

Minutes of the Greater Hilltop Area Commission – August 14, 2007

In attendance: D.Bagley, G.Baker II, J.Boggs, M.Cole, J.Decker, D.Horn, J.Keplar, S.Laughlin, J.Manley, C.Patterson, M.Potts, B.Spears, K.Whitman

Meeting called to order with pledge to the flag. Minutes of the July meetings, the regular as well as the special, were approved with correction to the regular minutes (West Broad Elementary is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary). The treasurer's report indicates a balance of \$1016.63.

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Zoning: no business for this meeting. D.Horn will notify members if there is to be a committee meeting on August 21.

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Announcements:

..... Councilman Craig and City Attorney Pfeiffer are coordinating a Safety hearing on August 16. This will be held at the J.Ashburn Youth Ctr.

..... The New Directions Career Center is holding a fundraiser on October 18, 6:00pm, Limited Brands offices.

..... A press conference for the new West Mound School will be held August 27, 1:00pm, at the school.

..... A clean-up for Westgate Park is scheduled for October 6, 10:00am.

..... The demolition of the former church at 64-66 S. Highland has begun.

..... J.Boggs thanked those who came to the National Night Out.

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Presentations:

..... Christopher Boring, CEO of Boulevard Strategies, is working on a market study for West Broad from Highland Ave. to Wilson Rd. The study is funded by a \$15,000 grant through the HBA. He will be looking at demographics of the area to identify places for new businesses to locate. His plan is to speak with local businesses, community leaders, and residents to come up with strategies for improvement of the area as well as possible future businesses desired. The study/interviews will take place from August through October with a follow-up report.

..... City Attorney Pfeiffer spoke on behalf of Assistant City Attorney Jodi Spurlock regarding the Zone Initiative. This is a program being implemented so that city attorneys are familiar with problems in the various areas of Columbus and can alert the court system. On August 16 there will be a presentation on this at the J.Ashburn Youth Ctr.

..... Councilmember Tyson's aide, Carl Williams, briefly spoke regarding the Councilmember's leadership of the Recreation and Parks Committee.

..... Christine Godward, Columbus Public Health, spoke about the Healthy Places Program. She did a walkability study at Westgate Park during the mini-pride day. These walkabilities are being done throughout the City and information will be compiled and made available to residents. The purpose of the study is to identify good places to walk. Also being identified are places needing improvements for sidewalks, etc. Preliminary information will be passed on to the Traffic Dept.

..... Tom Flippo, Civil and Environmental Consultants, updated the GHAC on the Wheatland Ave. project. He stated that funding is now in place to remove remaining foundations and buildings and to continue removing asbestos. This process should be completed in September. Interested companies wanting to develop this area were asked to attend a meeting and then submit development plans. The City will be asking residents to give input on what they would like to see happen on this site.

..... Ellen Barney, Executive Director of New Directions Career Ctr. spoke briefly about her organization and its mission. The organization was established in 1980 by the City and is a United Way agency. New Directions works to help people find jobs in order that they might become economically self-sufficient. Licensed counselors do assessments to help clients create a program on how to get to where they want to go. A fundraiser for the organization will be held on October 18 at the Limited Brands offices, 6:00-8:30pm.

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#### Committee Reports:

..... Chair Baker had appointed committee chairs for the coming year. As several are newly appointed, several committees did not have a report for this meeting. Reports were given by ---- 1) D.Bagley, Human Services/Education – the health survey has been completed with health issues being identified; a residence council is being formed in Wedgewood to discuss health issues, etc., there; 2) C.Patterson, Community Relations, stated he would like to have pictures of members to post on the web site.

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#### Old Business/Follow-up:

..... A suggestion was given that the 'Top 10 List' for the Hilltop should be revised to list things that can be accomplished within this year. The list will be passed to the Planning and Economic Development for refinement and re-circulated to members.

..... A copy of the visioning charette will be placed in the library.

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New Business:

..... The Commission Rules for the 2007-08 session were adopted.

..... The Highland West Civic Association is asking the GHAC's support for a change from the 300-gallon trash cans to the 90-gallon ones for this area. A letter from the Association to the City was given to all members. A motion to support this was made and seconded (Decker/Bagley). Due to the 30-day rule this matter would be voted upon at the September meeting but a motion was made and seconded to waive the rule (Patterson/Cole). A vote was taken to support this with a unanimous vote in favor.

..... A copy of the City's outstanding bonds and notes will be placed on closed reserve in the library.

..... B.Lee announced that a new intern should be starting to work with commissions beginning in September.

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Miscellaneous:

..... J.Decker inquired about the circumstances causing a house on Steele Ave. near Hague to be boarded up. Other commissioners did not have information on this.

..... C.Patterson gave credit to the Police Dept. for helping to find a missing child in his neighborhood.

..... The secretary inquired about reimbursement for purchasing a jump drive in which to place meeting minutes. Response was that this should be possible.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
J.Manley  
Secretary