

# WESTLAND AREA COMMISSION

P.O. Box 293 – Galloway, OH 43119

**Wednesday April 21, 2021**

Virtual Meeting through Zoom and Facebook live

Chairman: Scott Taylor; Vice Chairman: Bill Steimer; Treasurer: Dave Van Order; Recording Officer: Tena Thompson

## Minutes

7:02 Call to Order

### Roll Call

Nancy Day-Achauer-x	Marian Hymer-x	Bill Steimer-x	Shawn Thomas-x
Cathy Cowan Becker-x	Bryan Largan-Lyman-x	David Stewart-X	Tena Thompson-x
Janet Cahill-x	Mike McKay-x	Jeff Tanner-x	David Van Order-x
Ashley Hoye-x	Denise Southworth-EX	Scott Taylor-x	

X- Present  
AB- Absent  
EX- Excused

Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the March 2021 minutes with corrections. Jeff Tanner made the motion to approve the amended minutes and Bill Steimer seconded. All approved and the March 2021 minutes were approved with corrections.

### Recognition of guests

Officer Rob Bruce was present and he commented on issues of the Hilltop, but no real issues of the Westland area. Members asked questions more specific to the Westland area, these issues included gunshots in the area, the Westland H.S incident, and general safety questions. He said he would look more into these concerns. He did report that a homeless camp was cleaned out in the Valleyview/Hilltop area and he would have more information after it was finalized.

### Committee Reports

#### Zoning –

Committee chair Mike McKay reported that there was zoning that was supposed to be heard at the meeting but Jeff Brown, Attorney for the property, requested that the hearing be tabled this evening. Mr. Brown received concerns from the city that would need to be addressed before going forward. The zoning is expected to be heard next month. More information to come.

Community Relations – nothing to report.

#### Education – David Stewart

Committee chair David Stewart discussed, what he could, about the events that happened around Westland H.S., which resulted in the school being closed for a day. He emphasized that SWCS wants to make sure students/staff are safe at school and that includes closing if needed. He did say that the Sheriff's office and Columbus police were involved with the situation.

Also, he discussed that everyone in SWCS is back to a in- person 5 day school week. There have been some Covid cases but a manageable amount. Precautions are still being taken to keep cases down. Most of the cases are students, as a majority of the staff has been vaccinated.

On a positive note, there will be in-person graduations and proms with some limitations. The graduations will be held at the respective high schools. The rules are still being set for those. More information to come.

### **Planning & Development –**

Committee chair Bill Steimer announced that there is definitely progress being made in the development behind Krogers. There have been a few setbacks such as hitting a gas line but overall progress is happening. He reported that he saw some activity happening on the Hall Rd site as well. Activity included new sod, and painting, but nothing substantial to the site.

### **Public Health & Safety –**

Committee chair Nancy Day-Achauer reported that the Public Health and Safety committee held their first meeting on Monday, April 12. She reported that at least 2 people watched on Facebook. One issue discussed was the Youth Vaping seminars. She said the next presentation date is May 6 at 630. Dr. Ted Wagner from the James and former Buckeye James Cotton are featured speakers.

The produce giveaway scheduled for June is experiencing a little bit of a hiccup at this time. Since it is a holiday weekend, the Mid-Ohio food bank will not be opened and they are not allowing the produce pickup from them to be changed. Thus, creating an issue with receiving produce for the giveaway. There are other alternatives being considered in order to get produce and to still have the giveaway. More information to come.

Committee member Shawn Thomas reported that he has seen many people crossing Galloway Rd. to get to the park area, where there is not a place to cross. His concern is safety, as people run across. Mr. Thomas did call 311 and left his contact information in the hopes that it would be passed on to the correct person. He did encourage commission members to call 311 and request that signage, or a crosswalk be established. There was a discussion during the committee meeting on encouraging the public to be involved with that idea as well. Ideas that were suggested to encourage involvements were a sign to call 311 on Galloway Rd, posting on the Nextdoor website, and flyers to give to the residents of the neighborhood. Information about the need for signage was passed on to Melissa Green and she is forwarding it to her contacts in transportation. More information to come.

Committee member Brian Largan-Lyman discussed an idea that the committee had about a clean up project for the area. Basically, to create an event or to encourage people to clean up the area. Melissa Green did give the contact information via email for Derek Wholihan (DAholihan@columbus.gov), Keep Columbus Beautiful, that could potentially help provide the grabbers and buckets that would be used for cleanup. Other names and other entities were mentioned that could be reached out to as well. More information to come.

Chair Nancy Day-Achauer shared about the grants that the city passed for youth programs. She said that grant money was for any youth program that helped to keep kids off the streets and kept youth active would be eligible to apply for the funds. She encouraged people watching in the community and members to let WAC know of any programs so that the grant information could be passed along.

### **Recreation & Parks –**

Committee chair Shawn Thomas reported that he reached out to the city about an update on the Alkire Park. He said that they have sent out proposals for the park and that this the furthest step that the development has ever gone.

### **Old Business**

Melissa Green reminded everyone since there will be committee meetings that they need to be announced in the City Bulletin. Those meeting dates and times need to be submitted to her at least 2 weeks beforehand so she can get them in on time.

Chair Taylor reminded everyone that he did submit the list of Capital budget items to the city as discussed.

## **New Business**

Chair Taylor opened the discussion about the 2021-22 WAC budget. Chair Taylor sent a copy of the current budget to members last week. Members asked about Zoom accounts, buying of the domain for the website, Wordpress etc. It was stated that all requests and reimbursement requests need to go to Scott Taylor and David Van Order. Melissa Green said that the extra \$1,000 would not be allocated this year as many areas did not use it. Also, the travel and training budget line might need to be re-evaluated due to the pandemic. Chair Taylor suggested that a special budget meeting be held to discuss the budget before the May meeting. He encouraged members to review the budget before both meetings and that the budget did need to be approved at the May meeting. Date to be determined for the budget meeting and will send out via email after the April WAC meeting.

Chair Taylor stated that he was contacted by a Dispatch reporter about the Westland. He asked them to submit questions in writing. More information to come.

Commission member Nancy Day -Achauer announced that on Thursday, April 22 at 5:30, the city will be having a public meeting about the redistricting process. The meeting will discuss how they are doing mapping that will impact who represents our area on City Council.

Chair Taylor reminded members of the Affordable housing meeting that is Thursday, April 22 and encouraged members to review the email he sent about it.

Commission member Shawn Thomas informed members about the diaper drive on Sat. May 1st at St. Cecilia.

Melissa Green reminded members about the fiscal training scheduled for April 24 at 10am. Also, during that training, the East West Corridor will be discussed as well. She reminded everyone of the Westside office hours on May 6 at 10am. After discussions around the city, it was decided that city-wide elections will be postponed until at least 2022. Many of the commissions do not have this allowed in their bylaws so before it can happen, the other commissions will have to update theirs for this to take place. There will be a meeting in the near future with more information but no date is scheduled yet. More information to come about this event. On a city level, the Parks and Recs will be doing a survey that will be open to the public to discuss what is needed, general overall impression etc of what is needed, and how they are doing. More information to come of the survey. She did inform commissioners that everyone affected in the city will be receiving their letter about the electricity aggregation program that gives individuals the opportunity to opt out of the program. The letter should be received around the city in the next two weeks.

## **Adjourn**

There being no more business before the Westland Area Commission, Chairman Taylor asked for a motion to adjourn the April 2021 meeting. Nancy Day Achauer and Brian Largan- Lyman moved to adjourn and Mike McKay second the motion with all members voting in favor. Meeting ended at 8:20pm. The next meeting of the Westland Area Commission will be held May 19, 2021 via ZOOM and Facebook live.