

North Central Area Commission Meeting
July 11, 2019
Ohio Dominican University, Student Center

Web site: ncacolumbus.wix.com/ncac

Facebook: North Central Area Commission

Call to Order: Tiffany White called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Tiffany White prayed the invocation.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Lorenzo Brent, Reno Lemons, Jessica Martin, Wallace McLean, Tiffany White, Asmara Williams, and Bee Tolber (arrived at 6:23)

Absent: Alfonso Hooper, Carl Lee (*excused*)

Meeting Agenda Approval: Jessi Martin motioned to approve. Lorenzo Brent seconded.

Meeting Minutes for June 6, 2019: Lorenzo Brent motioned to approve. Asmara Williams seconded.

Presentations:

- **Bob Young, consultant, Why I See**, in 2018 worked on behalf of American Eagle carryout (Brentnell area) trying to get Sunday beer and wine license (this was significantly defeated via vote, almost 2-1). Since 1970, neighborhoods have decided to allow Sunday sales by voting. NCAC area has seen this 8-10 times over the years and voted no each time (right now no one has a Sunday license). Ohio Legislature is looking at bill to do away with Sunday sales voting: if House Bill 219 passes, all business will be able to sell beer and wine on Sundays. Liquor industry is sponsoring this bill and have gotten Sunday sales laws reversed in other states. Bob Young asked Commission to oppose legislation and consider testifying on it. Right now it is in the House Commerce and Labor Committee, Gayle Manning is the chair. September 17th would be the earliest opposing testimony date, could be provided via written (even letters would carry a lot of weight) or stand before committee. We can call him with questions and he will help facilitate putting together the testimony. Meetings are usually at 3 PM on Wednesdays. Current representatives seem receptive to feedback.
 - What other commissions in Columbus are dry on Sundays? We are not sure yet.
 - Tiffany White will try to reach out to other cities too, encouraged everyone to let others know.
 - This is a voting rights issue – taking away our ability to have a say in the process.
- **Jim McFarland, Zoning Resources, for Plaskolite** (contracted through Columbus Sign Company, specializes in zoning code). Improvements to Joyce and sidewalks caused their signs to be taken down. They used to have more signs; the old ones were wood but the new ones will similarly located but have an aluminum frame (not illuminated). Right now trucks are coming down the road but no signs, so they are passing/going in wrong entrances. Changes in sidewalk mean they will not be able to achieve the setbacks - ground signs have to be 15 feet back from right away (but this is too far for trucks to see before the turn).
 - They need variances and special permit –variances for setbacks and special permits for “off-site” signs (over 25 parcels on this site so technically signs B and C are on different parcels).
 - Variance/Permit Requests:
 - Sign A/1 – variance from 15 feet to 2 feet from right away and 2.5 feet from side property;
 - Sign B/2 – variance from 15 to private drive (still Plaskolite property) to 5 feet; variance because no right of way; off-site special permit; and
 - Sign C/3 – off-site special permit.
 - All signs are 42 inches tall. Sign B is the smallest one.
 - Planning to go to Graphics Commission in September, have to submit by July 17th to be on agenda.

- Tiffany White encouraged to file the application, we can formally approve after the submitted. They will come to our September meeting so we can vote, email our zoning recommendations right away.

Police Liaison Report:

Officer Tony Rogers, 7th Precinct Liaison Officer, arogers@columbuspolice.org (614-645-1407) – N/A.

Officer Alesia Zacher, 5th Precinct Liaison Officer azacher@columbuspolice.org (614-645-1405) – not present but let Bee Tolber know that she had a Safe Streets meeting earlier today with new city attorney, has been showing her our area all day and apologized for missing the meeting.

Community Liaison Report: Alfred Akainyah; his phone is 614-645-7964, cell 614-678-2605, email: aaakainyah@columbus.gov – not present at NEAC today.

City Council Liaison: Sandra Lopez, srlopez@columbus.gov, 614-645-8502 – not present.

Committee Reports

ZONING, BUILDING AND HOUSING COMMITTEE: Reno Lemons

- 1570 Joyce – owner has not contacted us; Reno will reach out to owner and City contact to find out his hearing date and let the City know he has not presented in North Central

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE: Bee Tolber

- Sewer and sanitation issues on Woodward.
- Woodward light: Reaching out to Traffic to remove bushes/trees, especially after the bad accident at that intersection (June 23rd – knocked the utility pole down). Police said there have been 6 accidents since they put the light on flashing. Tiffany White asked for stop signs that light up as you approach, but the Highway Patrol does this in areas where there are a lot of accidents. We could try to do another petition and speak at Council (it will not be an agenda item – as it's already been decided 2 years ago).

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE: Lorenzo Brent

- YMCA meeting – Tiffany White will forward the contact information for current director.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Elections/Bylaws Procedures:

- August 17th at Shepard Library from 10-2 PM; passed out new petitions; two people will pick up absentee ballots on day of election from P.O. box.

Budget: Still \$2,500 for the next year. \$780 for Ohio Dominican – won't have to pay again until March of 2020; travel at \$1400 but spent \$1300 last year (conference cost is \$150 before August 31st, but will go up to \$175, hotel need booked by August 26th or before they are sold out); and \$150 miscellaneous (PO box).

Community Forum/Old Business/Announcements:

- Mr. Wilson – the speed limit is 15 by his house – but everyone goes up faster (Mock Road).
- Devon Triangle resident – wanted to know how is it possible to get more participation from her neighborhood; feeling like they are being pushed out by the commercial businesses. We encouraged to meet and pass out some flyers in the area; also there is an open commission seat.
- Lorenzo Brent at Brentnell and Argyle, there is a white and black house, behind it there is a mailbox up that says art institute (someone is wanting to build).
- Tiffany White wants Judge Mingo, new environmental judge, to come talk about the mobile home park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.