

WESTLAND AREA COMMISSION

P.O. Box 293 – Galloway, OH 43119

Wednesday September 15, 2021

Southwestern Library

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

Minutes

7:01 pm -Call to Order

Roll Call

Nancy Day-Achauer-*	Marian Hymer-EX	Jeff Tanner-*	*-Present
Cathy Cowan Becker-*	Mike McKay-*	Scott Taylor-*	
Janet Cahill-*	Denise Southworth-EX	Tena Thompson-EX	
Ashley Hoye-*	Bill Steimer-*	Dave Van Order-*	EX-excused

Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the August 2021 minutes with corrections. Nancy Day-Achauer made the motion to approve the amended minutes and Bill Steimer seconded. All approved and the July 2021 minutes were approved with corrections.

Committee Reports

Zoning –

Committee chair Mike McKay stated that the zoning issue that has been pending will continue to be as the applicant is working on different aspects of their request, which includes a traffic study, working with buyers, City of Columbus requests etc. The applicant will contact the commission again when they are ready to proceed.

Community Relations –

Committee chair Ashley Hoye and committee member Nancy Day -Achauer updated members about the Trick or Treat Trail that will be held at Westland High School's parking lot sponsored by the Prairie Township Community Center on Sat, Oct. 23 at 4 pm. This event is heavily attended and a positive way to get WAC's name out. It will be a walking event compared to a driving event of past years. Nancy Day -Achauer plans to attend and is welcoming anyone to participate with her. Candy will be provided by Nancy Day-Achauer and Melissa Green. Donations of money for candy or candy are welcomed.

Education –

There was no official report, however it was asked if there was word as to who would be replacing David Stewart as the Education representative. Several members of the commission will be reaching out to different options in SWCS to fulfill the position.

Planning & Development –

Committee chair Bill Steimer gave an update about the development behind Kroger. He said that it is progressing at a fast pace. Even though the development is not habitable, there has been an increase

in traffic in the area as well. He said that customers have commented about how more crowded and harder to shop it will be once the development is completed.

The discussion about the development led to a conversation about affordable housing in the area. It was questioned whether there even was affordable housing in the area, who determines what affordable housing is, and what could be done to get more in the area. It was suggested to invite affordable housing groups to present to the commission and to encourage these builds. More information to come.

It was asked what is being developed beside the Marathon station on Norton Rd. in front of the nursing facility and no-one knew. Will try to get an answer before the next meeting.

Public Health & Safety –

Committee chair Nancy Day- Achauer spoke about the August produce giveaway, where 75 families were served. She informed members that Mid Ohio is offering boxes of non-perishables to seniors monthly as well.

She received notice from the Health department encouraging residents to dump standing water and to be cautious around it because mosquitoes like to breed in those areas. If residents have rain barrels then one can register at rainbarrel.gov and receive treatment pods for no charge to prevent mosquitoes.

Recreation & Parks –

Committee chair Janet Cahill had a lot of information to present and explain as the committee had a lot of answers to the questions that were asked at the July commission meeting. The Rec and Parks Committee met twice since the July commission meeting. At the first meeting, the committee and three citizens attended and discussed potential sites that could be used for recreational purposes. These sites included the Cherry Creek YMCA, and the former Dispatch property. The Cherry Creek YMCA is occupied, has programs operating out of it and no property growth opportunities as the land around it is developed. She presented a lot of information about the Dispatch property as it has land, a spacious building, some ball fields and a lot of opportunities for additional uses. Also, the property is in a centered location to accommodate most of the Westland area. Information was presented about the Prairie Township Community Center and why it is not feasible to handle the current and later demand for recreation on the westside. This information included current enrollment, current population, and anticipated growth of the area. Information will be made available to the city.

The committee was able to receive the demographic information that was questioned from the Franklin Co. Treasurer office. The information included population, income, tax basis, tax benefit of the area to the city and other relevant information. It was suggested that some of the demographic information be added to the website in the future. To see the information, and specific data please contact Janet Cahill.

The committee has not received any updates from MetroParks about the Blauser property and the city is still not interested in it. The next meeting of the committee will be Oct. 6 at 6 p.m. in the Event Room at Auto Boutique, 1800 Georgesville Square Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43228.

Old Business

Commission chair Taylor announced that Dave Van Order and new member Heather Abdalla were elected to the Westland Area Commission during the election. Also, Janet Cahill made the motion to re-appoint Ashley Hoye to the commission and Bill Steimer seconded. All approved and Ashley Hoye accepted the appointment. Chair Taylor announced Denise Southworth's resignation and will be in contact with SWPL to find her replacement. There were questions that were asked about appointments and filling positions to the commission as there are several open positions. There was a brief discussion and overview of how the process worked.

Since the 2021 election has been completed, Chair Taylor led a brief discussion of whether WAC wanted to join the city wide proposal that would handle the election process for future years. Nancy Day-Achauer made the motion to accept the proposal and Janet Cahill seconded. All approved the motion.

New Business

Commission chair Taylor led the discussion of where the commission could possibly meet in 2022. Auto Boutique, the Westland Library and the Darby House were options suggested. Janet Cahill announced that the Parks and Recreation committee has met at Auto Boutique and they have a wonderful facility and are a true asset to the community. Several members expressed their appreciation that a development did what they said they would do and give back to the community at the same time. A tentative schedule of locations and dates for

2022 will be announced at the October meeting. This is subject to change if restrictions are placed due to Covid, since any public area could be affected and might not allow public gatherings.

Averi Townsend was present and gave an update about the city redistricting. The first draft, three maps were presented on September 1. These maps were drafted based on the 2010 census. On Oct. 6, three more maps will be presented based on the 2020 census. The release of these maps will initiate a thirty day comment period. It was strongly suggested to comment and review them. There will be roughly nine more maps drafted and released. The final vote for the maps will be in December. It was reminded that the maps will be reevaluated every ten years based on the census information and updated to reflect the current information.

Melissa Green reminded members to check their emails as she will be emailing members about current training opportunities and information from the city. There will be a new course offered at the beginning of Oct, and more information will be sent discussing it.

Adjourn

There being no more business before the Westland Area Commission, Chairman Taylor asked for a motion to adjourn the September 2021 meeting. Mike McKay moved to adjourn and Nancy Day-Achauer seconded the motion with all members voting in favor. Meeting ended at 8:36pm. The next meeting of the Westland Area Commission will be held October 20, 2021 at the Westland Area Library.