

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024 – 7:00 PM**

**Northwest Church of the Nazarene (5707 Olentangy River Road) *and* Zoom**

Call to Order: 7:02PM

Pledge

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the January meeting minutes made by Monica, seconded by Kyle, and approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report presented by Steve

Motion to accept Report made by Sam, seconded by Kyle, and approved unanimously.

**Membership:** 2024 memberships since January meeting

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Marie Anthony  Bethel Village Condo Association  Lisa Bycynski  Hannah Cox | Cathy Donnell  Steve Donnell  Sally Gilson  Mary Jacobs  Olivia and Mike Karl | James Pickett  Monica Tuttle  Phil Tuttle  Jean Wentzel  Roy Wentzel |

**Community Mic**

A regular meeting segment invites community members to tell us what is on their minds and bring forward ideas for community enhancement. *Discussed the city council’s vote on changing rules on bikes on sidewalks (unsure of what the actual rule will be); EPA has put out a new report on air pollution.*

**City Reports**

Police Department Liaison**:** Officer Timothy Montgomery (TMontgomery@columbuspolice.org, 614- 645-1417) *Officer Montgomery was present. Per Montgomery: crime has “settled down” as commercial theft was recently high, did mention that it is likely the same group of people perpetrating the thefts from the same few locations. Also mentioned homicide off of Dierker Road - was solved quickly. Spoke with trustees and members about Flock cameras (may have been useful in solving the homicide). He will send information to Cheryl about upcoming classes on how to use/set-up Flock cameras (these cameras send information to the LEA).*

Fire Department: Captain Bryan Coffman, (BJCoffman@columbus.gov), or Lt. Michael Fetch (FetchM@columbus.gov)  *Not present*

Neighborhood Liaison: Rebecca Deeds (redeeds@columbus.gov) *No major updates to report, will send emails to trustees as events/trainings arise.*

Columbus City Council Liaison: Harrison Poku-Yeboah ([HAPoku-Yeboah@columbus.gov](mailto:HAPoku-Yeboah@columbus.gov)) *Poku-Yeboah spoke on multiple topics: Snack and Learns are changing their name/branding to Council Academy (first event will be held on 2/28 and will cover the Operating Budget), Sidewalk expansion on Sinclair road has been funded, same with new gym floor at Scioto South, per Poku-Yeboah “other highlights” include contributions to housing and development (by councilwoman Favor; did not catch which council members were in charge of sidewalk expansion and gym floor). There will be a Northside Community meeting at Northland High School at 6PM April 24th.*

Columbus City Attorney’s Office Zone Attorney Christopher Clark (ccclark@columbus.gov, 614-645-5670) *Was not present.*

**Guest Speaker:** Franklin County Auditor, Michael Stinziano

He presented information and answered questions about home valuations, taxes, and the Board of Revisions.

*Stinziano is in year 5 of being the Franklin County Auditor (first year of second term). Mainly focused on the recently updated property values, “Mass Reappraisal Process” - hand-outs were given to attendees and a slideshow was presented. Main points below.*

*\*After reappraisal, property taxes when up approx 6.12%*

*\*Board of Revision (BOR) - can file complaint if you think your value is incorrect (too high or too low) - Mobile events are given, can walk into any event at any location to get help regarding how to file complaints or to just find out more about this issue/topic. Schools tend to come before BOR the most due to set-up of funding and property taxes.*

*\*Currently still in a very hot real estate market - value of property should be a little less, but around the recent sale price.*

*\*Can look at values around your area/ your own using the Know Your Value tool on the auditor’s website. This tool can show a map of you area to see recent sales.*

*\*There are multiple payment assistance programs that you can access through the auditor’s website (or contact the office for help). They include: HomeOwner Assistance Program, The Homestead Exemption (statewide program), and Property Tax Assistance Program (one-time financial assistance of partial or full payment of current homeowner’s property taxes).*

*\*The auditor also does weights and measures - however- you will only see their stickers on items outside of city limits (inside the city you will see the Mayor’s stickers).*

**Committee Reports**

**Code Enforcement, Streets, and Safety Committee** (Chair Kyle Marcum)

*● Newish committee (send thoughts, concerns and questions to northwestcivic@gmail.com) - where do you want sidewalks, multi-use paths, etc. Email and let Kyle know! Additionally Kyle spoke about the pedestrians who have recently been struck (reports on 1/6/24 and 2/2/24) and about the fatal crash that occurred near Easton. City council is looking into better protection and separation for bike lanes. Multiple members discussed this - one member is a 80 year old who uses a tri-cycle with small motor. Can she be on a sidewalk? Kyle wasn’t 100% sure but believed this is probably a “case one” e-bike which can be used on sidewalks. Another*

*audience member discussed being from Friendship village Dublin and wants to connect with NWCA.*

**Zoning Committee** (Chair Monica Tuttle)

Zoning/Variances

● Motion to **approve** Variances Application GC23-047 for **2074 Bethel Rd**, to modify an existing ground sign at Crown Point Plaza to add 2 tenant panels (which would increase the total square footage and graphic area beyond the maximum allowed) made by Kyle, seconded by Roy, and approved unanimously, 5-0. (Kyle presented variance, followed by applicant answering additional questions regarding the wind load of sign, which tenants it would help and what the bidding process was/is for space on the sign)

● Motion to **disapprove** Variance Application GC23-051 for **743 Bethel Rd**, to add a third illuminated sign for Coco's within Olentangy Plaza; the proposed sign is 68.27SF and the maximum allowed is 31.84SF made by Monica, seconded by Sam, and approved 3-2, Sam, Steve and Monica in favor, Kyle and Roy oppose. (Hannah presented Variance, followed by presentation by applicant’s agent - Rebecca)

Update on Zoning Application

● **5925 Sawmill Rd** (Z23-021) has been scheduled to be heard by Columbus City Council on Monday 12 February on the 6:30pm agenda. Monica is coordinating meetings with each of the Council Members to make sure that they are aware of our concerns in advance of the Council meeting. Council permits up to 3 speakers at the meeting. Contact Monica for additional information.

**Recreation and Parks Committee** (Chair Roy Wentzel) *No report given.*

**Old Business**

**New Business -** *no new or old business discussed.*

**Adjourn:** 8:50pm