

**COLUMBUS SOUTH SIDE AREA COMMISSION**  
*Tuesday, JULY 25, 2023 6:30*  
**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

- 11 Commissioners Present
- X Claudia Marshall – At-Large Education Commissioner  
Aaron Hopkins – At-Large Religious/Social Services Commissioner
- X Carly Maggio – District 1
- X Rachel Robinson – District 2
- X Thomas Less – District 3
- X Ted Welch – District 4  
Maudie Grace District 5
- X Jim Griffin – District 6
- X Cassaundra Patterson – District 7  
(Vacant) - District 8
- X Lillie Banner – District 9  
(Vacant) At-Large Business Commissioner  
(Vacant) At-Large Labor/Worker Commissioner
- X Kathy Green – PAMA
- X Yeshua Cosme, At-Large Youth Commissioner
- X Justin Soltesz, At-Large Resident

**2. Amendments to Agenda.**- Motion by Lillie Banner to include Southside Thrive Collaborative presentation. 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Griffin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cassandra Patterson. Motion by passed.

**3. Approval of June 27, 2023 Minutes.** 1<sup>st</sup> Thomas Less, 2<sup>nd</sup> Yeshua Cosme. Motion passed.

**4. Katherine Cull, City Liaison report.**

- 7/29 - Area Commission Training - Strategic Planning via WebEex with Sharon Ware.
- 8/23 - Area Commission Networking Event. Budd Diary 6-7:30 pm.
- Coffee and Conversation. Representative of City's Office of Violence Prevention.
- 8/4 - Neighborhood Clean Up in partnership with the Reeb Center.

**5. Nancy Pryor Sully, City Council Liaison report.**

- 7/28 - Constituent Drop-In Meeting. Community Grounds, 2-4 pm
- 7/31 - Council hearing on housing ordinances to prevent Source of Income discrimination.

**6. Katelyn Hanson Church for All People report.**

- 7/27 - Party on the Plaza
- 7/30 - Mental Health Sunday
- Open position - After School Educator Position
- Summer freedom school is transitioning into an after school program

**7. Standing Committee Reports.**

a) Kathy Green / Carly Maggio - Zoning Committee.

- 794-706 Oakwood Ave -- Joe Hakim Applicant (1) residential use on 1<sup>st</sup> floor in commercial (existing condition) SOCA approved, Zoning approved.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Thomas Less, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cassaundra Patterson. Motion passed.
- 963 Linwood - Applicant Abdul Mohammed -- 6 variances
  - 4 existing conditions: minimum side yard reduction, building set back reduction, 2 vision triangles reductions,
  - Construct habitable space above garage, and
  - Increase garage height from 15 to 28 feet.
    - Comment for architect / city staff - Building encroaches into the right of way.

1<sup>st</sup> Carly Maggio, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thomas Less. Motion passed.

- Demolition of accessory dwelling at 391 Siebert Ave. No objections.
- 9/16 - September Zoning Meeting and site visit will be held at the Parsons Library. There are already 8 variance applications to consider.

**b) Education – Claudia Marshall.**

- She spoke with students on environmental conditions in alleys.
- Sarah Lenkey asked her to speak with college prep students in STEM to encourage them to get involved in community, to stay in school, and to study hard.

**c) Public Services & Planning – Justin Soltesz.**

- Capital improvement budget hearings upcoming at which Fairwood and Deshler Parks may be discussed.
- Will reach out to Blue Print Columbus (water/sewer focus)
- Next meeting will be held on the third Thursday 9/21

**d) PAMA -- Kathy Green**

- Smart street lighting is coming to the South Side

**e) Public Relations – Rachel Robinson.**

- No report.

**e) Youth – Yesh Cosme.**

- 9/30 Ganther's Place Garden Tour. 10am 3pm
- Seeing more break-ins their garage
- Neighbor caught 5 people about to break into someone else's home

**8. Reports of Officers**

**a) Chair – Jim Griffin.**

- Elections are coming up in November. Petition packets will be available in September.
  - District 1
  - District 6
  - District 9
- Reappointments
  - At-Large PAMA
  - At-Large Youth
- Seeking an Election Committee Chair and Volunteers

**b) Fiscal – Cassaundra Patterson.**

- Submitted budget for fiscal year.
- Received notice that our funding is waiting for city attorney approval.

## 9.) Informal & Public Presentations

### a) Devin Quinn, Equitas / Safe Point

- Equitas goal / focus is Harm Reduction
- It is the state's largest healthcare provider that focuses on LGBTQI community
- Safe point - syringe exchange
  - Established in 2016
  - Nonjudgmental environment
  - Safe disposal of 900K syringes
  - Have 20K Narcan
  - Community clean up days
- Syringe service program -
  - Protects public and 1<sup>st</sup> responders
  - Lowers health care costs
  - SSPs do not cause or increase use of illegal drugs or crime
  - Data on south side identified a high need for their services in 43206, 43207
- Seeking grant from National Council on Mental Wellness to support Mobile Outreach
  - Oversight by Columbus Public Health
  - Partnering with many organizations across city: Primary One (on Parsons) and Community Mental / Medical Services (on S. High)
  - Operations are planned to begin early Fall.
- Request - Formal Letter of Support of Syringe Service Exchange
  - Questions:
    - Ted Welch - In current political environment, do you expect funding to continue? Devin Quinn - Harm Reduction is main concern. This will be the only syringe exchange in Franklin County.
    - Thomas Less - Will you be distributing Narcan? Devin Quinn - Yes
  - Motion to write letter of support for SafePoint. 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Griffin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Justin Soltesz. Motion passed.

### b) Christine Sutton and Teonna Taylor, Columbus Metropolitan Library

- Motion to add / amend agenda. 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Griffin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cassaundra Patterson. Motion passed.
- Teonna Taylor is CML's Youth Engagement Specialist
  - Goal is to serve youth and to encourage a life-long love of reading
  - A lot of elementary and middle school children participate and they are trying to increase participation of high school children.
  - Children are allowed to take books home to own and to build their home library.
  - Through a partnership with Children's Hunger Alliance, CML provides lunch and snacks.
- Christine Sutton is CMLS' Government Liaison.
  - CML opened the downtown branch in 1873 with a gift from Andrew Carnegie. The Parsons branch was one of the 1<sup>st</sup> libraries built.
  - In 2023, CML held highly successful Book Festival with over 200 authors and 35,000 visitors.
  - CML is seeking \$1.5 million continuing levy on the November ballot.

- c) **Lillie Banner presented information on the South Side Thrive Collaborative** to increase aware of local resources - food, recreation, fitness center, etc.

10.) District Reports:

- a) District 1 Schumacher Place: 1st Tuesday, virtual meetings, 6:30pm. No report.
- b) District 2 Southern Orchards: 1st Tuesday @ Family Missionary Baptist Church, 966 Oakwood, 6:00 pm.
- c) District 3 Merion Village: 1st Wednesday, virtual meetings, 7 pm. 8/27 - Merion Village Festival, Moler Park noon to 6.
- d) District 4 Southside CAN, Ganther's Place, Edgewood Acres: SSCAN-2nd Monday @ Residences at Career Gateway, 7:00pm; GP-4th Thursday @ Residences at Career Gateway, 6:00pm; EA-2nd Tuesday @ Corpus Christi, 1111 E. Stewart Ave, 7:00pm. 9/1 National Night Out: Edgewood Acres: Corpus Christie Sports Field 6-8 and South Central Commons: 495 Hanford.
- e) District 5 Deshler Park: 3rd Thursday @ Fruit of the Spirit Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 1355 Frebis Avenue, 6:00pm. No report.
- f) District 6 Vassor Village: 1st Wednesday @ Barack Recreation Center, 7:00pm. 9/1 National Night Out: Reeb Hosack / Innis Gardens / Vassor Village: SE Lions Park 6:30-8:30.
- g) District 7 Innis Gardens Village: 3rd Thursday @ Barack Recreation Center, 580 E. Woodrow Ave.; 6:00pm. Discussion / need for traffic calming devices on Lockborne, Fairwood and Smith. 9/1 National Night Out: Reeb Hosack / Innis Gardens / Vassor Village: SE Lions Park 6:30-8:30.
- h) District 8 Hungarian Village: 2nd Wednesday @ Tara Hall, 274 E. Innis, 7:00pm.
- i) District 9 Reeb Hosack: 2nd Tuesday @ Resurrection Missionary Baptist Church, 258 Hosack St, 6:30pm. 9/1 National Night Out: Reeb Hosack / Innis Gardens / Vassor Village: SE Lions Park 6:30-8:30.
- j) PAMA. Holding a Parsons Avenue Stakeholders Meeting with Deb Davenport (Connect to Protect), Mike Premo (CD4AP), Open Shelter, Reeb Center, Stowe Baptist Church, and Columbus Police Department on coordination of services focusing first on Parsons.

12. Executive Committee Meeting Day is Saturday prior to Commission meeting.

13. Public Comments & Announcements.

New south side resident Jerrell Cogmon thanked Katherine Cull for walking the neighborhood with him and assisting in having abandoned / inoperable cars removed from his street.

14. Adjournment.

1<sup>st</sup> Jim Griffin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cassaundra Patterson at 7:35 pm,