

Northland Community Council Regular Meeting – March 6, 2007 Friendship Village Meeting Room

President Dave Paul called the March meeting of the Northland Community Council to order at 7:11 p.m. Representatives from Albany Park, Blendon Woods, Brandywine Meadows, Clinton Estates, Creek Ridge, Devonshire, Forest Park, Friendship Village, Maize Morse Tri-Area, Minerva Park, Sharon Woods, Strawberry Farms, Tanager Woods, The NCC Development Committee, Northland Alliance, NABA, Columbus City Code Enforcement and our Columbus City Liaison constituted a quorum. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the February meeting, prepared by John Osmond, were presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by Andy Halatek and seconded by John Kirkpatrick. Motion was passed by a voice vote.

Treasurer, Steve Thompson, presented the monthly treasury report. Most of February's expenses were due to the annual NCC banquet. 2007 will see a surplus of \$200.00 to \$250.00 dollars from the banquet instead of the normal loss. Seven civic associations still owed their banquet assessment dues. Steve requested the help of the council to pass the information along the information to those still owing money. Tom Nann inquired about the bank service charges. Thompson's reply was that it was an assessment made by the bank for, under the former treasurer, after the fiscal year had ended. Chuck Parker explained how the distribution of the Easton donation for the banquet went through Devonshire Civic Association. Easton required that the organization be 501c3 approved. NCC is not 501c3 approved. Devonshire accepted the money on behalf on the NCC, with approval of the Columbus Foundation, and used it to purchase door prizes and other necessary items for the banquet. Tom Nann made a motion to accept the report, which was seconded by Lyn Denney. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

President's Report

Dave Paul presented the president's report. Paul began by recognizing a longtime Northland business owner. Stan Lasko, founder of Stan's Restaurant in 1958, passed away recently. Paul also addressed the 161 Task Force Kick-Off Event scheduled for March 8th at the Days Inn on 161. Several city leaders have committed.

Dave has met with Mo Dioun and Urban Growth recently to discuss Northland Park. Not much can be said while plans are still in development but Dave commented that they are happy with what is in the works. Mark Froehlich will be the guest speaker at the NABA luncheon on March 8th. In recent Morse Road banner meetings, an alternative to removing some of the poles has been reached.

Dave distributed a list of current committees and proposed committees. As he had mentioned in his NCC Banquet address he would like to see more representation from our communities. The By-laws committee is sorely needed. The other proposed committees are the Cultural Outreach and the Twenty-Twelve Committee. The Twenty-Twelve Committee will work with the Mayor and will also recognize NCC's fiftieth anniversary.

Next month, Dave has invited, Sharon Ware from the United Way to speak on available training and workshops. Simon has sold Northland Plaza to a private, family owned company in New York. The company maintains that the space will be remodeled and used for retail, no condominiums. The mayor of Minerva Park has invited them down to talk about their plans for the space.

Guest Speaker, Rick Tilton

Rick Tilton is the Assistant Director of Policies and Communications with the Department of Public Utilities. Mr. Tilton made a presentation on the City of Columbus 2007 water and sewer rates. He called paying your water and sewer bill an investment in your neighborhood. The funds go to pay for sewer projects, streetlights and updates. During the 1970's and 1980's the federal government provided a 75% match for local storm and sanitary sewer projects. Their contribution has since dropped sharply.

The Wet Weather Management Plan is a 2.5 billion dollar investment over the next 40 years. The plan is designed to bring Ohio into compliance with Consent Orders by cleaning up our waterways and reducing basement backups.

The Wet Weather Management Plan is funded by increased rates and the addition of the Project Clean Rivers Fee. The Project Clean Rivers Fee is based on Equivalent Residential Units, which was \$1.31 in 2006 and is currently at \$2.34 per Columbus household. Federal funding through the Clean Water Trust Fund could alleviate some of these increases. Discounts are available for low income and senior residents.

The Wet Weather Management Plan is expected to return 12.5 billion dollars back to the local economy by creating jobs and tax receipts.

Beautification

The 161 Task Force Kick Off will be held on March 8, 2007. Steve would like the local media to ask for volunteers to tend the landscaping boxes along 161. Six or seven volunteers are needed. Giant Eagle donates eighty dollars for each box to a local nursery for supplies. The local nursery also donates twenty dollars to each box. Bob Thurman will address McDonald's Corporate about the refusal of a beautification award. An announcement for the next clean-up event can be expected next month.

Neighborhood Pride

Sandy Lafollette and Jim Graham informed the council that seventeen applications were received for the 2007 Neighborhood Pride Program. None of the four applicants from NCC were selected this year.

4th of July Parade

A flyer was distributed announcing the first parade meeting. Chuck Parker is working on getting the Clydesdales for this year's parade. A definite answer on the horses is not expected until sixty days prior to the event.

Public Safety

Dave Paul addressed the issue of splitting the eighteenth precinct. The city is looking for real estate to relocate the new precinct around the Polaris Area. Several local agents and developers are working with the city to find a suitable location.

Dave Paul is planning another large Northland Area Block Watch Event with the ABC's of the CPD and CFD. It is scheduled for April 24th. The location of the event is still unknown.

Schools

Chuck Wolfe, Dave Paul and Steve Thompson will meet with two out of the three area high school principals on March 7th to talk about building better relationships and improving graduation rates.

Membership

Chuck Wolfe reported that contacting absentee associations had proven beneficial; a few of them that had not been attending were present. Preston Commons reported that their lack of participation was due to a shallow leadership pool and a feeling of disconnection from NCC. Little Turtle remains active. Woodstream West is only operating with one person.

Social

Nothing to report

Traffic

There was a meeting at St. Andrews Church regarding the potential 3 million dollar Karl Road construction. They are currently in the planning phase. The plan calls for a total revamp of the road, including taking the road down to the dirt and rebuilding it.

A question was raised about the condition of Cleveland Avenue and what the most effective way is to call the City's attention to the current state of the roadway. Chuck Parker suggested adding it to the traffic wish list but was more confident that calling the 311-Call Center and the traffic division would yield a better result.

Guest Speaker, Abdirizak Farah

Abdirizak Farah is the New American's Outreach Coordinator with the Public Relations Commission and the New American Initiative. The New American Initiative began in 2004 to welcome new immigrants.

Abdi stated the biggest obstacles new immigrants face is a language barrier and unfamiliarity with the culture. The Initiative works to bridge these gaps by offering ESL language classes and other programs.

The question most often asked is whether or not these immigrants are a burden to our society. Abdi said that this is a common myth surrounding immigrants. Farah reported that immigrant workers are among the people replacing baby boomers in the workforce. Many people also want to know why Columbus sees such a large number of immigrants.

Columbus is centrally located among several other large cities, which allows for easy travel to see family and friends. Another common myth is that immigrants receive \$10,000 when they reach this country and do not have to pay any taxes when in fact this is false. They pay taxes and even enter the country in debt. They have to sign a promissory note for the airfare they receive. Only slightly more immigrants use the welfare system compared to native residents.

Farah also reported that thirty percent of immigrants come into this country with college degrees from their homeland. The problem arises when their degrees and education are not recognized in America. He gave the example of an immigrant from Ukraine, who was a doctor, would not be permitted to practice medicine in the United States. This leaves him with a problem finding a job to support his family. Immigrants also hold a higher college graduation rate than native-born people.

Abdirizak concluded his presentation by explaining that most immigrants entering this country are in their mid twenties and ready to work. He said that because of this they are an asset to our society. The Somali Chamber of

Commerce and the Somali Association are centered in Northland and offer a good way to reach out to their community.

Budget Committee

A budget and audit committee was formed to review last year's financial records. Members who volunteered are Chuck Parker, Tom Nann and Jeff Murray.

Development

5327 North Hamilton Road, currently a church, wants to rezone the location to build shelf storage units. The committee voted to support this with the condition that the design of the curb cut would be done in such a manner that would not disrupt the adjoining residential property. They also requested the front of the buildings be done in all brick.

The second case, Giant Eagle on New Albany Road, was unable to provide the necessary information to take a vote on the graphic variance, so it was tabled.

6111 North Hamilton Road brought an overflow of people to the meeting. Jeff suggested that the applicant do more to work with the neighbors and they would address the vote at a later date. He said the in order for Casto to receive the support of NCC; they will need to make some concessions. It was also reported that Club Obvious has a new owner and that Dockside Dolls lost their liquor licenses.

New Business

Nothing to report

Good of the Order

A request was made for volunteers to form a By-laws Committee. If anyone is interested they should contact Dave Paul.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Andy Halatek and seconded by Ruby Hackett at 9:11p.m. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

Prepared and submitted by Roseann Hicks, NCC Secretary
March 22, 2007