



City of Columbus
Mayor Andrew J. Ginther

University Area Commission

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Serving the University Community since 1972

April 18, 2018

Doreen Uhas-Sauer
President

Susan Keeny
1st Vice President

David Hegley
2nd Vice President

Aaron Marshall
Corr. Secretary

Brian Williams
Recording Secretary

Seth Golding
Treasurer

Matt Beaton

Craig Bouska

Mario Cespedes

Amy Elbaor

Andrew Frankhouser

Pasquale Grado

Abby Kravitz

Rory Krupp

Michael Sharvin

Lauren Squires

Steve Volkman

Tom Wildman

MINUTES

Roll was called at 6:35 p.m. with (13) commissioners present: Beaton, Bouska, Cespedes, Elbaor, Frankhouser, Hegley, Keeny, Kravitz, Krupp, Uhas-Saur, Wildman, and Williams. Squires, Grado, and Golding had approved absences. Sharvin arrived late.

REPORTS

Chris Suel, City of Columbus

Retreat for Commission officers in May 2.

Erin Prosser, Campus Partners

The big crowd of University District residents and others at the Board of Education meeting was a major factor in moving the Indianola Junior High sale forward. The school property will be “buttoned up” to prevent additional damage, and property will be opened up as needed green space in the district. Proposed new construction at 14th and Pearl – slightly above the 72-foot height limit – will be previewed at the May Zoning Committee meeting.

Matt Hansen, University District Organization

The city’s Arts Commission was very enthusiastic about and impressed by community input and outreach on the Arts & Character plan. UDO is assembling a steering committee for implementation. A new graffiti-style mural at 13th and High should be done this week.

Several large property owners meeting have met with city refuse officials about move-out time. They plan to have additional eight-yard roll-off dumpsters in areas to be designated for a pilot program. The extra containers are for bagged trash, not for bulk items, because bags often are torn and spilled, making messes that are hard to clean up.

PRESENTATIONS

Parking

Robert Ferrin, the new assistant director for parking services at the City of Columbus, gave an overview of the Short North Parking Plan, and future ideas for traffic and parking. With \$12 million in revenue last year – much of it from 19,000 “vehicle releases” from police impoundment – the city manages parking “where demand clearly outstrips supply.

Ferrin said the city “can’t build our way out of parking – have to look at other transportation options. Building more parking is only one option. How do we better use transit, car share, bike share” and other options? In 2018, the city wants to add car-share and bike-share options, and more partnerships with mobility providers.

He added that on-street parking is a very valuable asset to the city, and that timing, pricing, supply, and location should be managed. Static pricing is usually 75 cents per hour at any meter. “Adding (parking) supply is most expensive and least desirable option – in terms of best use for land.” Many new parking technologies available, but Columbus has done little in 25 years other than new meters that accept debit cards. Ferrin foresees multi-space meters, real-time parking availability (a Smart Columbus project), and mobile payment, which is part of Short North plan.

He said Columbus parking rates are among lowest in the country. "On-street parking should be the *most* available type of short-term parking for residents and visitors, he said, adding that the residential permit program change. Currently, it is resident initiated, block by block, "which means it moves the problem around – a fragmented system. City needs to do more to interact with civic associations," which are likely to be the new starting point for permit zones, creating an area-wide approach, rather than block by block.

The final public meeting for the Short North parking plan is May 10, with council action expected later in the month. The plan would be implemented in November. The plan could generate \$200,000 to 300,000 new revenue – which Ferring said will be earmarked for options in the area, rather than to the general revenue fund.

Block Party

John Massimiani of the Little Bar sought a permit for block parties during all OSU home football games again this year. Tom Wildman moved to grant the request. Brian Williams seconded.

Result: 11 Y – 1 N – 1 A

Public Comment

Deb Supelak reported that SoHud neighbors were surprised by the recent city closing of the United Foodland market on Summit Street as a public nuisance (because of under-age alcohol sales). She said nearby residents did not consider it a nuisance. Apparently, the city now is working with the owner to address the issues, and the store owner will get ID scanner.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning - Commissioner Keeny

Susan Keeny spoke briefly about the challenges of commercial and residential zoning changes in mixed-use areas. In a recent case, work on a home in a block of residences on Indianola near Arcadia was held up because the block had at some point been rezoned commercial. A previous zoning case involve a commercial building at Hudson and Indianola where residential was approved on the 1st floor. A variance to allow this was approved, but what resulted was street-level apartments with living rooms behind curtain-covered storefront windows. This is "anything but pedestrian friendly" in an Urban Commercial Overlay district designed to enhance walkable environment. A better example is the commercial block on Fifth Ave. and Forsythe. The UAC did not approve 1st floor residential in this commercial structure. It was vacant for several years, but recently has been renovated into attractive, pedestrian friendly commercial spaces. Which do you prefer? See photos below.



Hudson-Indianola Storefront



Fifth-Forsythe Storefront

Planning – Commissioner Elbaor

The national Town and Gown conference coming up at OSU in early June. Doreen said scholarships may be available for UAC members.

Governance - Commissioner Hegley

The Code Enforcement committee will be dissolved and merged into Planning. It will be on the May agenda.

Code Enforcement– Commissioner Wildman

No quorum. Discussed crime and sidewalks.

Community Relations – Commissioner Kravitz

Glen Echo Neighbors Civic Association wants to see university area civic groups have their websites linked on the UAC

website. Abby Kravitz reported that the first UAC podcast has been recorded and is being edited.

Elections Committee – Commissioner Volkmann

No report

Ad Hoc Committee on Education

Doreen Uhas-Saur said the sale of Indianola Middle School, which closed almost eight years ago, has the committee looking into future of public schools in the district. Brian added that urban parents – of different races, backgrounds, and income levels – are staying in city and choosing public schools, but city and school officials are not helping with those choices. The committee is proposing a series of meetings to look at options, and a \$5,000 National Trust for Historic

	Roll	Little Bar Block Party	Minutes					
Beaton	P	Y	A					
Bouska	P	Y	Y					
Elbaor	P	Y	Y					
Frankhouser	P	Y	Y					
Grado	E							
Golding								
Hegley	P	Y	Y					
Keeny	P	Y	Y					
Kravitz	P	Y	Y					
Krupp	P	N	Y					
Marshall								
Sharvin		A	Y					
Squires	E							
Cespedes	P	Y	Y					
Uhas-Saur	P	Y	Y					
Volkman	P	Y	A					
Wildman	P	Y	Y					
Williams	P	Y	Y					

Preservation grant for a physical assessment of building, but also the future of uses and what residents want.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

Steve Volkmann said construction fences going up all over Oval for underground work. Mirror Lake reopen early August. September dedication. Michael Sharvin noted that many street lights are out on High south of campus, from library to Chumley’s. Amy Elbaor, Rory Krupp, and Brian raised questions about campus apartment rental companies are putting up more and more signs on building, which Brian described as “permanent advertising in residential area.”

MINUTES

Tom moved, Steve seconded; approved by voice vote
 Result: 11 Y – 0 N – 2 A

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.