

North Central Area Commission Meeting

February 6, 2020

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 6:08 p.m. Carl Lee prayed the invocation.

Roll Call: *Commissioners Present:* Carl Lee, Reno Lemons, Jessica Martin, Wallace McLean, Tiffany White, Asmara Williams, Bee Tolber (arrived 6:13), Alfonso Hooper (arrived at 6:20 PM)

Absent: Lorenzo Brent (*Excused*)

Community Forum:

For the seat being vacated by Bernadine Kennedy Kent, State Representative in Ohio's District 25:

- Kofi Nsia-Peptra, university professor of political science, masters in human right law, doctorate, was member of Ghana armed forces, UN peacekeeper in Rwanda; this is how he learned diplomacy. He was born in Ghana and experienced a lack of access to resources, corrupt leadership, and war, but received help from his community to become who he is – so now dedicates his life to serve others the same way. He has been in Ohio since 2008, is a community organizer and chairman for a local organization. There is poverty in District 25 and poor housing, education, healthcare facilities, violence, opioid crisis, discrimination; it is time to elect progressive leaders. The poverty rate is very high, low median income compared to the area, and this is linked to education and housing. Will work on promoting small businesses (including tax exemptions/incentives), green economy, neighborhood and infrastructure development, and affordable housing.
- Mohamud Jama, immigrated in 1999 and has lived in Ohio for 19 years. He studied electrical engineering at OSU, learned English when he came here. Married for 20 years and raised 9 kids in this district, is aware of the issues parents face. Organizing and mobilizing for 15 years, helping bridge gap between new Americans and the government. Held many types of jobs. He was given an opportunity but received nothing for free; during the civil war in Somalia he became a refugee for almost 10 years. Running to improve education, healthcare for all, small business development. The kids in this district do not have access to textbooks; improved education is the key to many issues in our district. Some schools do not have proper ventilation (heating and cooling). He has fought for school tax levies in the past. He is supportive of increasing minimum wage (difficult for a working family to bring an adequate income) and expanding childcare for working families. He wants to correct misconceptions about receiving free handouts. There is a very diverse population in this district but not representation – we need someone who can understand all people, he wants to represent the whole district. He has lived in Arlington Park since 2013.
 - Mr. Hooper asked what will you do to change the school system? How do we bring the money back to the school system? Carl Lee asked what leverage does the office have to change the school system? Response: ask the State for more dollars not tax levies on property or businesses; income redistribution; more businesses into district to increase revenue; ensure that Columbus is receiving fair share. Also parents have a responsibility to help w/ their child's education. Ensure access to trade schools, proper ventilation, and textbooks. Wants to facilitate discussions to improve parent and community involvement.
 - Asmara Williams asked about a plan for providing textbooks and access to basic resources? Response: tutoring centers (attach to recreation centers), bring back educational programs.
 - Bee Tolber suggested more be done during elementary to show kids different careers.

Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2020: Carl Lee motioned to approve. Asmara Williams seconded.

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) – moving to Clintonville, she needed certain days off for family matters. Tiffany White contacted new Superintendent because we have someone who wants to be in Linden, just need other days off. Encouraged us to call Chief Deputy Knight and Chief Quinlan to express concern. Alfonso Hooper said it is so important that there is an Officer that communicates well with the neighborhood. Alfred Akainyah brought up that we should go to City Council on Monday evening, after 6 PM is public. Call Sandra Lopez to put in a speaker slip but also we can put in a slip there. Sandra Lopez suggests bringing something written to say to keep it concise (3 minute limit) and bring copies to give to each councilmember. Councilmember Mitch Brown is over public safety, also the director of public safety will be there. Next meetings are on the 10th and 24th, the 17th is a holiday.

Presentations:

- Sarah Pomeroy will be working on city-wide issues including liquor objections, hotel issues, and expanding work with apartments (proactive abatement team). Chassidy Barham is taking over our area; she moved from Raleigh, North Carolina, where she was a local prosecutor. Contact info: chbarham@columbus.gov, 614-645-5346. One new prosecutor, Christopher Clark, will be focusing on retaliatory evictions, illegal dumping, focus on criminal cases. Also discussed nuisance property at Joyce and 5th Ave.

Budget: \$1266.59 in the bank; RNNC – Department of Neighborhoods wants the CTA training, but most are during normal business hours – requesting a Saturday training event. Sandra Lopez will ask Charles Hill, Chief of Staff, who used to work at Experience Columbus. City will have their own training. Commission okay with paying training – we are just looking for another time. ODU: they are willing to renew the lease for another year, currently up March 31st, an increase from \$60 to \$100 a month. We may try to do a longer-term contract for a lesser rate.. Carl Lee put a motion on the table to sign the lease to obtain the location with negotiation (up to \$100 a month, up to 24 months). Reno Lemons seconded. All in favor. Also training in the future from Mr. White and Mr. Caldwell

City Council Liaison: Sandra Lopez, slopez@columbus.gov, 614-645-8502. She will ask Councilmember Brown to support Officer Zacher staying. She sent invitation for City Council black history month event. Last hearing for operating budget was February 5th; new neighborhood liaisons in the budget. 2nd reading to finalize on Monday. In capital budget planning to provide area commissions with laptops and projectors. She also sent us Rec and Parks application process – who funds festivals and cultural events in the City, non-profits can apply for those dollars.

Community Liaison Report: Alfred Akainyah; his phone is 614-645-7964, cell 614-678-2605, email: aaakainyah@columbus.gov – State of the City is next week, at East high school, doors open at 5 PM; City's Urban Forestry Master Plan for the city – needs a rep from North Central, Wednesday March 4th, 6-8PM.

Committee Reports

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: Asmara Williams

- February 15th is health advisory meeting, 3540 S high street; 9:30-11:30 AM
- Airport: Alfonso Hooper and Wallace McLean: Scheduling a meeting at ODU in April.
- Elections/Bylaws Procedures: Alfonso Hooper is the Chair this year.

Announcements:

- New Code Enforcement: Clay Ellis (Preston's area) 645-0660 and Matt Mercer (Maggie) 645-5693. Tiffany White invited them to attend a meeting (work until 7 PM during winter, after daylight savings work 12-9).
- Bylaws Revision - Reading #1: Change in Sections 5.1.F and 5.1.G from "Department of Development" to "Department of Neighborhoods". Bee Tolber motioned to approve, Asmara Williams seconded. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.