mason provided a share-screen overview of the proposed changes, current progress, and responded to questions. In response to Linden resident and former area commissioner chair Mr. George Walker, Commissioner Williams reported canvassing the twenty-nine (29) homes on 11th Avenue and McClellan in which thirteen (13) residents--having safety concerns satisfied--had no objection to the parking lot expansion as it does not prevent resident access to the parking and businesses via convenient foot-traffic. On behalf of the Zoning & Code Enforcement Committee, the Zoning Chair is requesting approval to sign the application in order for this project to be placed on the City Council Agenda for approval to move forward with the project in a timely manner. The Chair called for the Voice Vote.

Voice Vote Approval: Ashe, Calloway, Corner, Jamison, Makinde, and Williams
Six (6) In Favor, No Opposition, and No Abstention

MOTION PASSED

- **CV20-095: 844 E. 11th Avenue -- Council Variance for AR1 Permitted Use Development** -- Commissioner Williams explained that the Zoning & Code Enforcement issues its Recommendation of Disapproval for lack of sufficient information and nothing is being asked of this Area Commission at this time. However, this matter comes before this Area Commission as information only and future review for Recommendation to City Council.

By-Law Article VII, General Election (FIRST READING); Chair read in entirety after which Area Commissioners agreed to utilize an eMail exchange initiating a By-Law review process that would be thorough and transparent. Suggesting it would encourage more meaningful and timely discussion(s) that promote effective and responsive decision(s).

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PRESENTATION(S)

Franklin County Clerk's Office Maryellen O'Shaughnessy

On behalf of Clerk Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, Mr. Nick Tuell, Public Information Officer and Community Relations came before the Area Commission to provide an overview of the Franklin County Clerk's Office and clarified how it differed from the Municipal Clerk's Office Tyack. Mr. Tuell highlighted the following:

- Franklin County Clerk's Office originated in 1803 with the founder of Franklinton (Sullivan).
- Mr. Tuell provided the rationale for establishing separate offices to manage court documents and stated some of the duties performed (i.e, proof of ownership valuable product, issue auto title); staffing size (200) and had 10 office locations (north south east west).
- The County Clerk's office manages county court documents such as: felony charges, lawsuits for amounts \$15,000 plus, and divorce/dissolution decrees; processing ½ million (\$500,000) dollars annually; further stating a portion of the surplus funds generated returns back into a county general fund to support county services.
- The Municipal Clerk's office (Tyack) manages City court documents for misdemeanor cases and traffic violations.
- Emphasizing that neither office was the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), however, could assist citizenry access to the appropriate departments. The BMV processes auto tags and driving licensure.
- Taking steps to comply with COVID-19 social distancing, the Franklin County Clerk's Office installed protective equipment and is available to process titles by appointment only. He also indicated criminal background checks are available online information by case number.
- Concluding his presentation, Mr. Tuell provided contact information in the 'Chat Box' adding that the County Clerk's Office wants to be a resource to the community.

Healthy Homes Team--Project Manager Patrice Allen-Brady, Gretchen West, and Carla Fontaine came before the Area Commission seeking support for the Healthy Homes Fund and to provide an update on the Linden Home Repair program as follows.

- The Fund totals \$4,000,000 with collaborative financing from the City of Columbus, Nationwide Childrens' Hospital, and the Ohio Capital Finance Fund (OCFC).
- Explained National Childrens has five (5) prongs of which the Healthy Homes/Healthy Families Initiative falls under "affordable housing", and the Mobility Mentoring Program falls under "economic development mobility".
- Ms. Allen-Brady explained the Healthy Homes 20-Unit project furthers the mission to preserve and create high-quality affordable housing for low and moderate income families and share-screened a power-point presentation that highlighted a brief update of the Linden Home Repair program (i.e., referrals, applications received and/or approved), the 20-Unit New Construction/Rehab Homes project, and Healthy Homes Rental project--including target map area, home exterior designs (4), eligibility criteria, and rental rates.

Following the presentation, considerable discussion ensued seeking clarity on concerns surrounding applicant interest/participation, "affordability", "potential resident displacement" (i.e., gentrification), "minority contractors selection process", and the true benefit to the Linden community.

As the Chair concluded discussion, Ms. Allen-Brady stated she and her colleagues look forward to returning before the Area Commission to provide continual updates.

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ACTION

Having heard statements made and reviewed the share-screen presentation, the Area Commission is delaying issuing a "Letter of Support" at this time in order to seek and gain further clarity on concerns specific to "affordability", "potential resident displacement" (i.e., gentrification), and the "minority contractors selection process". It is duly noted herein, utilizing an eMail exchange, the Secretary will forward "Letter of Support DRAFTS" to each Area Commissioner for review, comments, additions and/or corrections; thereby collectively crafting final versions of letters of support to be considered for the full Area Commission's approval and/or disapproval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Attorney Chassidy offered to provide contact listing via eMail and share a power-point slide during the next meeting and stated Area Commissioners and residents may always follow-up with her after contacting the appropriate department(s).
- Linden property owner Mr. Gary Josephson expressed renewed interest in the Linden community and supports gaining clarification on "invested". He is particularly concerned about 'democracy'
- Owner Ms. Tia Johnson provided a share-screen overview of the **FRESH Bloom Bins** pilot project that sanitizes trash bins coordinated with the City Refuse collection schedule.
- Community Liaison Scales shared there is a survey circulating to collect resident thoughts ...
- Commissioner Makinde reiterated concern to address the SLAC Vacancy process and filling the seats quickly. Acknowledging his valid concerns, Chair Calloway responded ...

Chair Calloway gave closing remarks that included welcoming former area commission chair Walker's attendance and his advice on Roberts Rules of Order during this meeting which offered room for growth and expressed holiday well-wishes.

Chair moved, with a second from Commissioner Williams to adjourn at 10:04pm. The Chair called for the Voice Vote.

Voice Vote of Approval: Ashe, Corner, Jamison, Makinde, and Williams
Five (5) In Favor, No Opposition, No Abstentions
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no other business introduced for discussion, Chair Calloway moved, with a second from Commissioner Williams, for adjournment. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 10:04pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the South Linden Area Commission will convene promptly at 6:00pm in a virtual platform on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

PEGGY A. WILLIAMS, Secretary	LAWRENCE CALLOWAY, Chair
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Regular Meeting Number 08-2020 of the South Linden Area Commission was Adjourned by Chair Calloway at 10:04pm