

**Ohio City Incorporated  
Regular Board Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
December 2, 2020**

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**Attendance**

Board - Schmitt, Benjamin, Brown, Doyle, Mallory, Frondorf, Knittel, Rocha, Smith, Trares, Trivisonno, Malone, Qin, Scheve, Wimbiscus

Not Attending - Greer

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

Meeting began at 6:03 PM

**Minutes**

Brendan presented the October minutes taken very well by Angelo. Kathleen made a motion to approve and Helen Smith seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Committee Reports – presented by Committee Chairs**

**Governance - Brendan Doyle**

The Committee met on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Items discussed were filling the open Board seats, amending and updating the bylaws, and cleaning up the voter rolls.

The Committee is interviewing prospective candidates over the next few weeks and is meeting with Father Guiao and Richard Klingshorn from St. Ignatius next week. The Committee anticipates recommending a slate of candidates to the Board at the next Board meeting.

Alex Frondorf was kind enough to volunteer to chair the newly-created Bylaw Review Subcommittee to study updating and amending the bylaws. He is looking for new members and all are welcome. The Subcommittee will include the recommendations from the Community Engagement Committee in what it considers for recommended amendments.

## **Real Estate and Land Use - Joel Wimbiscus**

Committee met on October 9 and November 13 to discuss the Vision Plan. Also have discussed the McCafferty Center regarding plans going forward.

Harbor 44 is under construction at West 44<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue. 3802 Clinton Avenue is a historic home that the Committee has been keeping an eye on and there have been no new developments.

Briefly discussed the Bridgeworks projects that is proposed for West 25<sup>th</sup> and Detroit Road. The process is moving quickly and it will be before Design Review tomorrow.

The Committee has been meeting to discuss the Vision Plan and what changes should be made.

Chris mentioned that the intersection of West 44<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue is being studied for better signage and West 41<sup>st</sup> has also become part of the discussion.

Tom added that there is a letter of intent with a finance company for the former OCI office space for \$19 per square foot and there are three months of free rent while OCI updates the bathrooms. It is a five-year lease.

## **COVID Update – Dr. Malone**

Thanked everyone for his time on the Board while he transitions to a new position at the Cleveland Clinic. The new President of Lutheran Hospital will report to him and he will emphasize the importance of community engagement to the individual selected for the position.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Two vaccines will be available in-house in approximately two weeks (Pfizer and Moderna). Caregivers will be vaccinated starting the third week in December. Vaccines are 95% effective. 600 million doses for the United States alone for 300 million people. Most people should be able to be vaccinated by April or May at the latest.

Unfortunately, things right now are not so rosy. The spikes in infections are dramatic. Currently 750 patients in the hospital in Clinic hospitals in northeast Ohio.

Approximately 1200 employees are out with COVID. Hospitals are filling up quickly. 92% occupancy and ICU beds are down to single digits throughout the system.

Today was the first time in about a month that the numbers have been down slightly.

In light of the utility shutoff at the end of this year by the City of Cleveland, Dr. Malone noted the disparities that exist and that those who are the most vulnerable are at much higher risk. Brian questioned what has changed since the state of emergency in March and April when the numbers are actually worse now. Chris asked that Community Engagement look into sending a letter to ask that very question of Mayor Jackson and the City.

Tom announced Board Members of the Year – Dr. Malone and Chris Schmitt. Both have dealt with COVID on different levels and have been of great service to the organization.

### **Finance Committee - Andy Trares**

The audit for the fiscal year that ended June is a consolidated audit. In the audit itself on pages 10-23 (13 to 27 on Boardmax) is a very good description of our full financial picture. Kathleen also noted that the audit is confidential.

The 990 is a public document. A note was added under Schedule B that explains why it looks like we have such a large deficit and it is because of Fairview Gardens.

Resolution 2020-1202-01 proposing acceptance of the 2020 OCI audit was introduced to the Board. Kathleen moved to approve the Resolution and Helen seconded the motion. The Resolution passed unanimously.

We are running a little bit under where we anticipated but we are at a tolerable level and we will know in the next quarter if there are any course corrections that need to be made.

### **Economic Development - Andy Trares**

No update.

### **Advancement – Chris Schmitt**

No update

### **Safety Committee - Helen Smith**

The Committee is looking for suggestions of candidates for the safety coordinator position who will work on Councilman McCormack's staff. The Councilman does not have a timeline for hiring right now but wants someone as soon as possible.

The Committee also discussed upgrades for the safety cameras in the neighborhood. Kathleen asked whether there has been a return on our investment for our old cameras and Helen and Brendan provided information in response.

### **Near West Rec Update**

Matt Burke and Keri Palma thanked everyone for the money raised for the new vehicle for the Near West Rec program. The total raised is now over \$8,000. Matt noted that he loves the music from the video that they made and hopes that people play it for him every time he walks in a room.

### **Community Engagement - Helen Qin and Priscilla Rocha**

No meeting last month due to the holiday. The Committee is still working on the policy and they anticipate having something for the Board to review at the next meeting or the meeting after.

The Committee will also add to their to-do list the letter to the Mayor regarding utility cutoff at the end of the year.

### **Staff Update**

Tom discussed that the Executive Committee met recently to discuss the restructuring of the staff. An email regarding the same was sent out to the full Board. Tom fielded questions from the Board.

Chris gave an update on the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Subcommittee. There will be a meeting coming soon and updates will be coming.

Chad discussed the Route 81 elimination proposed by RTA. Staff and residents have sent out 200 flyers around the neighborhood and a petition has been signed by more than 100 people. A letter was also drafted and sent to RTA from the OCI Executive Committee

Resolution 2020-1202-02 requesting that the RTA reevaluate its decision to eliminate Route 81 was presented to the Board. Helen moved to approve the Resolution and

Brendan seconded the motion. Priscilla thanked everyone for their efforts. The Resolution was approved unanimously.

The meeting ended at 7:18 PM.

Councilman McCormack provided updates on Ward 3 and fielded questions from the OCI Board until approximately 8:30 PM.