

**Ohio City Incorporated Regular Board Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
April 3, 2019**

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**Attendance**

Board Members – Schmitt, Benjamin, Frondorf, Knittel, Nosse, Owens, Qin, Rocha, Scheve, Smith, Trares, Wimbiscus, Gill.

Staff – Biggers, Miller, Raber, Shaw, Trimble

Absent – Davis, McNair

Meeting began at 6:05 PM

**Meeting Minutes – Brendan Doyle**

February meeting minutes presented for approval. A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes and the minutes were approved with only Chris Schmitt, Maria Nosse, and Kathleen Knittel abstaining.

**Committee Reports – presented by Committee Chairs**

**Finance Committee – Maria Nosse**

OCI is doing very well with sponsorships and expenses are on track with the budget. The organization is in possession of the loan from PNC and at least one payment has been made with a 4% interest rate. There has been a lot of turnover at PNC so there have been some revisions of the original deal.

The suite next to OCI is now available so seeking a new tenant. There has been a letter of intent proposed for the Ohio Savings lot, but Maria still needs to discuss with Real Estate & Land Use.

Chris asked about the Vista program leaving and Ben Trimble mentioned that they are trying to keep Donna on staff.

Fodor Building will take about 6 weeks for financing and approximately 2-3 months for the build-out.

**Governance Committee – Brendan Doyle**

The proposed CMHA Board seat was discussed, including a proposed one-year term and how the new Board structure would look. The bylaws and the number of Board seats were discussed, as well as how soon proposed bylaw amendments needed to be determined prior to voting.

## **Real Estate & Land Use – Joel Wimbiscus**

There are openings on the Ohio City Design Review Board and there has been a discussion with the Landmarks Commission regarding the same.

Project updates: Lorain and Randall Project - the developers want to demolish a dilapidated house and a good house on the property, however, the Committee believes that permitting an action like this would set a bad precedent. Fulton Road Project - there has been much community pushback on trees being cut down and advocacy for protected bike lanes. There have also been many complaints about traffic. West 32nd and Franklin - the developer met with the block club twice and the block club voted it down 41-3.

Carrie Miller did a recap of the Vision meeting and Joel discussed the process.

Resolution 2019-0403-02 - Roger Scheve made a motion to pass the resolution and Kathleen Knittel seconded and the resolution was unanimously passed.

Resolution 2019-0403-03 - GiGi Benjamin made a motion to approve the resolution and Priscilla Rocha seconded and the resolution unanimously passed. A motion was then made to amend the resolution to amend the bylaws. Gigi Benjamin made a motion to pass the resolution and Roger Scheve seconded and it was unanimously passed.

## **Safety – Helen Smith**

Working with staff to develop Guardian sponsors. Also Councilman McCormack has allocated \$50,000 to fund a program to pay off-duty police officers to patrol Ohio City, Tremont and the Flats. Chad is managing the program and determines where to send the officers.

## **Advancement Committee – Chris Schmitt**

There have been two meetings held since the last meeting and a very successful partner event was held. The Committee is also planning a Night at the Races which will be held in an appropriate near west side space. Details to come.

## **Community Engagement Committee –Priscilla Rocha (for Helen Qin)**

The Redline exhibit is currently going on and all are invited to attend. The Spring Jam is going well, but attendance is down. The Committee is working with Councilman McCormack on the issue of trees and trying to organize a meeting with residents for Phase II of the Fulton Road project to try and avoid the issues that were encountered South of Lorain.

## **Economic Development Committee – Andy Trares**

The “Support Local” program held a career resource fair at Carnegie West Library. The dialogue continues surrounding how merchants can further involve themselves in the Ohio City Street Festival, including getting more businesses involved and expanding the Passport program. Four new people will be joining the Committee representing both residents and businesses.

In place of Tom McNair, Carrie Miller walked the Board through the proposed Welcome Center for the Irishtown Bend project. LAND Studio has identified the architect and they envision a 6 month project if money can be raised. Ben Trimble discussed how the current building would be leased for \$1 per year. A discussion ensued regarding insurance coverage.

Ashley Shaw informed the Board that they have been working on a SID Renewal Plan and walked the Board through the proposed terms and boundaries.

Resolution 2019-0403-01 - Helen Smith made a motion to approve the resolution and Alex Frondorf seconded. The motion was passed with Joel Wimbiscus and Sharhonda Greer abstaining.

## **Executive Session**

At 7:45 PM the Board went into executive session.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:04 PM.