

**Ohio City Incorporated
Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2021**

Attendance

Board - Schmitt, Doyle, Knittel, Adams, Mallory, Rocha, Smith, Trares, Malone, Sanders, Wimbiscus, Lundgard, Rico, Valletta, Scheve

Staff - McNair, Grigonis, Lowery, Biggers, McGhee, Raber, Shaw, Trimble

Meeting began at 6:04 PM

Chris introduced Resolution 2021-1006-01 regarding the sale of 2538 Lorain Avenue and the allocation of the proceeds.

Minutes from August 4, 2021, were passed unanimously.

Tom McNair introduced new OCI employees Stephanie Thomas, Christopher McGhee, and Nate Lull.

Committee Reports – presented by Committee Chairs

Governance - skipped for this meeting.

Finance - Andy Trares

Andy introduced the Ohio City, Inc. Organizational Fund which OCI is doing in partnership with The Cleveland Foundation. There are several investment pools and Tom and Andy generally discussed some of the previous risk-adjusted returns from those investments. Tom explained the racial equity investment fund and the socially-responsible investment fund.

Chris introduced Resolution 2021-1006-01 establishing the Ohio City Incorporated Organizational Fund. Helen Smith made a motion to approve the resolution and David Rico seconded. The resolution passed unanimously.

Chris introduced Emily Lundgard and she briefly talked about her background.

Real Estate and Land Use - Ben Trimble (for Joel Wimbiscus)

Ben Trimble discussed 2802 York Road which OCI has owned for a few years and is going to send to Near West Land Trust.

Ben also discussed 3802 Clinton Avenue which OCI filed for nuisance abatement against and OCI was appointed the receiver. Work is now being done to rehabilitate the house. Ohio City residents and business owners, Anne and Andy Hartnett, are doing the work. Tom responded to questions regarding the receivership process and the future of the house.

Ben stated that they are still working through the refinancing of Fairview Gardens. OCI appealed the appraised value of the home and the Board of Revision denied it. The denial has been appealed to the Board of Tax Appeals in Columbus.

Donna Grigonis presented The Clermont development at 2222 Fulton Road. Feedback was collected by CoUrbanize and shared with the Board of Zoning Appeals who granted variances. Donna provided a brief overview of the feedback that had been received.

Ashley Shaw provided an update on the Irishtown Bend Park project, including engagement with the Committee of Champions. The Committee of Champions is made up of mostly residents of Lakeview Estates about what they would like to see as part of the park. Ashley discussed some of what the residents would like to see. There is a community meeting next week at Merwin's Wharf regarding the Park.

Economic Development - Donna Grigonis

The Committee has been meeting regularly and although they missed their last meeting they will be meeting again at the end of the month.

Safety Committee - Helen Smith

No update because there have been no meetings but there will be a meeting this month.

Advancement Committee - Chris Schmitt

No update but new members will be joining so they will be holding a meeting soon and should have an update at the next meeting.

Community Engagement - Priscila Rocha

The Committee has been discussing starting a training program for individuals experiencing trauma and have been reaching out to organizations like MetroHealth for assistance. A discussion ensued regarding this proposed training program.

Executive Director Report - Tom McNair

The organizational capacity has been stretched very thin recently and Tom is looking to rebuild organizational capacity through a continued alignment with Near West Partners. Tom's goal is to attract new talented team members to help support the many efforts and responsibilities that staff has with regard to a number of projects, in particular Irishtown Bend Park.

Tom discussed the public restroom initiative and the association with The Cleveland Foundation which has provided funding for six public restrooms.

Tom also discussed movie night and trick or treating for Halloween. Tom gave an overview of the money that is going to the City of Cleveland from the American Rescue Plan Act and some of where those dollars will be allocated.

Tom fielded questions from the Board on the items that he presented.

Chris talked about Committee assignments.

Executive Session

Board entered into Executive Session at 7:16PM.

Board came out of Executive Session at 7:56 PM.

Roger Scheve moved to approve Resolution 2021-1006-02 and Priscila Rocha seconded. The Resolution passed unanimously.

David Rico moved to approve Resolution 2021-1006-03 and Kathleen Knittel seconded. The Resolution passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM