

Minutes of the Greater Hilltop Area Commission – March 3, 2009

In attendance: J.Boggs, J.Contonio, J.Decker, S.Hermiller, D.Horn, S.Laughlin, J.Manley, C.Patterson, S.Thornburgh, K.Whitman

Meeting opened with pledge to flag; Secretary's report approved; Treasurer's report indicates a balance of \$878.74

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No zoning matters to discuss, however, members are encouraged to drive by Alkire Woods as this will come up for discussion.

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Presentations:

.....Mike Wiles, Columbus Community Coalition Education Committee chair. This group was established from the working group, Community Coalition, and focuses on education, primarily to identify and get action on issues concerning Columbus schools. In addition to this, he is running for one of the openings on the City School Board.

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Committee Reports:

.....Recreation/Parks – S.Laughlin reported that Friends of Westgate Park has met with City officials to let them know of the group's interest in working together, especially since Mark Young is no longer in the area. Westgate Park is the site of the City's Arbor Day events, April 24.

.....Community Relations – S.Thornburgh encouraged members and audience to call the 311 number to express concern that there is no longer bulk pick-up of trash. There will be a Mobility Plan meeting on March 4 and an Area Plan meeting on March 12.

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Old Business – none

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New Business:

.....J.Decker brought before the GHAC the re-establishment of the Betty Bricker Award. He has been in contact with L.Grazier (Friends of Westgate Park) about this and also about re-landscaping the area near the pond that is in her honor. He noted this will be the 10th anniversary of her death. He motioned (Whitman seconded) that the Betty Bricker Award be re-established and that Friends of the Westgate Park would choose a recipient. The recipient would be honored by the GHAC. Unanimous vote in the affirmative to re-establish this award.

.....Question of whether the May primary would impact the GHAC meeting. Response – No

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Announcements:

.....J.Boggs announced that Friends of the Hilltop would be having a clean-up day on April 18; targeted areas are Glenwood Park area and area near sign in Rhodes Park. Also, if anyone is interested in purchasing a copy of the Urban Land Institute booklet, let him know.

.....L.Patterson, PTA President at West High, informed those present of the upcoming spaghetti dinner fundraiser on March 12, 6-8pm, at the school. Also, the PTA will be recognizing students who have been nominated at 'student of the month' by teachers.

.....David Hooie, newly appointed City Liaison, is also the Westside Pride manager. He introduced himself and stated he would be coming to the GHAC meetings. He may be contacted at – dehooie@columbus.gov.

.....Kathy Hoke stated she has been working with Homes on the Hill regarding establishing community gardens at Holton and J.Ashburn centers. Others areas are being discussed and she encourages residents to become involved in this endeavor.

.....S.Hermiller spoke about a recent conference he attended regarding the retail industry and what is happening nationally given the current economic crisis.

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Sgt Horton, Columbus Police Dept. precinct supervisor, gave an update –

...working on a final proposal to increase staffing on the Hilltop in the criminal patrol unit;

...met with City Facility Management staff about the Belvidere substation and proposed renovations

...working with J.Spurlock, City Atty Office, on jail sentences for prostitutes in area, and issues relating to panhandlers along Wilson/W.Broad

...there has been a rash of burglaries of 'mom/pop' stores; this is mostly between 10pm-7am

...once nicer weather comes, patrols will be addressing truancy problems.

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Meeting adjourned. Next meeting Tuesday, April 7, 7:00pm, Hilltop Library

Respectfully submitted,
J.Manley, secretary