

**Ohio City Incorporated
Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2021**

Attendance

Board - Schmitt, Benjamin, Doyle, Mallory, Frondorf, Greer, Knittel, Rocha, Smith, Trares, Trivisonno, Qin, Scheve, Wimbiscus, Rico, Saunders, Valletta

Staff - McNair, Biggers, Raber, Long-Jones, Trimble, Grigonis-Bailey, Lowery, Burke

Meeting began at 6:02 PM

Minutes

Brendan presented the February minutes. Roger Scheve made a motion to approve the amended February minutes and GiGi Benjamin seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Reports – presented by Committee Chairs

Governance - Brendan Doyle

Brendan introduced our three new Board members : David Rico (PNC), Shauna Sanders (Malachi Center), and Patrick Valletta (St. Ignatius).

Brendan discussed the Board election and dates. Alex Frondorf will be overseeing the election as Brendan is running for reelection and will be a candidate.

Tom discussed the new membership form for OCI and the process for registering.

Dr. Tim Barnett is the new President of Lutheran Hospital and replacing Dr. Malone. Tom presented Resolution 2021-0407-01 to appoint Dr. Barnett to the Board. Helen Smith moved and Kathleen seconded. The resolution passed unanimously.

Joel Wimbiscus is always working behind the scenes to make our neighborhood better and he is Board Member of the Month!

Tom thanked GiGi Benjamin, Helen Qin, Priscilla Rocha, and Brendan Doyle for their service on the Board and wished them luck in the upcoming election.

Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee

No update at this time and we are continuing to work through the strategic plan presentations.

Real Estate and Land Use - Joel Wimbiscus

The Committee discussed the 2523 Market offer that was received. There were some questions regarding reinvestment of funds, but it was determined that the deal makes sense for the organization.

Joel stated that the Committee was very impressed with Ben's ability to work with Franklin Gardens.

Joel stated that the proposed townhome legislation is well-meaning and the Committee will be reviewing it in the coming months and will make a recommendation to the Board later this year.

Tom presented some internal development matters. The Land Trust broke ground and some people from the community were in attendance.

3802 Clinton court hearing was supposed to be today, but it was postponed.

Donna presented the proposed Fulton House development at Fulton and Woodbine. The developers went to Local Design and Landmarks Committees and they were told to bring the building down in height. The developers did follow the community process. They removed the balconies facing the residential neighbors and they lowered the height from 5 floors to 4 floors. All of the plans were rejected at Design Review and the project was tabled by Landmarks Commission. The project is now on pause.

Donna presented Bridgeworks which creates 174 residential units and 130+ hotel rooms. This project was more positively received.

Joel discussed the West 47th and Lorain Avenue townhomes. We anticipate doing a resolution later in April supporting the repeal and replacement of the City's townhome regulations.

Finance Committee - Andy Trares

Andy said that the biggest topics of conversation over the past few months have been the two real estate transactions. Those matters will be discussed in executive session.

Andy discussed PPP rounds one and two. The budget was intentionally conservative. Tom said that the dust is still settling, but we could end up having a pretty good two year fiscal period.

Economic Development - Andy Trares

No update at this time.

Safety Committee - Helen Smith

Angelo is working on safety issues in the neighborhood like crosswalks, speed bumps, etc. The Councilman has said there will be a no-right-turn-on-red at West 41st and West 44th and more similar developments to come at other dangerous intersections in the neighborhood.

Advancement – Chris Schmitt

No update at this time.

Michaela Lowery said that the Ohio City Improvement Corp Virtual Annual Meeting will be held on April 13th at 6 PM.

Matt Burke, new Director of Recreation Programming, presented updates on the lacrosse program and on Near West Rec. Matt discussed the Lacrosse Communities Project and gave other updates. There will be a lacrosse camp at St. Ignatius High School this summer.

Matt said that this has been a challenging year for Near West Rec. There has been a lot of online engagement and direct videos with students in order to try and provide some support. Staff made sure that kids had athletic equipment in order to stay active and there were a lot of housecalls made to provide the equipment. They have also been doing some fundraising for NWR which has been successful.

Matt discussed the programming for 2021 which includes baseball/softball season (registration now open!), summer track and running club, soccer season, and volleyball season.

Community Engagement - Helen Qin and Priscilla Rocha

Priscilla discussed the resident engagement plan and some of the steps that have been taken to determine the definition of a resident group, fiscal agent fees, etc.

The latest draft of the full version of the community engagement plan is included in the Board packet. Whitney presented some of the conversations that have been taking place to make up the engagement plan and they are discussed in the plan. Whitney asked how do we best educate members and community residents before the June meeting? A community meeting has been discussed, as well as attending block club meetings (although the challenge is that the clubs have not been meeting during COVID). Helen Qin acknowledged that it might not be the most equitable action for those without internet service but suggested putting FAQ's up on the website.

The Board had a discussion regarding development and coUrbanize and the block clubs. Brian Mallory suggested reaching out to local publications and engaging houses of worship. Alex Frondorf stated that coUrbanize is meant to supplement block clubs, not replace them. Whitney said that there are definitely still some questions from the community that they will work to answer and better educate.

Chad presented the JEDI Inventory. JEDI stands for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and it is an intentionality inventory. Several Board members asked questions and made comments and thanked Whitney and Chad for their work on this initiative.

The Board took a break at 7:33 PM.

The Board reconvened at 7:41 PM.

Executive Committee

Tom presented Resolution 2021-0407-02 regarding a parking and land use study the goal of which is to develop a neighborhood-wide strategy for parking. Helen moved for approval and Kathleen seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Tom talked about the American Recovery Act funds and stated that Cleveland will be receiving approximately \$541 million and the County will be receiving \$241 million. The City is outlining a process for how the money will be spent. OCI is working with Councilman McCormack regarding his priorities and Tom believes that OCI is

potentially very well-positioned with regard to these funds. Tom noted that Ward 3 is one of the few wards without a recreation center and Brian Mallory mentioned that losing a pool in the neighborhood was unfortunate and it would be great for residents to get a pool back.

David Rico asked how governments and organizations will be held accountable and Tom said that those issues are being discussed right now. Cleveland will likely be starting its budgeting process in June.

Executive Session

Brendan Doyle made a motion to go into executive session and Roger Scheve seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Board went into executive session at 7:59 PM.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:57PM

Resolution 2021-0407-03 was presented regarding the sale of Ohio City Elderly LP. Roger Scheve made a motion to approve the resolution and Kathleen Knittel seconded. Sharhonda Greer and Andy Trares abstained. The resolution passed.

Resolution 2021-0407-04 was presented regarding the acquisition of 1545 West 25th Street. Andy Trares made a motion to approve the resolution and Helen Smith seconded. Priscilla Rocha and Brendan Doyle abstained. The resolution passed.

The meeting ended at 9 PM.

Meeting of 2523 Market Corp.

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2523 Market Corp. Resolution 2021-0407-01 was discussed with the Board members and questions were answered. Andy Trares made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-0407-01 and Alex Frondorf seconded. The resolution was approved unanimously.