

**NORTHWEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MARCH 2, 2011 MEETING MINUTES**

Trustees in Attendance: Jeanne Ashby, Marilyn Goodman, John Hubbard, Mark Krietemeyer, John Schmidt, Laura Watkins, Scott Voelkel

President Marilyn Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Jeanne Ashby submitted the February minutes for approval. Motion to approve the minutes made by Jeanne and seconded by Scott Voelkel. Voice vote taken, minutes approved.

Mark Krietemeyer gave the Treasurer's Report. Motion to approve the Report made by Mark and seconded by Jeanne. Voice vote taken: Treasurer's Report approved.

CITY REPORTS

Neighborhood Liaison Isom Nivens:

- At the Pride Center, a Job Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 16 from 10:00 to 2:00pm. The Vocational Guidance Services organization is sponsoring the Job Fair.
- Community Gardens Grant Fund - A new Community Gardens Grant Fund is being created by the Mayor, City Council Members, and Franklin County Commissioners. Applicants must be 501(c)(3) entities and be located within the city. Awards up to \$4,000 will be made for supplies and/or services. Scotts Miracle-Gro will supplement grant awards with product donations. Applicants must access the grant application on the Columbus Foundation web site, www.colLnnbusfoundation.org. Applications are due by Friday, April 1, 2011. Winners will be announced at the Earth Day celebration at Franklin Park Conservatory on April 23, 2011.
- Capital Improvement Budget ~ City Council will vote on the 2011 Capital Budget next Monday, the 7th. Documents were sent out last week detailing the proposed resurfacing schedule for streets, and the construction of sidewalks and bikeways.

Police Department:

- Officer Karl Johnson reported that in our area, air conditioner and copper wiring thefts have been on the rise - both commercial and residential. Some arrests have been made, and officers are still working on it.

Fire Department:

- Ramps - Captain Michael Dreisbach reported that the ramps still aren't fixed in front of their firehouse. Rosemarie Lisko called the city and the money is put aside and a bid has been accepted. They are just waiting for warmer weather to start the work.
- Leak in Basement - They still have issues at the firehouse with conduit pipes that leak in the basement, resulting in the circuit board that is tied into the airport phones getting wet, and communication being disrupted.
- Other Issues - They finally got some money from the city and got house supplies they needed. They are going to try to do some landscaping around the brick wall in the front of the property that's falling apart. They would like to get rid of the recycling bin in the back of the firehouse because some people don't put their recycling in the bins and it gets all over their property and onto airport property. Captain Dreisbach also reported that they now have a new Medical truck.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Governance: Marilyn Goodman reported that we still have no information on whether our non-profit status will be revoked. There is a list, however, of organizations that are in jeopardy of losing non-profit

status and we are on that list. It would cost us \$650 to re-file to get our tax exempt status back. This situation is due to tax law changes that we weren't aware of. In the past, we were not required to file annually, and a lot of organizations like ours have been caught off guard.

Environmental/Beautification: Mark Krietemeyer reported that April 9th at 9:00am is the Northwest Civic Association's Spring Clean Up for our "Adopt-a-Roadway" that we're doing in conjunction with "Kick Butt Columbus".

OSU Airport: John Schmidt reported that OSU is still working on the Outreach Program for the Don Scott Forest and setting up tours with local schools. He has been in contact with Georgia O'Hara, a teacher at Centennial H.S. They are working on some of her classes visiting the 35 acre forest the last 2 weeks of March and/or the first 2 weeks of April. Students will go with 5 professors from the Colleges of Natural Resources and Environmental Education.

Parks, Recreation & Bikeways: John Schmidt had nothing to report.

Student Trustees: Laura Watkins reported that they are planning to go to the Development Commission Meeting on Thursday, March 3rd and a City Council Meeting later on in the month.

GRAPHICS, ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT

Variance Request to allow the gas station at 2827 Bethel Road (at Sawmill) to have an electronic sign.

There was discussion about the BP Duke/Duchess sign being in the category of "changeable signs". The Northwest Columbus Overlay does not permit them. However, as pointed out by the presenters, they currently had the sign that had to have the prices changed manually, and they did not show up very well. The other gas stations had the "changeable signs," and they want to stay competitive. The electronic changeable signs are much brighter and more visible from the road. The kinds of "changeable signs" that the board was opposed to were the types that flashed, moved with chaser lights, etc. There was some conversation among the board members that the type of electronic sign that the gas station wanted only displayed lit numbers which did not move or flash. Even though this was technically in the "changeable sign" category, it really wasn't the type that the members found objectionable. Scott made a motion to approve the electronic sign with the limitation of having no addition to the height and width of the original sign.

Ashby	yes	Watkins	yes
Hubbard	yes	Voelkel	abstain
Krietemeyer	yes	Goodman.....	yes
Schmidt	yes		

Motion approved with 6 yes votes and 1 abstention.

PRESENTATION - Cleve Ricksecker, Executive Director, Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District

Mark Krietemeyer had seen some beautification work that had been done by the off ramps and medians on Morse Road and was interested in finding out who did that improvement so we could possibly get some ideas for our area. Mr. Ricksecker presented his experience.

The areas he has worked with are the Morse Road area and the Short North. The idea is to start an Association of property owners that would agree to improve their area and have every member share in

the expense of the improvement and maintenance of it. Once a SID is created, then money is collected and deposited into an account. Under Ohio Law, a SID can do whatever the owner wants: landscaping, security, etc. SIDs can't replace city services, but they can do things such as beautification, amend the right for people to panhandle in an area that would be undesirable for a store owner's business, hire security in a higher crime area, and so on. To start a SID, you would circulate a petition as to what you would want and the residents and businesses must agree. The group would have a 5 year time line to accomplish their goals and pay for the services. Once a SID is created and the improvement plan is made based on community agreement, it goes before City Council for approval. He then gave more ideas on how to accomplish all of the goals in a SID.

OLD BUSINESS

NWCA Records: Marilyn Goodman asked Scott Voelkel if he had gone to the Pride Center to see the space available to store our filing cabinets of old records. Isom Nivens had generously volunteered the use of space at the Pride Center last month. Scott and Isom discussed a time Scott could come.

Henderson Award: Jeanne Ashby reported that nominations for the Henderson Award will be discussed at the end of the meeting in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Centennial Sidewalks: Rosemarie Lisko asked Isom Nivens why Godown Road isn't on the list for getting a sidewalk since the students who walk to Centennial need it to walk to school. They currently have to walk on the road. She wondered what the policy was that the City used to determine who should get the sidewalks, and why we aren't higher up on the list.

Executive Session: The Board went into Executive Session to select the Winner of the Henderson Award. The Board came out of Executive Session and adjourned.

Next Meeting

April 6, 2011, 7:00 PM

Meadow Park Church, 2425 Bethel Road, Room 213