

# Far East Area Commission

## Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. Those in attendance were: Jennifer Chamberlain, Chair; Scott Gallagher, Treasurer; Larry Marshall; Wayne Hamner; Dustin Thompson; Eric Watson; Lynne LaCour, Manager of Far East Side Pride Center; and Catherine McKinley, Secretary.

From here forward, the Far East Area Commission will be referred to as FEAC.

The agenda for the FEAC was distributed. The meeting was called to order and introduction of the Commissioners to guest Rose Oberst, applicant for zoning amendment.

Report of the Chair was given by Jennifer Chamberlain, FEAC Chair.

Notice of Public Hearing was brought before the FEAC. Application: CV12-026. Location: 6950 Americana Pkwy., Columbus, OH 43068. Existing zoning: M-2 manufacturing. Request: Variance M-2 to allow for occupancy of child care center.

The Commissioner Hamner asked for the architect's name and phone number. Ms. Oberst gave the phone number (614) 294-3996. Ms. Oberst will submit the architect's regulations.

The Commission declared an issue with the parking lot at the location where trucks enter and exit for an existing business. The center's playground area is in the rear of the location. If a vehicle would happen to veer towards the playground, what would stop the vehicle from continuing into the playground, especially if children were outside? Ms. Oberst stated that cement bollards are already in place per state regulation.

The Commission approved the request for zoning amendment with the stipulation that the cement bollards are in place and ensure the safety of the children of the center. Commissioners voting:

Eric Watson – Yea  
Dustin Thompson – Yea  
Larry Marshall – Yea  
Catherine McKinley – Yea  
Jennifer Chamberlain – Yea  
Wayne Hamner – Yea

There are no other requests at this time.

Ms. Oberst would like to work with the Commission to help build up the Brice Road and Tussing Road vacancies. She suggested possible medical offices. Commissioner Hamner suggested Ms. Oberst be on the Development Committee. Commissioner Hamner said there is not much need right now since the Commission is new.

Commissioner Chamberlain attended the Commission on Commissioners meeting. There hasn't been a lot of change. One issue is the payment schedule. There is currently a \$5,000 per

area commission allowance. Each is split into four categories. The categories will be discussed at a later meeting. Commissioners would like to see it rise to a larger amount. It is uncertain what the monies would be spent on, possibly postage, flyers, mailers for events, etc. The Planning and Development Committee will eventually need to advertise.

The major concern is the lack of interest in getting new commissioners. Jennifer told them our commission is based on area block watch coordinators and all voted on who the best eight individuals would be commissioners. How do we prepare for new and future commissioners? Commissioner Hamner suggested advertising.

Another issue is how to form an area commission. Commissions are told what boundaries they have and then areas would be upset because they were out of specific area commission boundaries. The Southwest area commission had the same issues the FEAC had during its infancy. City Council was surprised to hear that.

Lynne found it disconcerting that the Task Force gelled and then boundaries were approved. This should happen sooner. When the FEAC started, it was told to the commissioners that the commission was too large. FEAC submitted a partition that involved all boundaries the FEAC wanted.

It was asked why boundaries were placed at a specific place. The answer is it made it easier for the map makers.

There is a process being addressed for future commissioners being worked on by City Council. One problem is once boundaries are approved, Commissions want it reduced. There is a desperate need for education in zoning.

Jennifer mentioned that other commissions have a lot of stored paperwork that needs. She asked Lynne if there is storage space at the Pride Center. The FEAC is required to keep documentation as hard copies and digital. All of the meeting minutes are to be kept forever. Lynne will ask the facilities management. All she has right now is a file cabinet. Jennifer suggested if a storage facility provided by the city could be located on the Pride Center property. Mt. Carmel East might have storage. Lynne said the Northeast Commission is looking at libraries. Each Commission wants their own storage. Lynne said a file cabinet would work for our Commission for approximately 2-3 years. After 7 years, everything is put on digital. Hard copies are given to the city to store. The by-laws can be changed through the city attorney stating that we will only go back 7 years for any dispute. Lynne has a free filing cabinet for our Commission documentation.

The Commission-to-Commission committee would like to have things uniform across all area commissions.

Jennifer stated that she was surprised how other commissions are organized. The Education and Training will also be with the Zoning and Development. They would send developers directly to the commissions home to get a signature.

The next Commission-to-Commission meeting is Wednesday, October 10 at 5:30 p.m. The governance, zoning, resources and development committees will be at the next meeting

It was discussed that the FEAC needs to seek out businesses to come to our area. Help is needed from the city.

The signage information that was given to Hannah is not specific enough. The two for Broad Street are acceptable. The signage for the western edge of Schoedinger Funeral Home needs to be 1000 feet from the inside of the FEAC boundary facing west. It can be changed to

face Livingston. The signage for Gender Road for Tussing can be put on I-70. Commissioner Hamner moved a motion that the FEAC sign be placed inside our boundaries at Big Walnut Creek and Noe Bixby and I-70 west of 270. The motion was second and all Commissioners approved the motion.

Jennifer has to meet with the sign company. They can't see the graphics. Lynne suggested telling them the map is our brand for our commission.

There will be a grant writing session on Monday, August 6 and 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pride Center. There are 10 spots left. It was requested that the trainers gear the instructions to our level. Someone from Ohio State University will be conducting the sessions. If anyone is interested in sponsoring, please contact Lynne.

Lynne would like another group from OSU to present to the FEAC demographics of our area.

Lynne is still waiting on a coalition form and then she will get an updated map for the FEAC.

Jennifer stated that if anyone wants a copy, Summer is going to put them in the DropBox. Lynne took hard copies. (Jennifer-I didn't write down what this was about).

Jennifer contacted the department that manages the maintenance and repairs of railroad crossings. She was told that the repairs for the Waggoner Road railroad crossing are set to be completed on July 25-26.

Commissioners are to send Jennifer an e-mail on anything needed to be discussed at the next FEAC meeting in August. It was suggested that all Commissioners look at the Commission-to-Commission information.

The next FEAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 7, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.