

Minutes of the Greater Hilltop Area Commission – December 4, 2007-12-26

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

Meeting opened with pledge to the flag. November minutes approved w/correction. Treasurer's report indicates a balance of \$438.80. Those needing reimbursement are asked to submit receipts as soon as possible.

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Zoning:

.... No business, however, there will be a committee meeting on Dec. 18.

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Announcements:

.... The official closing of the Hilltop Marketplace is December 31st.

.... The Hilltop branch of the Post Office is now open.

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Presentations:

.... Columbus Housing Partnership was unable to make its presentation for a project at this time.

.... Lakeridge Development LLC, partnering with Homes on the Hill, presented its overall land use design for the 22+ acres on N.Wheatland Ave. The plan is to build 67 single-family homes and a few condominiums. Part of the home sales will be set aside for the Commercial Revitalization Funds to repair, upgrade, and modernize homes. Allen Robinson, managing director of Lakeridge, fielded questions from the commissioners as well as audience members. It was noted that Lakeside has developed other areas, the closest being in Hilliard.

Concern was expressed over the size of the homes that they should be larger.

.... Mike Puckett, City of Columbus Neighborhood Liaison Office, highlighted parts of the City 2008 Budget. The first public hearing is scheduled for December 6 at 5:00pm. Those in attendance were assured that the budget does not call for lay-offs for police or fire departments, and there is no income tax increase.

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Committee reports:

....Recreation/Parks – S.Laughlin indicating nothing new to report. She has checked on the flooding issue but at the moment things have dried up; she will continue to monitor.

....Community Relations – C.Patterson indicated he has placed an email link on the web site. He would also like to place an interactive survey. A motion was made and seconded (Patterson/Boggs) to spend up to \$250 to implement the on-line survey. Due to the policy rule, a motion was made and seconded (Boggs/Keplar) to waive the 30-day period; unanimous approval of waiving the 30-days. Vote on original motion: unanimous in the affirmative.

.... Human Services/Education – D.Bagley reported on the Wedgewood meetings. Residents are to meet on Dec.17 to nominate officers for the Residents' Council. The City has dedicated two staff members to help residents understand the different cultures. She indicated that the Westside Community Health Advisory Committee will be holding a series of meetings/forums in the spring.

.... Public Safety – J.Boggs reported that he is hoping the committee can find a convenient time to meet in December. He is hoping to get current blockwatches to assist with the development of one in the Wedgewood complex. He indicated that due to busy schedules, the youth commission was not able to begin at this time.

.... Planning/Economic Development – D.Horn reported on the ‘Top 10 List’ and that certain concerns were assigned to other committees. The Tonti property hearing has been postponed until January 14. Horn is in contact with Chris Prezutti concerning the mobil vending policy. A pride area for 2008 has been selected.

....Government/Legislation – J.Keplar reported on the November meeting held to discuss changes in the Bylaws related to how vacant officer positions would be filled and whether voting by secret ballot for officer positions was in violation of City regulations. Members had received copies of these proposed changes. As the first proposal (filling vacant positions) had been discussed at the November meeting, a motion was made and seconded (Boggs/Keplar) to remove this from the table for discussion and voting purposes. A vote was taken and this was defeated, primarily due to the way it was written. New wording had been discussed by the committee and this was now brought forth for discussion and a motion made and seconded (Keplar/Boggs) to approve the new wording; a unanimous vote in the affirmative was cast. The City will be informed of the change. Note: prior to this final vote there was unanimous approval of waiving the 30-day rule.

A vote on the second proposal (secret balloting for officers) was tabled until December, per the 30-day rule.

.... Development Regulations/Public Safety – M.Cole had nothing new to report. He has set a meeting for Dec. 19, 7pm at Minelli’s.

....Liquor Permit Review – J.Decker was not present but JBoggs stated that recommendations have been sent to the City.

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Old Business/Follow-Up:

.... The Neighborhood Pride application was submitted on November 30.

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New Business:

.... There will be a proposal coming before the GHAC regarding a new day care center at the Wilson Rd./Sullivant Ave. area.

.... C.Patterson suggested recognizing the Hilltop Marketplace.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
J.Manley, secretary