

**NORTHLAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting - June 6, 2006
Friendship Village Meeting Room**

President Dave Paul called the June meeting of the Northland Community Council to order at 7:03 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Representatives from Beaumont, Blendon Woods, Brandywine Meadows, Clinton Estates, Creek Ridge, Devonshire, Forest Park, Friendship Village, Maize-Morse, Minerva Park, Sharon Woods, Strawberry Farms, and Westerford Village Civic Associations were present. Also, attending were representatives of the NCC Development Committee, City of Columbus Code Enforcement Department, and Columbus Public Schools.

Minutes from the May meeting were presented for approval. A correction was made by Jeff Murray of the NCC Development committee motion was made by Jeff Murray and seconded by John Kirkpatrick to approve the minutes of the May meeting as amended. Motion was passed by voice vote.

Joy Kaye presented the May Treasurer's Report. Following a brief discussion of the report and corrections to the 2006 budget proposal, a motion was made by Jeff Murray and seconded by Tom Nann to approve treasurers' May report. Motion was passed by voice vote.

President's Report

Dave Paul started his President's report with the introduction of Tom Miller, the new executive director of Friendship Village.

161 Task Force - This group was started to bring together members of the business community along route 161 to discuss mutual problems such as the grass cutting that is being done by NCC. The group has held two meetings so far and is designed to get business owners to meet together to discuss problems. This group will be operated as a sub-group of NABA. The last cutting of the grass along 161 was not completely satisfactory but Top Seed has said that the next one will be better. NCC is looking at alternatives since the contract with Top Seed is not exclusive and could be changed either later this year or for next year.

Northland Park - Nothing new to report. Otis Jones of Columbus Urban Growth is no longer with the group and the management change may or may not affect the relationship with NCC.

Police Staffing - Dave Paul passed out a handout that showed the present strength of police forces in the Northland area. There will be about 180 new officers graduated from the Police Academy this year and the City of Columbus has said that the staffing level of police in the Northland area will increase later this year, however, it is not known at this time how much the level will actually increase since the number of police officers who will retire before the end of the year is not known. There is also a study that may result in a realignment of the police districts which will create a new precinct from portions of the current 7th and 18th precincts in the Northland area.

National Night Out - Dave passed out a form to be filled out by civic associations to indicate their level of participation in the National Night Out that will take place on August 1st.

COTA North Corridor Project - A series of meetings is taking place to discuss the possible alternatives to transit development in the Northland area. Light rail, streetcars, enhanced bus service, and no change will be discussed and recommendations will be forthcoming. Plans are confusing and conflicts exist between plans are tentative since there are unknowns about the cost of gasoline, etc. that may affect the future of mass transit.

Marathon Pipeline Clearing - Pipeline clearing is proceeding. Blendon Woods, Albany Park, Woodstream East and West areas are cut and project is now moving westward toward Strawberry Farms, Minerva Park, Waltham, Forest Park and Woodward park. There has been little opposition at present but there may be some as work proceeds toward older more developed areas. The City of Columbus plans to hold Marathon to a 30 foot width of cut but Marathon says that they need 50 feet and this may have to go to litigation.

Statistics Reporting - Dave passed out a handout of statistics about the Northland area. The Northland area would be the 7th largest city in Ohio if it was a separate city. Dave pointed out the source of the statistics and explained how they were obtained.

Somali Population - There are many Somalian refugees in the Dadaab area of Kenya. An initiative is being considered that could establish a sister city arrangement between Dadaab and Columbus which could help these refugees.

Committee Reports

Development - Jeff Murray - Seven cases were scheduled for a hearing. One case received conditional approval. One case was withdrawn by the applicant and the balance were tabled due to supply of proper and/or incorrect information or failure to distribute materials to NCC before the presentation of the case. Cases that were tabled will be heard in June if pursued by the applicant. The radio towers that were proposed for the Nazarene Camp land on Morse Road that was supported by the Development Committee in April are on hold at present since questions on were raised in City Council at their hearing. Jeff also raised questions about Civic Association participation at the Development Committee.

Schools - Chuck Wolfe - Chuck mentioned that he is proposing that the October NCC meeting be a student government meeting where students from the three area high schools would be invited to attend

to better understand the work of NCC. Chuck introduced Krista Morelli, Business and Grants Director for the Columbus Public Schools, who will be the new liaison between NCC and the school district. Krista then gave a brief talk about herself and the school district. Chuck passed around a copy of the school district annual report for anyone interested.

Beautification - Steve Thompson - The work day that was scheduled for June 3 was canceled due to poor participation at the work day on May 6 when only seven people showed up. It will be rescheduled at a later date if more support can be obtained from businesses in the area. The \$5,000 grant from the City of Columbus should be coming shortly. Landscaping judging will be coming up in July and nominations are needed no later than the July meeting. Results should be available at the August meeting.

Public Safety - Bruce Barber - Much of the information for this report was already covered in the police staffing report section of the President's report. National Night Out Against Crime will be held on August 1 as a part of a much larger national event and associations are requested to send in an information form to indicate their planned participation level in the event..

Social and July 4th Parade - Joy Kaye - Picnic will be held at the Sycamore shelter in Blendon Woods Metropark on August 8. Joy will make the reservations. Concerns were raised about access to the park since the construction on 161 will have some ramps in the Little Turtle area closed around the time of the picnic. The parade is coming along very well and will be held July 4th. Volunteers are needed for parade organization. An orientation meeting will be held on June 25th at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church for parade participants to provide advance information.

Membership - Chuck Wolfe - Work is also in process to involve community human services people in a meeting on June 22 to possibly establish a steering committee such as NABA or the Northland Alliance that could work with human resources issues and advise NABA and NCC of their issues. Would like to plan a new association information session for the first half of September for groups that would like to organize or reorganize neighborhood civic groups. Training classes are available through United Way on this topic and schedule will be posted on NCC website.

Traffic - Chuck Parker - Requests for items for submission to the City are needed. They can be forwarded to Chuck at the NCC website or his personal website. Work will be started shortly on new ramps from I-270 to I-71 and Route 23 so delays can be expected in that area as well as in the I-270 and Route 161 interchange.

PR/Website - Chuck Parker - No report.

Association Reports - Abbreviated due to shortage of time

Creek Ridge - Paul Fuller - Would like to talk with associations that have worked with street lighting. They will have a meeting on June 27th. Some of the problems encountered by other groups were discussed.

Sharon Woods - John Benedetti - Had their 2nd Annual Community Garage Sale and over \$400 was raised for community projects.

Northland Alliance - David Hull - Work on the SID is proceeding. Board of revisions has been set up by City Council to review objections. Memberships for property owners will be started this summer.

Brandywine Meadows - Chuck Wolfe - New sign for the community has been completed and will be installed soon. Creative Housing has opened their new facility in Brandywine.

Maize/Morse - Sandy LaFollette - Planning is started for sidewalks along Maize Road that the recent Neighborhood Pride in the area showed as a much needed item for the area.

Devonshire - Chuck Parker - Karl Road will be re-paved from 161 to Schrock Road and the project will include new drainage and lighting with underground wiring.

Old Business

Chuck Wolfe reported that Candidate's Night planning is in process. Dave Paul mentioned that even though we do not yet have 501-C3 tax status, he would like to treat the process as if we did have this status. He would like to schedule the evening in October and should have a better plan to present at the July meeting. Individual civic associations will have to support this effort if it is planned to assure a good attendance at the event. Depending on the actual scheduling of the event, Friendship Village may be able to host the event.

New Business

None

Adjournment

Due to the July 4th holiday, the next regular NCC meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, July 12 instead of Tuesday, July 4. Meeting will be at Friendship Village.

A motion was made by Andy Halatek and seconded by David Hull to adjourn. Motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 P.M.

Transcribed and hereby submitted by:
John Osmond, NCC Secretary