

WESTLAND AREA COMMISSION

P.O. Box 293 – Galloway, OH 43119

Wednesday May 19, 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-AB	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-X	Scott Taylor-x	

X- Present
AB- Absent
EX- Excused

Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the April 2021 minutes with corrections. Bill Steimer made the motion to approve the amended minutes and Mike McKay seconded. All approved and the April 2021 minutes were approved with corrections.

Recognition of guests

Officer Rob Bruce was present and he commented that there have not been any major problems. He did say that they were working on talking with the people who are riding quads in the area that are stopping traffic and causing safety issues. Also, he has been called out a couple of times about people fishing on private property on Big Run Rd, but they were not present when he got there.

Averi Townsend is the new westside council liaison for the Columbus City Council community engagement team. She introduced herself and provided her contact information.

(aitownsend@columbus.gov) She informed that there will be a Council Residential districting meeting on the westside on June 2 at 5:30. More information and links will be announced as it gets closer to June 2.

Committee Reports

Zoning –

Committee chair Mike McKay reported that zoning number Z21-028, more commonly known as 1583 Holt Road, would be heard. The request is to rezone the property from LC -5 to a LC-4. The LC-5 zoning allows only for the property to be used as a car wash, and the LC-4 would allow for more property uses. The rezoning to LC-4 would coincide with the zoning of surrounding properties. Atty Jeff Brown is representing the property owners. There have been some changes to the proposal since the WAC Zoning meeting. The changes added were some exclusions to what the property could be used for. Mr. Brown outlined the exclusions as requested by WAC Zoning. The only exclusion that WAC Zoning requested that the owner did not agree with, was for the property to be used for a hotel or motel. The concern was if the property could be used for an extended stay hotel. It was stated that an extended stay hotel would be prohibited with the zoning, but a hotel like the Hilton or something similar would be allowed. When presented to the Zoning committee, the zoning was approved with ALL the exclusions that they recommended at the April zoning meeting. Committee

chair McKay asked for a motion to approve the rezoning from a LC5- to LC4 as amended to include the agreed exclusions. Janet Cahill made the motion and Bill Stemier seconded the motion. The motion was passed 14-0.

Community Relations – nothing to report.

Education –

Committee chair David Stewart discussed the great news that there will be traditional graduation ceremonies with two at Grove City H.S. and two at Central Crossing H.S. on Sat. June 5th. Each graduate can bring up to 8 guests. Also, the construction projects are on time and under budget.

It was reminded that this will be Mr. Stewart's last meeting as he will be taking a new position in the Hillard schools.

Planning & Development –

Committee chair Bill Steimer announced that there is definitely progress being made in the development behind Krogers. Also, he has not been able to talk to anyone at the Hall and Norton Rd. site to determine what exactly is occurring there. Although, it is evident that work is being completed.

Public Health & Safety –

Committee chair Nancy Day-Achauer reported that she attended a meeting with the Franklin Co. Public Health and it was encouraged to let community organizations, groups etc know they can host Covid vaccination sites. The only requirement is that there needs to be at least 50 people willing to be vaccinated.

Since it is a holiday weekend during the June produce giveaway , the Mid-Ohio food bank will not be open. It was decided that produce will be purchased from Kroger instead. If anyone would like to donate, they can purchase Kroger gift cards to be used to purchase the food.

Committee member Shawn Thomas reported that he had no news about the crossing on Galloway Rd. by the Prairie Township Sports Complex. Melissa Green did say she had contacted some people with the city, but she would need to review their responses. More information to come.

Committee member Brian Largan-Lyman discussed how the community clean up project went. It was held May 8. Advertising was done on Facebook, NextDoor and with the schools. There were at least 50 plus volunteers. Volunteers picked up on 5 main streets and 5 residential streets. It was estimated that 80 plus bags of litter were picked up. There was a lot of community and business support as well, ranging from Starbucks, Domino's, Raising Caines, T Mobile and Keep Columbus Beautiful. The goal is to have a clean up event several times a year and encourage more of the community to be involved. No future dates have been announced. Another goal is to involve other local governments, including Prairie Township, Hilltop Commission, etc. More information to come.

Recreation & Parks –

Committee chair Shawn Thomas reported that the Rec and Parks committee had their meeting on Monday, May 17. There was a lot of discussion about committee concerns, committee goals and the canopy project in the city. The canopy is of major concern since the Westland area has some of the lowest canopy percentages in the city. Members asked Melissa Green if it would be possible to meet with someone from the city to discuss this issue and have their questions addressed. Ms. Green said she would pass the concerns and try to have something arranged. More information to come.

Committee chair Thomas received an email from Kelly Messer, that they are selecting a consultant to do some designs of the Alkire Park. More information to come.

Committee member Janet Cahill conducted some research on the Blauser property, that is for sale. The address of the property is 6145 W. Broad St. aka parcel number 010-256886 . The city already owns portions of the land next to the property. She expressed the hope that the Westland Area Commission could make a formal request and recommendation that Columbus Park and Rec purchase the property. There were several diagrams/maps that she shared with the commission that showed possible "low impact" opportunities that would benefit the land as well as the city. These opportunities ranged from a police substation, fire station, walking areas, tennis and basketball courts, recreation center with meeting rooms, picnic area, and a further LINKUS West COTA bus stop. Also, she emphasized how, if the city purchased this area, the trees that are present could remain and more could be planted to help the canopy of the westside. She did express the challenges of the land that builders would face and how it could affect the properties near the area. Many

members expressed concerns, as well as their current knowledge of the property. Even with the property for sale, there is still an active application with the city for rezoning. It was questioned if Parks and Rec's knew the current situation because it was said at one time that the price of the land was too high for Parks and Recs to purchase and there was some question on how the land could be maintained. After discussion, it was decided a subcommittee will be formed to figure out how to proceed in making a formal request to the city to look into purchasing the property. Interested members can contact Shawn Thomas or Mike McKay to be on the subcommittee. It is clear, that many agree, that the current proposal is not in the best interest of the community. More information to come.

Old Business - Nothing to report.

New Business

Chair Taylor opened the discussion about the 2021-2022 WAC budget. Chair Taylor sent a copy of the new budget proposal to members last week. After quick discussion, Chair Taylor asked for a motion to pass the 2021-2022 WAC budget as proposed. Mike McKay made the motion and Bill Steimer seconded the motion. All members approved and the budget will be sent to the city.

Chair Taylor asked Melissa Green about the website possibilities due to the two year mandate before a lot of time and money was spent on a website. It was stated that we could have a separate website and allowable in the budget for this year. Chair Taylor gave the approval for Cathy Cowan- Becker to continue working on the website as planned. Due to the unknowns and the pushback that the city is facing about this issue from other local commissions, there are still many unanswered questions. More information to come.

Chair Taylor reminded members about Robert's rules and Parliamentary procedures training on June 5th 10am -12pm.

Melissa Green informed the commission that city local pools will be free and open to the public this summer. The closest ones are Dodge Park and Glenwood park. Also, there were no updates about virtual meetings vs. in person meetings for the immediate future. It is a topic that is being heavily discussed but a clear decision has not been made. This information is the same as far as when city employees will return to the office. More information to come.

Chair Taylor made the announcement that he might be late, if not absent to the meeting in June. He has made the proper arrangements for Vice Chair Bill Steimer or Mike McKay to run the meeting, and for Nancy Day- Achauer to run the Zoom and Facebook portions of the meeting if needed. If any additional changes need to be made, there will be an announcement.

Adjourn

There being no more business before the Westland Area Commission, Chairman Taylor asked for a motion to adjourn the May 2021 meeting. Jeff Tanner moved to adjourn and Janet Cahill seconded the motion with all members voting in favor. Meeting ended at 8:42pm. The next meeting of the Westland Area Commission will be held June 16, 2021 via ZOOM and Facebook live.