**Northwest Civic Association Minutes (submitted by Stacey Swanson)**

**Wednesday March 1st, 2023**

5 Trustees present 1 student trustee 25 individuals total both zoom and in person.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

Pledge

Approval of minutes – Marilyn moved and Sam seconded, Minutes accepted unanimously

Treasurer Report by Steve Donnell – Marilyn moved and Monica seconded, Treasurer Report accepted unan

Discussed Renew/New Memberships – Total of 16 (see agenda for list)

**City Reports**

Police Report - Officer Duane Hicks

Officer Hicks reported crime is down for this area. Car thefts on the other hand are up for this area and there were 25 reported thefts. People who leave their cars running with their keys in the cars and then unattended. Lots of smashed windows to break into a car. Busy hours are in the early morning or evenings. Most happen in apartment complexes or condos. Commercial robberies are down for this area at this time. Recovery rate for getting cars back may be 2-3 weeks. Lots of cars that are stolen are used for joy riding and are left on the opposite end of town. Some stolen cars are used for other crimes.

Fire Department - No Report

Neighborhood Liaison - Rebecca Deeds reported the next training day is on Wednesday 3/28 /23 6-7:30 She said there wasn’t much more to report at this time.

Columbus City Council Liaison - Harrison Poku-Yeboah reported that they are inviting area commissioners and civic association board members to the Columbus Urban Public Policy Academy. It’s aimed at providing area commissioners with a broader perspective on issues facing their neighborhoods and the City of Columbus. They will be discussing challenges and deepen their understanding of the city’s growth, zoning, history, as well as diversity and inclusive principles.

hat Sessions are Offered?

● Racial Equity Foundations & Applications

○ March 4, April 22, May 6

○ Instructors: YWCA Columbus, Phyl Flanagan MSW (they/she), Danielle Boyd, MSSA

(She/They)

○ Facilitated by YWCA Columbus’ Justice, Equity & Belonging experts, this interactive

training session helps you learn about structural racism and make connections to

inequities we see today within housing and intersecting systems. Through discussion and

exercises, our facilitators will encourage you to reflect on the root causes of racial

disparities and develop a thoughtful strategy for practicing anti-racism. After your

workshop, you will be more prepared to respond to and disrupt racism on an individual

and institutional level.

● Population Growth and the Impacts to our Region’s Future

○ March 11, April 8, and May 13

○ Instructor: United Way, Michael Wilkos

○ This session will provide an analysis of Columbus’ growth over the past few decades.

passwordDrawing on census data and archival documents, Michael Wilkos breaks down

Columbus’ growth by neighborhood, education, race, and more. This session will help

contextualize Columbus’ growth amongst national trends and offer lessons regarding

housing, transportation, and the future of our community.

● Zoning, Housing Policy & Redlining: Understanding our History to Plan for the Future

○ March 25, April 15, and May 20

○ Instructor: OSU, Jason Reece, Associate Professor of City & Regional Planning and Vice

Provost of Urban Research & Community Engagement

○ The session will provide a historical perspective on the emergence of zoning as a housing

and land use tool and its role in perpetuating racial and economic segregation. The

session will also introduce recent reform efforts to utilize zoning to support greater

housing affordability and racial equity. While including some national research, the

session will explicitly focus on the intersection of zoning, housing policy, and history in

the local context of Columbus

What Sessions are Offered?

● Racial Equity Foundations & Applications

● Population Growth and the Impacts to our Region’s Future

● Zoning, Housing Policy & Redlining: Understanding our History to Plan for the Future

To register: <https://forms.gle/U2YVxcAbkNLoZKCT8>

**Guest Speakers:**

1. Idin Pirasteh (Zoom) and Erica Walters (in person)

Discussed the new charter school named **Mater Academy of Columbus** and took questions.

Address: 5085 Reed Road Columbus, OH 43220

Principal: Erica Walters  
Phone: 614 489 8787  
Email: [info@matercolumbus.org](mailto:info@matercolumbus.org)

<https://matercolumbus.org/>

**Responses to questions:**

Philosophy is college prep classes, and competitive with area schools in central Ohio.

iPad and chrome books will be offered to students for learning purposes.

Parking lot will be repurposed into a playground area.

Traffic and turning left has been carefully looked at and there is an ongoing traffic study to keep the safety of students and staff at its best interest. The school is currently working on bus routes.

Classes start this year with the 23/24 school year. They will begin catering to children in grades K-5 and throughout the years will expand to higher grade levels. Open Houses are April 13th and 22nd

Funding comes from the State of Ohio and it is free to the student

1. Katherine “Swid” Swidarski discussed Sustainable Columbus and the future of the Columbus Climate Action Plan

**Committee Reports:**

Student trustees (Stacey) – Meeting with new interested individuals on Wednesday March 15th for the 23/24 student trustees for NWCA. Current students will be giving a brief summery of what they have gained throughout the year during the May meeting. Students have or are currently shadowing someone from city council to learn more.

Zoning (Monica) -- No zonings today but mentioned a change.

980 Old Henderson Road adjacent to the Luxe apartments Currently on hold; they can’t build until the Lower Olentangy Tunnel (LOT) is completed.

**Old Business**:

Riverside Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) was approved by the City Council in December. Information on NWCA website.

Membership dues are due by March 10th.

Meeting adjourned.