

Northland Community Council Meeting Minutes
Friendship Village
October 2, 2007

President Dave Paul called the October 2, 2007 meeting of the Northland Community Council to order at 7:05pm. That was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Associations in attendance were Albany Park, Beaumont Neighborhood, Blendon Woods, Brandywine Meadows, Clinton Estates, Devonshire, Forest Park, Friendship Village, Little Turtle, Maize Morse, Minerva Park, Peppertree Condo Association, Salem Village, Sharon Woods, Strawberry Farms, Tanager Woods and Waltham Homeowners Association. Representatives from the Northland Area Business Association, City of Columbus Code Enforcement, and our Columbus City Liaison were also present. Tannisha Bell from the Columbus City Attorney's office also attended the meeting.

Bylaw Amendments

A motion was made to move the vote on proposed amendments to the bylaws to the beginning of the meeting. A motion to accept the amendments as written was made by Andy Halatek and seconded by Sandy LaFollette. As written, the changes to the bylaws would allow the Northland Community Council to constitute a quorum with only 33 and 1/3% of members in good standing present. They also clearly detail the expected amount of attendance from members to retain voting status at the meetings. All members present in good standing were in favor and the motion passed by a voice vote.

The President's Report

Dave Paul has discussed and received support from the Department of Public Safety and the City Attorney's office for local efforts to remove and discourage the posting of illegal advertising signs in the right-of-way. The City has asked that before signs are removed the violation be documented with a photograph and location. There is awareness of and interest in our efforts and in this procedure in other areas of the city.

New legislation creating Neighborhood Conservation Districts would allow communities to identify unique characteristics of their neighborhood that the City could refer to when making decisions about certain zoning issues.

Although painting graffiti on an occupied structure is a crime, there are no codes requiring the removal of the graffiti from private property after the incident. There is currently new legislation in city council that would change that. It seems that some victims of these crimes in certain areas of the city are reluctant to remove the graffiti for fear of retaliation from gangs. The Columbus City Police Department suggests reporting all graffiti and waiting for an officer to evaluate it before removing it. Kits to remove the graffiti are available through Keep Columbus Beautiful.

Talks between Dreamgirls on Cleveland Avenue, local residents and the City about their new signage and lighting are ongoing. Jeff Pharion is expected to cite the business for several violations.

The Treasurer's Report

The Keep 161 Beautiful account has a balance of \$2,526.39. The NCC General Fund account has a balance of \$2,206.49. The 4th of July account remains in the black with a balance of \$191.80. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by John Osmond and seconded by Lyn Denney. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

Membership Committee

In an attempt to understand why NCC failed to consistently constitute a quorum under the previous qualifications, Chuck Wolfe will contact wayward civic associations to discuss with them how NCC might better serve their needs.

Development Committee

The committee voted not to support an application from a Brandywine Meadows resident that requested to erect a 1000 square foot pole barn.

Menard's is moving forward with their plans for Northland Village and are preparing to start construction early next year.

The Casto Company went before the committee seeking a few graphic variances. The committee voted to conditionally support the smaller signs.

Activity in the Northland Plaza shopping center still remains to be seen since the sale of the property late last year.

Beautification Committee

Two clean up events are scheduled for this fall, Cleveland Avenue on October 27, 2007 and East Dublin Granville Road on November 10, 2007. Volunteers should meet at 9 a.m. at the respective locations.

The landscape box winners and other volunteers celebrated their efforts at the Donato's on Tamarack Circle. First place went to the Karmel Morse Manor Civic Association, second place went to Herb Crites and Jan Clark took third place.

In light of the many clean up efforts made by NCC, the issue of illegally posted campaign signs in the public right-of-way was addressed. After much discussion, lead by President David Paul, a motion was made and the Council approved the drafting of a letter asking politicians to refrain from placing their signs in the right-of-way. After reviewing details of the current code, Dave Paul will draft and mail the letter.

Neighborhood Pride

Committee chair Sandy LaFollette announced that those interested in applying for Neighborhood Pride should do so now. Applications are available through City liaison Dick Graham and will be posted on the NCC website.

Public Safety

Northland Community Shredding Day is October 6, 2007 at the Huntington Building on Morse Road. This is great opportunity to kick off Crime Prevention Month in October.

Schools

Columbus Public Schools will be hosting their "Principal for a day" program on November 7, 2007. Applications are due by October 15, 2007.

Traffic

A new light with a u-turn will be installed at Strawberry Farms allowing for easier access. The long awaited completion of the 161-interchange project is nearly complete. The upcoming paving project of Cleveland Avenue still looks to be on track.

Social

Locations for the 2007 Christmas Party are still being discussed. The Social Committee is also in need of a new chairperson.

Website

The NCC website will be moving to a new internet service provider (ISP) due to some recent problems updating material. The website will also need a new Webmaster beginning early in 2008.

Nominating Committee

Dave Paul will appoint a nominating a committee for the upcoming elections.

Association Reports

Maize Morse is planning a new and improved hayride this year on October 6, 2007. Newly formed Salem Village will host a Fall Festival in their neighborhoods appropriately named "Secret Park".

Unfinished Business

Nothing to report

New Business

David Roseman asked if the Northland Area Business Association had ever made any efforts to pursue the development of sidewalks along Cleveland Avenue. Roseann Hicks will bring the issue before the NABA board.

Adjournment

The October meeting of the Northland Community Council was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Prepared and submitted by Roseann Hicks, NCC Secretary
November 2, 2007