

Minutes of the Greater Hilltop Area Commission -- February 3, 2009

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

Meeting called to order. Minutes of January meeting read and approved. Treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$1069.54.

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Zoning:

..... Alkire Woods – this has come before the GHAC previously by applicant, Village Community. Applicant wants to build multifamily housing at the rear of the site. Horn indicated that through a series of miscommunications, neighbors were not notified of this plan so an invitation was extended for them to attend the February GHAC meeting to voice concerns. After preliminary updates, Joe Albert, resident, spoke indicating the main concern is that the developer gave buyers reason to believe the entire site would be single-family housing. He also stated neighbors met with the developer in January to address concerns but nothing came of that meeting. There is another meeting scheduled for February 10, 7pm, St. Stephens church.

D. Horn said he would contact the developer regarding issues raised at this meeting.

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Committee Reports:

.....Parks/Recreation – J.Decker reported that Westgate Park will be the site of the City's Arbor Day celebration, April 24. Also, on Feb. 5 will be the City's budget meeting regarding Recreation/Parks. Friends of the Hilltop will be hosting a park clean-up day on April 18 and a House/Garden Tour on June 13.

.....Community Relations – S.Thornburgh reported that the Columbus Coalition meeting has been rescheduled for February 26; he would like to have an OK from the GHAC to be our representation to this. (motion made/seconded; unanimous approval). He also stated he has been trying to attend other commission meetings to observe how they conduct meetings.

.....J.Boggs announced that he received an email that the Community Crime Patrol is in jeopardy of being cut from the area and it would be nice if members could support the Patrol at a meeting on Feb. 5 in City Council chambers.

.....D.Bagley reported that the Westside Health Advisory group has received a United Way grant to support the survey planned; received \$1000 Molina Health grant; received a \$15,000 grant to work with Ohio State on a pilot program for Wedgewood.

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No Old Business.

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No New Business.

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Announcements:

..... Westland Shopping Center – a developer is looking to sell the site. Menard's was scheduled to open, but has deferred this.

.....D.Bagley stated that the Central Ohio Commission on Aging is offering free TV converter boxes to those over 60 and on a limited income. The Ohio Hispanic Coalition is inviting businesses to a one-day event (Feb.4) and on Feb. 5, Impact Care Action will be hosting an event to encourage reduction in poverty.

.....There will be an HBA Bean Dinner planning meeting on Feb. 5 to form committees.

.....On Feb. 11 will be a meeting of the working committee for the Area Plan; public forums will come later.

..... Columbus Board of Education is hosting meetings regarding school closings.

.....Wiltshire Heights Blockwatch will be meeting on Feb. 17.

.....L.Grazier stated that in conjunction with the Arbor Day festivities at Westgate Park, memorial trees can be purchased for \$200 and planted.

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Recognition of special attendees – Ryan Halterman, field representative for U.S. Representative Mary Jo Kilroy; Jim Hughes, State Senator from the 16th District.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

J.Manley, secretary