

Minutes of the Greater Hilltop Area Commission – September 4, 2007

In attendance: D.Bagley, G.Baker II, J.Boggs, T.Corson, D.Horn, J.Keplar, S.Laughlin, J.Manley, R.Mendez, C.Patterson, B.Spears, K.Whitman

Meeting called to order with pledge to the flag. Minutes of the August meeting read and approved. Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$1016.53.

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Zoning: No business to discuss. Horn will contact members if there is to be a meeting on September 18.

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Announcements:

.... J.Ashburn Center Awards Banquet is scheduled for October 2 at Villa Milano, 6:00pm.

.... The New Directions Career Center fundraiser is October 18 at the Limited Brands main offices, 6:00pm.

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Special Presentations:

.... Jim Haller, Score Logistics LLC, is requesting a letter of support from the GHAC for a Farmers' Market to operate at 3600 Sullivant Ave. He is the manager of the facility on this site and desires to make this site available for business space. He assured the GHAC this would be a true farmers' market and not a flea market. Vendors desiring to sell their produce would need to have a vendor's license. Vendors would be selected by the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture or other agency. The market would operate on Saturdays, from 7:30am-1:00pm during the months of May to October.

A motion was made and seconded (Bagley/Keplar) to write a letter of support. After discussion this was amended to offer support for an initial season to see how effective before supporting for an extended period of time. Vote: 11 in favor; 1 abstention.

A motion was made and seconded (Horn/Patterson) to waive the 30-rule. C.Patterson will draft a letter for members to review.

.... Terry Stewart, City Transportation Division, addressed the GHAC on the Hilltop Mobility Plan. This is a plan to look at the Hilltop with regard to crosswalks, bicycle routes, sidewalks, etc., in order to make the area more accessible without the use of a car and to make it safer. His office is seeking input from the community as to needs. A Steering Committee will be formed to assess the area and a draft a plan. Web site: <http://www.columbusmobility.info>

.... Pat Donovan, Karen Helm, T.J. Johnson, and Janet Studer, all of Women to Women, shared information about this organization. It was formed after the elections in 2004 and the goal is to help women understand the election process and let women know that their vote does count. Web site: www.wvww.org. They are seeking help and advice from the GHAC as to organizations for women that would be responsive to their forum on voter education.

.... Susan Ashbrook of the Mayor's Office spoke about an initiative within the schools for recycling. The City is partnering with SWACO and Cols. City Schools. This program will start in October. Web site: www.getgreencolumbus.org.

.... Mark Easterling, Asst. to the Director of Homes on the Hill. He presented a project that HoH regarding the acquisition of properties to rehab, one located at 179 N. Ogden Ave. The home would be rehabbed and sold as owner-occupant. HoH is applying for funding and as part of the process needs to make a presentation to the GHAC and then get a signed letter that the presentation was made. A letter will be sent to HoH.

.... Paul Bingle, candidate for Columbus City Council, spoke briefly about his interest and qualifications for Council.

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Committee Reports:

.... Recreation/Parks == S.Laughlin stated that the storage unit at Westgate Park has been removed. It had been suggested this area should be paved, but Laughlin said paving is tied to the remodeling of the house at the west end of the closed shelter.

.... Community Relations == C.Patterson reported the web site has been updated to include meeting dates. A new email address: HilltopNews@the ghac.com. He indicated there had been some response from the Messenger article encouraging residents who are interested in being on any of the GHAC committees to contact the GHAC. A committee meeting is scheduled for Sept. 19th at the library, 7pm.

.... Human Services/Education == D.Bagley said the process has begun to develop a Residents' Council for the Wedgewood housing complex. The first meeting was held on August 29 and the next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 26, 7:00pm.

.... Public Safety == J.Boggs reported that the camera issue was discussed at the August 29 meeting and City Council is looking at funding a pilot project. He indicated that at the Sept. 26 meeting (mentioned above) he would like to begin discussion of a youth commission for the Hilltop.

.... Planning/Economic Development == D.Horn is continuing to solicit "Top 10" suggestions. He is also continuing efforts for more community involvement on the committee.

.... Government/Legislation == J.Keplar is still looking for additional members, especially interested parties from the community. She mentioned that the City Attorney's office is not in favor of having area commissions use secret ballots when voting for officers. Also, she would like to discuss whether the 5th highest vote getter in the GHAC election automatically be given the 'appointed' seat opening.

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Old Business/Follow-up:

.... The Neighborhood Network Conference is in Lexington, KY, Sept. 27-29. G.Baker II, S.Laughlin, and R.Mendez indicated interest. A motion was made and seconded (Whitman/Boggs) to pay for 2 people up to \$200 each for expenses incurred. C.Patterson motioned to amend this to '3' people; Whitman in favor. Vote taken to pay 3 people up to \$200 each; unanimously approved. A concern was expressed that these monies could be used to fund a community newsletter.

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New Business:

.... Due to the general election on November 6, a motion was made and seconded (Bagley/Mendez) to move the meeting to November 13, 7:00pm. Motion to waive the 30-day rules (Patterson/Keplar) passed unanimously. Vote taken on moving the regular meeting date with unanimous approval.

.... It has been noted there may be a new school starting at St. Aloysius. D.Bagley asked to investigate.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
J.Manley, secretary