

Minutes of the Greater Hilltop Area Commission – November 13, 2007

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

Meeting called to order with the pledge to the flag. Minutes of the October meeting approved. Treasurer's report indicates a balance of \$438.80.

**

Zoning:

....In the absence of D.Horn, committee chair, Chair Baker presided. The only item was discussion and vote on a request by Western Credit Union (corner of Georgesville and Sullivant) for a new sign. Applicant was not in attendance due to meeting with the City officials regarding the request. The applicant had presented the matter to the committee and the request is for a variance to allow a mechanical sign.

Baker explained that at the committee meeting, David Hodge, applicant representative, and Doug Morris, WCU vice president, stated that a new sign is needed as the current one is not very visible from the roadway due to a slight incline. The sign would be illuminated and current plans are for the sign to be functioning 24 hours. The committee approved the request with a vote of 4 yes and 1 no.

After discussion by the GHAC as a whole a motion was made and seconded (Boggs/Decker) for approval of the request. Unanimously approved.

No zoning committee meeting is scheduled unless otherwise notified.

**

Announcements:

.... The new Hilltop branch of the Post Office is now open. It is next to the Hilltop Market Place.

.... GHALA's Fall Exhibit is at City Hall through the end of November.

.... Congratulations were given to G.Baker on his successful gain of a position on the Columbus School Board.

.... B.Lee stated that COTA is honoring Rosa Parks with "Mrs. Parks Day" on Friday, November 30, 10:00am at the Ohio Village on Velma Ave.

.... There will be a hearing on Nov. 27 regarding the Tonti property on Briggs Rd.

.... On Nov. 15 the City Planning Division will be discussing the current overlay and proposed changes. The meeting is at 6pm at the Gladden Community Center.

.... At the December meeting there will be a presentation by Columbus Housing Partnership and Casto Construction as to the latest development of the Wheatland Ave. housing project.

**

Presentations:

.... Buckeye Ranch – Richard Rieser, CEO and Nicholas Rees, VP of Development spoke about the interest in obtaining the current building housing the Hilltop Market Place and other businesses space for their facility. This would be for a school program for boys and girls who don't do well in a traditional school setting. Education and counseling support would be offered to help them go back to their original school. This is not a residential facility.

A question and answer time followed. Questions ranged from asking about a floor plan to hours of operation, and whether additional variances would be needed. Members of the audience expressed concerns with additional children in the neighborhood; several spoke to the possibility of some of the space in the building being used commercially.

The Buckeye Ranch web site is – www.buckeyeranch.org.

.... Mark Easterling, Asst Dir. of Homes on the Hill, presented a project of rehabbing a home on Butler Ave. Once rehabbed, it would be sold. Another company owns the property but since it lies within the GHA boundary, Homes on the Hill is the requesting agent. Monies have been received from the City for this project.

**

Committee reports:

.... Recreation/Parks – S.Laughlin had nothing to report.

.... Community Relations – C.Patterson stated the web site is changing and growing with more information being added.

.... Human Services/Education – D.Bagley reported that the seminar to establish a residents council at Wedgewood was cancelled due to a misunderstanding. Meetings have been rescheduled for November 14, 15, 19, with each date being for a different culture that lives in the Wedgewood complex.

.... Public Safety – J.Boggs reported on the progress of establishing a Youth Commission in the Hilltop. So far response has been very minimal, so this may need to be revisited after the first of the year; many students expressing interest in this are very busy and unable to commit at this time.

.... Planning/Economic Development – the 'Top Ten' list has been refined for discussion at this meeting. Members had received, via email, a list of priorities. After discussion it was suggested to revise #2 to include all of the Hilltop, but "...aggressively pursue economic development in the Greater Hilltop Area with initial emphasis on W. Broad St..." A vote was taken with unanimous approval in the affirmative.

There will be a committee meeting on Nov. 20, 7pm to discuss the next steps.

.... Government/Legislation – J.Keplar stated there would be a meeting on Nov. 29, 7pm at the library.

.... Development Regulations/Public Service – nothing to report

.... Liquor Permit Review – J.Decker reported recommendations are due before Dec. 10, as that is the scheduled meeting at City Council where issues can be addressed. The GHAC needs to show that something illegal is happening in the establishment in order to make any objections look better, e.g., code violations, etc.

**

Old Business/Follow up:

.... K.Whitman announced the HBA is working with the City on developing a block watch for various business along W. Broad. Meetings have been held at Tu Casa with the next one to be on Thursday, Nov. 15, 3:30pm

.... D.Horn said that one of the UIRF projects from 2000-01 was being completed – placement/repair of sidewalks and curbs on W. Broad west of Sylvan Ave.

.... B.Lee spoke about the need to define an area for the 2008 Neighborhood Pride. The deadline for this is Nov. 30. She handed those present a map showing areas of previous Prides. Chair Baker suggested the Planning/Economic Development committee should undertake defining the area for 2008.

**

New Business:

.... J.Boggs proposed amending the Bylaws to reflect the procedure for replacing officers should the need arise. Those attending were given a copy of the proposal. The Government/Legislation committee will undertake to review this. A motion to table was made and seconded (Horn/Corson).

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
J.Manley, secretary