

WESTLAND AREA COMMISSION

P.O. Box 293 – Galloway, OH 43119

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Virtual Meeting through Zoom and Facebook live

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

Minutes

7:04 pm Call to Order

Roll Call

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

X- Present
AB- Absent
EX- Excused

Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the January 2021 minutes as written. Bill Steimer made the motion to approve the minutes and Brian Largan- Lyman seconded. All approved and the January 2021 minutes were approved as written.

Recognition of guests-

Sergeant Frederick Brophy introduced himself as the new representative for the westside community policing. He will be doing more of the long term problems like break ins and less of the day to day activities. He was open to any questions and concerns. Officer Segmund was present and introduced the new community liaison Officer Rob Bruce. Officer Bruce gave a brief introduction of himself, and that he is looking forward to working with commission. He is always open to questions and concerns as well.

Brad Westfall, from Columbus Recs and Park, was present to discuss the Alkire Road Park. He showed the design of the park and different features of it that makes it family- friendly. Currently, the design includes green spaces for playing, picnic area, a maze garden and bike hub as part of the Camp Chase Trail and the bigger Ohio-Erie bike path. He showed a presentation that will be emailed to Commission members as well. The park will be done in two different phases. The hope is to start late summer, early fall at the latest. There are still some permits that are waiting to be finalized. It is anticipated to be open for play in 2022. This is not a final plan but a work in progress. There will be more information to come.

Committee Reports

Zoning – No report.

Community Relations – No report.

Education – No report.

Planning & Development –

Committee chair Bill Steimer reported that local bars and restaurants are starting to extend their hours since the end of the state shut down order. Also, he announced that Steak and Shake has recently reopened as well, their closure was not due to Covid.

The development west of Kroger is gaining momentum. There is earth moving equipment and grass that has already been removed from the area. Mr. Steimer said it was clear that we need to keep an eye on traffic in that area because it will increase a great deal when that development is completed and as more people are moving about as Covid restrictions are lifted. Also, he emphasized about how the train tracks in the area will have a huge impact on movement.

Commission member Janet Cahill announced that part of the portion of the property, mainly the area around the old driving range, is now owned by Ohio Power. There are multiple transmission lines that will be put on the property, thus the reason that Ohio Power might be the current owner. The property is still anticipated to have single family homes developed on it.

Public Health & Safety –

Committee chair Nancy Day-Achauer sadly announced that the produce giveaway would not be happening in February, due to the extreme cold that is predicted. Many agreed that it would not be safe for volunteers or families to be outside for numerous hours in the cold.

Recreation & Parks –

During Mr. Westfall's presentation, some questions were asking about additional areas including the 42 acres off of Alton Rd and West Broad Street. He reminded the Commissioners about the previous concerns and problematic areas that have delayed development in any form on the 42 acres. This is still an area of interest for both the city and the commission. Also, it was suggested that additional, new property could be purchased to build a rec center on as well. There are several farmlands in the area that are for sale at this time and could be worth considering.

Committee chair 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, and wants to contact the appropriate jurisdiction so that a crossing of some sorts could be put in place for safe passage across. This will be a "work in progress" as jurisdiction and contacting is figured out.

Old Business

Chair Taylor reminded everyone about the need to update the Commission committees. Chair Taylor is asking everyone to send him an email of 2 committees that they would like to be on. Commission member Nancy Day-Achauer suggested that an outline or goal list could be created for each committee so that it could draw people in and to explain what the group is working to. Also, it was suggested that outside influences could be used as well, even if they are not on the commission. Some of the committees only have one member, which could hinder that committee's role in the big picture. It was clear that many agree, the committees could be more active in the commission.

Chair Taylor received an email that the projector and screen that we requested as part of the technological grant was approved. He will be picking it up from City Hall. Also, he will ask about the laptop's status.

New Business

Chair Taylor sent members the updated 2021 training schedule that is being offered by the city. These programs are highly encouraged.

Commission member Cathy Cowan Becker volunteered to work on the Neighborhood website page and the Commissions personal webpage. Commission leaders will grant access and pass on the needed information in the near future so that she can begin work at her pace.

Melissa Greene was present and thanked members for participating in the East - West Corridor meeting. She encouraged members to register for updates about the project because there will be many due to the size of the project. The project extends from Galloway to Reynoldsburg. The next meeting will be on Feb. 26.

Adjourn

There being no more business before the Westland Area Commission, Chairman Taylor asked for a motion to adjourn the February 2021 meeting. Mike McKay moved to adjourn and Nancy Day-Achauer second the motion with all members voting in favor. Meeting ended at 8:35pm. The next meeting of the Westland Area Commission will be held March 17, 2021 via ZOOM and Facebook live.