

North Central Area Commission Meeting
September 6, 2018
Shepard Library

Web site: ncacolumbus.wix.com/ncac
Facebook: North Central Area Commission

Call to Order: Tiffany White called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m. Bee Tolber prayed the invocation.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Lorenzo Brent, Reno Lemons, Carl Lee (arrived late), Jessica Martin, Bee Tolber, Tiffany White, Donna Turner (arrived at 7:06)

Absent: Alfonso Hooper (excused), Wallace McLean (excused), Lamar Peoples,

Meeting Minutes for July 5, 2018: Reno Lemons motioned to approve. Lorenzo Brent seconded.

Budget: City Council approved stipend; Tiffany White turned in by July 15th, left rent in budget as we may use ODU student center during the next year (they are a Pride Partner).

Police Liaison Report:

7th Precinct Liaison Officer (@columbuspolice.org) – Not present.

Officer Alesia Zacher, 5th Precinct Liaison Officer azacher@columbuspolice.org (614-645-1405) – crime statistics look good right now, main issue is motorcycles being stolen.

Commander Jennifer Knight, Zone 4 Commander – over the Summer Safety Initiative and Safe Streets program (second year of the program). May through August. No plain clothes officers; officers on bikes in the neighborhood – engagement is community driven (do not take dispatched calls), they go to meetings and all enforcement action is based on neighborhood complaints. Work with other city departments to help with tracking refuse, illegal dumping, abating houses. Level of trust was developed because neighbors were able to see how quickly other issues were being solved. Officers are able to sit on front porches. Community groups requested to bring back and expand; received \$2 million for this year and expanded to Hilltop and Parsons Ave area. They have seen a difference in how people relate to officers, increase in crime tips. Also those officers now are off bikes but still in that neighborhood. Officers volunteered to work this program; sergeant was focused on community activity and one was focused on enforcement actions.

Just in the Safe Streets Program: over 4500 contacts (10 officers and 2 sergeants); 109 community meetings in 4 months; 41 placard houses; 127 felony arrests; 121 misdemeanor arrests; 69 guns recovered during the day; 51 guns recovered during night shift; 14 stolen vehicles recovered; seized a lot drugs; \$129,000 from drug traffickers; homicide rate is down from last year from 60% (last year was spike but down over all). Every crime category is down 25-35% down.

Bee Tolber applauded the program. They helped with gang activity in cemetery. The program is making a big impact, not just the stats but the change in the kid's views too! She is willing to help go anywhere and applaud this program. We cannot afford for this program to be stopped now.

Commander Knights said the program came back because the community groups requested that. Let City Council and Mayor's office know this program is what we want – they will listen to us. Last year there was

an outpouring of support. She would not have been able to do it with the resources BECAUSE they're given after the community asked for it. She would like it to be permanent/year-round for Linden. Right now they are backfilling their positions with over time and west side is doing the same thing (patrol has deficiency of 50 positions each day, 30 runs on hold most of the time). They are not able to do it next year unless the Mayor allocates a budget and Commander Knight does not want to burn people out and work too many. Usually cruisers go from run to run, we can't continue to police that way – needs a combination: officers engaging and building relationships and those that can take runs. She will be here again next year if we get this program.

Tiffany White is on the Safety Commission and will be recommending this!

During the summer, Officers walked street by street with Sanitation Dept and Code Enforcement. Walked through the alleys, go to every door, placard houses, do abatements, talk to neighbors, and referrals for senior services. One day, Officers were loading trash all day (got a trash truck), trying to think outside the box of ways to serve and build community engagement. Officers were able to pick up the phone and come out and solve right away. Walked kids to and from school. Working on taking the fear out of the relationship – restoring trust from both sides; cops saw difference w/ the community, barriers being broken down.

Officer Zacher has helped us a lot and been a big proponent of Safe Streets – worked well with them too. Community Liaisons Officers are integrated into Safe Streets program to share information.

Question: How are neighborhoods determined? Linden (where started, more knowledge/relationships already), other neighborhoods Mayor picked based on opportunity, where crime stats are higher.

Michele Reynolds recommendation: Pursue Edward Byrne Memorial grant funds – Neighborhoods could bring resources to the table. This Program could be a huge opportunity for grant funding. Commander Knight will provide stats when the report is written; this could be used in grant proposals.

In the Hilltop, Officer had to take runs sometimes, only 502 contacts in Zone 3. Commander Knight emphasized that each program has to be community specific, can't treat them all the same.

Sandra Lopez said to email her and she can pass on our support to Councilmember Mitch Brown. Consider doing a petition and rallying the community. Councilmember Brown really cares and will listen!

Presentations:

- Leslie Cannon – proposal for old Shepard library. He is a real estate appraiser and small scale developer, does geo special analysis - grab information and analyze data. Wants to build a geo-hub for careers in bid data, construction, technology, landscape arts but will offer education for other career paths from k-12 through doctorate (including online). Provide uses for senior citizens. He has also worked with homeless populations and considering developed back piece of land to provide affordable housing for Ohioans with disabilities and veterans.
 - He will have a formal presentation in November and is still developing partners (i.e., smart city, parks and rec, Columbus 2020)
 - Carl Lee has been working with him for the last year, working with some of the Columbus city schools too (STEM)
 - Leslie Cannon has been working on this type of project for about 8 years.
 - He does mass appraisal (statistical analysis of the market for real estate pricing); state certified.

- Question about opportunity for grant money? Motivation and passion is for education. He is a for-profit company that works with non-profits; he has 2 companies – one is non-profit, the other will train the non-profit employees.
- Sara Potter, Columbus Public Health (CPH), reported the Health Advisory Committees has transitioned to Neighborhood Health Ambassador Initiative. They will be coming to this meeting in the future (starting in January). Applications can still be faxed in. During our 2016 Survey they compiled data and came up with top three concerns, last year Celebrate One Patrice Brady came. Another priority was healthcare, so she brought Emily Fisher.
- Emily Fisher, Access to Care Coordinator at CPH. They help people get access to healthcare through free in-person (walk-ins) or over the phone help to sign up for insurance and trouble shoot issues. They can help people navigate the process. They are required to offer unbiased assistance. JFS employee there two days to help w/ Medicaid specifically, or SNAP benefits. They can also help navigate Federal marketplace too. There are comprehensive resource guides for clinics (translated into Spanish and Somali on the website).
 - CPH sent out advisories that Ohio and all surrounding states experiencing Hepatitis A outbreaks. Working with other partners to provide information about being vaccinated.
- Sandra Lopez passed out flyer for Commissioners only, working with Ohio State School of Policy who will be studying area commissions (will reach out to us). Join Councilmember Tyson at the New Commission on Black Girls listening sessions (open to the public).
- Katarina Karac, City zone attorney, who handles nuisance, vacant, drug houses, food establishments, liquor, etc. Over the same area as Commander Knight. For all complaints against properties – call 311 and then follow-up and let her know too. She works with detectives closely; they did so many abatements over the summer, working as a team w/ Safe Streets taking a holistic view of properties (a lot easier to vacate the property when they know the whole picture). She went door to door with the Officers too and got a different perspective on some of her properties in court, can better prioritize. She wants to know what is going on and which properties are impacting us. Regarding retail locations, Lorenzo Brent asked about neighborhood stores where no tax rate is really given, they just add \$.30 or \$.50 cents to it (not ringing it up). Katarina Karac reported they work closely w/ tax department who have investigators. Typically these stores are doing other illegal activity too but let her know which stores they are. She can tell difference between stores that are the problem in the community and stores that are dealing with problems that the whole community is.
 - Carl Lee reported wildlife going in and out of vacant houses (including at 1748 E 26th Ave.)

Community Liaison Report: Alfred Akainyah; his phone is 614-645-7964, cell 614-678-2605, email: aaakainyah@columbus.gov. – Neighborhoods Best Practice conference; October 20th – Downtown High School registration beginning Sept 15th (he will forward information).

Zoning: N/A

Committee Reports

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Donna Turner, Wallace McLean, Carl Lee

- N/A

ZONING, BUILDING AND HOUSING COMMITTEE: Lamar Peoples & Lorenzo Brent

- N/A

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE: Bee Tolber

- N/A

RECREATION & PARKS COMMITTEE: Reno Lemons

- N/A

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: Lamar Peoples

- N/A

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Jessica Martin

- N/A

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE: Lamar Peoples & Lorenzo Brent

- N/A

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Airport: Alfonso Hooper and Wallace McLean
- Education: No report.
- Elections: Election results:
 - Argyle Park: Carl Lee; At-Large: Wallace McLean; Shepard: Jessica Martin. All results certified by Tiffany White, Alfonso Hooper, Bee Tolber.
 - Carl Lee will be resigning from other area commission.
 - Donna Turner did not re-run, will attend future meetings and is recruiting.
- Bylaws: Meeting on September 27th at 6:30 PM, location TBD to discuss changes.
- SmartCity: No report.
- ODU: No report.

Community Forum:

- LaToyia Matthews, Celebrate One coordinator, who has a committed attendee. She is a part of Linden Leadership Academy who is having health and wellness expo on Saturday 9/8. Originally wanted to do a 5k but a lot of logistical issues. Location will be Easton (still technically Linden) 3k launch and do a 5k next year. Next year could do at opening for new rec center. They have a lot of sponsors and money raised will be put back into Linden.

Old Business/Announcements:

- YWCA Good Neighbor agreement: They update it every three years. We will have to consider how do we make sure they comply with this? YWCA is going to bring back a neighborhood advisory committee. Provide feedback by September 30th.
- Look at zoning powerpoint that was sent out from the training.
- Petition for Amer-Crest Vacancy: Asmara Williams – submitted signatures. Bee Tolber met her at Linden Recreation Facility meeting. She is interested in community and owns one of new homes in American Addition. We need the enthusiasm that she has. She walked the neighborhood w/ Bee Tolber. She is originally from New York, grew up in community activism. Her mom is an educator at Wright State. She believes you have to be involved no matter where you live. She will send her bio to Alfred Akainyah.
 - Jessica Martin, motioned to appoint to the vacancy, Bee Tolber seconded. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned 8:00 P.M.