

Minutes of the Greater Hilltop Area Commission – August 12, 2008

In attendance: D.Bagley, J.Boggs, J.Contonio, J.Decker, S.Hermiller, D.Horn, J.Keplar, S.Laughlin, J.Manley, C.Patterson, M.Potts, B.Spears, S.Thornburgh, K.Whitman

Meeting called to order with pledge to the flag. Minutes of the July meetings read and approved. Treasurer's report indicates a balance of \$174.41 (it was noted that a final check of the current balance needs to be made.)

Presentations:

.....Amy Buttke (Regional Director) and Lance Weber (principal of Sullivant Ave. school) of Imagine Schools addressed the GHAC regarding two new schools opening in the Hilltop: Sullivant Ave. and Harrisburg Pike. Imagine Schools is a charter school funded by the State and operates 5 in Columbus and 74 nationwide. There is no charge for children who attend the schools. The target age is elementary-age. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the learning process of their child and are invited to attend board meetings as well as other activities. Q&A == C.Deckle and L.Boggs inquired about the funding; ans: about half of what the regular school system gets.

.....Rita Parise, Housing Administration, Columbus Development Dept. spoke about Columbus' "Home Safe and Sound" Program, part of Neighborhood Pride. This program is to help homeowners in the Neighborhood Pride area make improvements to their homes. Funding for this comes from HUD and CDBG monies.

.....Bruce Black, Columbus' Neighborhood Pride Coordinator, updated the GHAC on the selected area for the Hilltop this year. He reminded everyone that the dates are September 15-19 and Sept. 16 is the Safety Academy and Sept. 18 is the community night and the Mayor and other City officials will be attending. Glenwood Rec. Ctr. is serving as the Pride center.

Committee Reports:

.....Rec and Parks – S.Laughlin introduced the artist who will be painting the mural in Westgate Park, Curtis Goldstein. He showed the GHAC and audience a preliminary drawing which incorporates some of the Civil War history; Laughlin passed out the informational brochures of all the parks in the Hilltop.

.....Community Relations – S.Thornburgh indicated his committee has not yet met formally, but he would like to use the media more to get the word out about the GHAC.

.....Planning/Economic Development – S.Hermiller stated his vision for looking at businesses but will make a more formal report in September.

.....Public Safety – J.Boggs announced there would be a meeting on August 14, 6:30pm, J.Ashburn Ctr, regarding the City's plan to install surveillance cameras throughout the City.

.....Government/Legislation – J.Keplar state there was nothing of interest at the moment, but that the GHAC needed to approve the destruction of ballots from the June elections, per the Bylaws. A motion was made and seconded (Boggs/Whitman) to destroy them. However, due to the 30-day policy rule, a vote would need to be tabled until the September meeting. A motion

was then made and seconded (Boggs/Whitman) to waive the 30-day rule in order to vote on the matter at this meeting; unanimous approval in the affirmative to waive the rule. Ballots will be properly destroyed.

.....Liquor Permit – J.Decker remarked that local and City officials do not have much influence on who gets permits as the State has the final authority for this. He will contact State officials to try and set up a discussion for a better alternative to the way the State handles things as it appears licenses are 'passed' from one owner to another. It may be the way to change this is through a change in the Ohio law; Decker will report at the September meeting.

Zoning:

No matters to discuss at this meeting. There will be a committee meeting on the 19th, however.

Announcements:

.....J.Decker announced the next meeting of the Westgate Neighbors Assn. is on August 27 at West High School.

.....K.Whitman said the HBA's annual golf outing will be September 12th. Monies go to scholarships for westsiders to attend Mt. Carmel's School of Nursing.

.....C.Patterson said he had received a request from Dave Paul (NE Community Council) regarding the GHAC's participation in a "Candidates' Night" on October 7 held at the Prairie Township Senior Ctr. This is being sponsored by the Franklin Co. Consortium for Good Government. Our participation would require a \$50 contribution. After discussion and a vote to waive the 30-day ruling, a unanimous vote resulted in disapproval of participating in this event.

.....C.Deckle reminded commissioners and others that on Saturday, August 16, 10AM, T.A.G. would be removing graffiti from the Family Dollar store on Sullivant Ave.

Bonita Lee, neighborhood liaison, was recognized for her service to the Hilltop. She will no longer be the liaison as she has accepted the position of Pride Center manager and will be based out of 1393 E. Broad and serve as liaison to the Near East area.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

J.Manley, secretary

