



www.italianvillage.org

P.O. Box 8001, Columbus, OH 43201
Meeting Minutes - July 12, 2016
Jeffrey Park Foundry Community Room
233 E First Ave
Columbus OH 43201

Welcome and Introduction- Christopher Vidoni

There were 2 board members present and 9 others present at the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:40. Each person was asked to introduce themselves, state their involvement in the neighborhood, and what the IV Society could do for them. Absent: Mike Navarro, VP and Audra Wheeler, Sec.

Approval of Minutes - Audra Wheeler (absent)

The Minutes from May and June were not approved due to lack of quorum.

IV Complete Streets Committee- Andy Klein

Andy spoke of the URIF funds and the city's request for projects to utilize the funds. The lighting on East Fifth Ave and the matching of those on West Fifth was mentioned. The East Second Ave improvements to accommodate pedestrians and bikes was also a point he brought to the attention of the group. The Milo-Grogan neighborhood has been awarded design assistance for the Greening of America's Capitals program sponsored by the EPA. Greening of America's Communities is an EPA program to help cities and towns develop an implementable vision of environmentally friendly neighborhoods that incorporate innovative *green infrastructure* and other sustainable design strategies. The city of Columbus was not on board or cool on reception with the award and movement in this direction is questionable. More info on this can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/greening-americas-capitals-columbus-oh>

Some of the people present asked for a crosswalk on East Third Ave at Summit and N Fourth St in the meetings opening question, "What can the Italian Village Society do for you?" Andy mentioned that Pedestrian friendly improvements is a focus of the Complete Streets Committee but a 311 request with the city is a good place to start. These improvements can be obtained with diligence. They go both ways for Summit and North Fourth and the Undesignation of Route 23 are ways of making the neighborhood not a throughfare. Getting Weiland Park and Milo - Grogan and for that matter neighborhoods to the north on board is something to be considered.

Safety with pedestrians has been studied in the new Jeffery Park development and finding a way for the new population of Italian Village to find their way to points east has posed a challenge. The closing of the Interstate 670 westbound exit at North Fourth St (Rt 23N) has potential to alter the neighborhood in a safer pedestrian way. This would also allow for future retail development at the south end of the Jeffrey Park which the developer has stated would occur if the exit is closed.

Block Watch and Crime Report - Officer Steve Smith

Officer Smith mentioned that packages have been stolen from porches and theft from cars has occurred. These can be curtailed by simple actions of not leaving things in your vehicle and making arrangements for packages to be delivered when someone isn't home to a neighbor or workplace. There were four Burglaries last month.

The National Night Out is the first Tuesday in August. This year the neighborhoods will come together at Goodale Park with the help of the Columbus Police Department and the Short North Block Watch. Get more information at <http://shortnorthcivic.org/shortnorthblockwatch/>

Parking Study and Implementation - City of Columbus Amanda Ford

Amanda was unable to make the meeting but did send some information on the study and pilot programs.

Creation of the special parking district. We have met with the appropriate directors to brief but they have some concerns. We are meeting with the city attorney's office today to discuss options on moving forward.

- *Parking sign pilot. We have chosen 4 areas to pilot new parking signage and submitted a request to experiment with the Federal Highway Administration but it has been denied. We had a follow-up conference call on Friday and they would like us to work with OSU or another university to do some human testing prior to approving the pilot. We are working to get another call set-up with the FHWA National Committee to discuss testing.*

- *RPP. I am meeting with the SN Parking Group on Thursday morning to discuss boundaries for RPP areas in the SN. The group has made it very clear that they are interested in implementing RPP zones, paid parking on the designated streets with kiosks and pay by cell. We also are allowing all permit holders, with the exception of those specific to OSU students, to renew online! For those who renew in August, they should be receiving their renewal notices anytime. Those who renew in January, will also have that ability. It will be easy, simple, and not require a trip to PVB...or at least for most!*

- *Technology. This ties in to the RPP. We have been meeting with vendors and started putting together specs for parking kiosks, pay by cell, and license plate readers.*

Italian Village Commission - Josh Lapp

New Victorians requesting a Brewery at the southwest corner of North Fourth St and E. Fifth Ave. UDF at First and High is proposing a 3-4 story office and retail space, concerns on parking and curb cuts will be raised. The Hamlet Cottage (from previous meetings) and Mulberry have been before the commission requesting a lot split and 3 story carriage house. The Exile development has changed direction while the townhomes to the north of the bar are still on track.

The Commission is down one commissioner and it is on the verge of being down two. Charmain Sutton has left the Italian Village Commission as of the last meeting. She was not recommended by the Society but was appointed thru City channels. Josh informed the Society that due to working with certain developers a conflict of interest was created. In addition, he also has moved out of the village, which is not a necessity. Thusly, he has chosen to leave the Italian Village Commission.

Commissioner Lapp has recommended a replacement. Her name is Shannon Fergus, she is familiar with the Short North, Downtown and is a recent graduate of the Ohio State University with a Masters in Urban Planning. The society asked her to forward a resume to the IVS board to review. Josh recommended sending Randy Black from the City Historic Preservation Office a letter of intent to recommend Shannon for the Italian Village Commissioners slot.

If you are interested in architecture, historic preservation or urban planning and have experience in any of these fields with a desire to serve in a civic non paid capacity please contact the society and Randy Black at the City Historic Preservation office.

<https://www.columbus.gov/planning/IVC/>

City Council Director of Community Engagement - Sandra Lopez

The city council has created a Community Division dividing the city into four quadrants. Sandra explained how she can assist neighborhood organizations if they have needs or questions. Also, she can relay information from the city at community meetings. The information she gave to the society was of the upcoming special election. This is pertaining to Issue 1 and a Charter amendment. A contingent has brought forward the representation by wards versus at large city council. The wards would have approximately 85,000 residents each. There would be three council members elected from the popular vote, then each ward would choose a representative for a total of 13 council members. The election is August 2nd.(national night out).

Treasurer's Report - Stephanie Harris

Checking account opening balance \$6,576.15. Income: Kroger Rewards \$54.37 + Memberships \$235.00 with no expenses for a Closing balance of \$6,865.52
Park Fund Opening balance \$8,813.83 Income Interest \$1.02 Expenses Estate Landscaping \$118.00 with a closing balance \$8,696.85.
Park Investment Fund Polaris Financial \$10,063.42 Interest \$8.57 Total \$10,071.99.

Membership Report - Mike Navarro

No report - absent

Announcements - New Business

The Bollinger Tower and its residents were brought up due to the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority's plan to convert it into a Cambria Hotel. Susan Donely, a Bollinger resident composed an informative letter to Italian Village residents, on how the Joseph was not planned correctly to accomodate the increase in traffic, and how the Bollinger could suffer the same. She also mentioned the steamrolling of residents and keeping them in the dark on movement of the project.

Comments from the group stated the loss of diversity in the neighborhood and the Bollinger residents will leave a "black eye" on the Society. Relaying information to those with the power to stop this project were spoke of and voicing concerns of loss of housing for elderly and low income will be addressed.

Meeting adjourned 8:53

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Vidoni, President

for Audra Wheeler, secretary