

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
5686 KENWOOD ROAD CINCINNATI, OHIO 45227

Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2023
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This meeting was open to the public, streamed live and available for viewing after the meeting. Columbia Township residents and businesses were also invited to email or call with comments or questions to be read and answered during "Open Forum". GrowingTogether@ColumbiaTwp.org; 513-561-6046.

Watch Live <https://vimeo.com/event/2759135>

Watch Later <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLfD5afKymmzsH8L5mLpDaQ>

The Columbia Township Regular Board meeting was called to order by Trustee David Kubicki at 4:00 p.m.

In attendance

Those Trustees in attendance were Susan Hughes, Brian Lamar and David Kubicki. Township Administrator Melissa Taylor, Resident Services Coordinator Lauren Allison, Police Lieutenant Paul Naber, Fire Chief Denny Meador and Fire Chief Mike Siefke were also in attendance. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Approval and Signing of Minutes –

Mr. Kubicki made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lamar to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2023. All Present voted yes.

Open Forum –

Resident Jack Fuchs had questions regarding the township's community events, specifically the most recent Margaritaville party. Mr. Fuchs stated that while the party was well attended the township is 40 percent African American yet he only "saw 2 or 3 African Americans in attendance". In summary, Mr. Fuchs does not feel that there is outreach to the entire community and the signage did not indicate the location of the party. He also asked if there will be events held in "the other neighborhoods".

Ms. Hughes noted that a postcard invitation with all the information is mailed to every household. Mr. Fuchs stated that he did not receive one. Mr. Kubicki noted that with a "nine island" community it is challenging, but like other townships there is generally a central location for community events and Madison Place fits that description for our township. We do not specifically target any community; everyone is invited, and we are open minded and will continue to challenge ourselves to do better and we learn from and appreciate the feedback.

Mr. Lamar also believes that our outreach efforts are strong. Ms. Taylor pointed out that logistics remains the greatest challenge and successful community events require sufficient electricity and parking to ensure safety and attendance. Ms. Taylor also added that her understanding is that the township is closer to 25 percent African American, and having been at the event from beginning to end she had a different experience regarding the diversity of attendees.

Mr. Fuchs went on to ask a few questions about the Fire Districts and the Levies. In summary, he wanted to know if the Levy in place covers the Ridge Fire District or is there a subsidy? Ms. Taylor explained that as our budget is based on the Auditor's estimated property valuations, if the valuations are higher it can create a shortfall which in the case of Silverton looks to be about 10k at the end of the year; this is the first time this has happened. Ms. Taylor also reminded the board that all of our Levies are ten to twenty years old and not updated to the current value of homes. Our JEDZ revenues subsidize all of our levies.

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Department Reports –

Fiscal Officer's Report

Ms. Heekin's reports for April and May were included in the meeting packet and are available for public inspection.

Road Superintendent Report

Mr. Frazier's report was included with the meeting packet and is available for public inspection.

Administrator's Report

Ms. Taylor's report was included with the meeting packet and is available for public inspection. Ms. Taylor thanked the entire staff for their hard work on the Margaritaville event. Next up is the summer concert event in August with Michael and Janet Jackson tribute bands. NED Street Tree update, the tree contractor is assessing the need for replacement trees after weather damage. Madison Place Fire House structural repairs are underway. Walton Creek residential construction projects are underway including sewer updates. Mr. Lamar commended the board and Ms. Taylor on coordination of these projects noting that the developers in both projects were thoughtful in their efforts to preserve historical nature based on public input. Ms. Taylor noted that we have a new contract with Energy Harbor for electric aggregation; residents will receive a letter with their logo and the townships and residents can remain or opt out.

Economic Development Quarterly Report

Mr. Montgomery's next report will take place in July (Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct).

Police Report

Lt. Naber's report was included with the meeting packet and is available for public inspection. Lt. Naber shared a few facts after graduating from the FBI National Academy he had been attending for the last ten weeks. Less than 1 percent of law enforcement officers in the country attend the program and he is the fifth graduate from his organization following a nomination and rigorous selection process. The Lieutenant graduated with a 4.0 receiving a Master's Degree. Lt. Naber was informed that Lt. Reid was outstanding in his absence and all concurred. Lt. Reid initiated a program with Kia to combat car theft in the township in which the police receive free anti-theft bars that they can give to residents with key starting vehicles free of charge. Initially Lt. Reid had purchased an anti-theft bar for an elderly resident using her own money before she learned about the program providing them to police at no charge. For her efforts she will receive a commendation. Lt. Naber encouraged residents to come take advantage of the program.

Little Miami JF&R District Report +

Deer Park-Silverton Fire District Report

Mr. Lamar thanked Fire Chiefs Meador and Siefke for their continued community outreach and no news is good news.

Trustees' Reports

Mr. Lamar thanked Mariemont neighbors for partnership in the Murray Path project and the improvements and maintenance that they are making via volunteers.

Communications –

- Articles and communications
- Podcast Series "Making It Happen" and YouTube Channel Video Series
- Facebook Posts

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Resolutions –

One Reading: Financial

Ms. Taylor provided the first reading of a Resolution to Supplement Resolution 23-10, 2023 (Amended 22-68, 2022) “Columbia Township 2023 Annual Appropriation” And Supplemental Appropriations 23-03, 23-04, and 23-11, 2023. Ms. Hughes made a motion seconded by Mr. Kubicki to approve amending the resolution. All present voted yes.

Emergency:

Ms. Taylor provided the first reading of a Resolution Providing for And Authorizing Removal of Tall Grass, Weeds, And Debris, Declaring A Nuisance for Non-Compliant Property At 5812 Monning Place, Dispensing with The Second Reading, And Declaring an Emergency. Ms. Hughes made a motion seconded by Mr. Lamar to approve the resolution. All present voted yes. Mr. Kubicki made a motion seconded by Mr. Lamar to dispense with the second reading. All present voted yes. Mr. Kubicki made a motion seconded by Ms. Hughes to declare an emergency. All present voted yes.

Ms. Taylor provided the first reading of a Resolution Authorizing the Administrator to Enter into A Contract With Brian Christian Landscaping for Street Tree Watering Services as Part of NED - Neighborhood Economic Development Program, Dispensing with The Second Reading, and Declaring an Emergency. Mr. Lamar made a motion seconded by Mr. Kubicki to approve the resolution. All present voted yes. Mr. Lamar made a motion seconded by Mr. Kubicki to dispense with the second reading. All present voted yes. Mr. Lamar made a motion seconded by Mr. Kubicki to declare an emergency. All present voted yes.

Firsts Reading:

Ms. Taylor provided the first reading of a Resolution Authorizing the Township Administrator to Enter into An Agreement With Silco Fire & Security For A Commercial Fire And Burglar Security System For The Madison Place Firehouse Redevelopment Project, And Dispensing With The Second Reading. Mr. Kubicki made a motion seconded by Mr. Lamar to pass the resolution. All present voted yes. Mr. Kubicki made a motion seconded by Mr. Lamar to dispense with the second reading. All present voted yes.

Ms. Taylor provided the first reading of a Resolution Reappointing C. Michael Lemon as Special Advisor to The Board Of Trustees for July 1 to December 31, 2023, Dispensing with The Second Reading, And Authorizing the Terms Of Appointment. Mr. Kubicki made a motion seconded by Mr. Lamar to pass the resolution. All present voted yes. Mr. Kubicki made a motion seconded by Mr. Lamar to dispense with the second reading. All present voted yes.

Approve Payment of Bills, Bank Reconciliation and Financial Reports –

Mr. Kubicki made a motion seconded by Mr. Lamar to approve payment of bills, Bank Reconciliation and Financial reports. All present voted to approve.

Signing of Minutes and Resolutions – Mr. Kubicki made a motion seconded by Mr. Lamar to sign the Minutes and Resolutions. All present voted yes.

Adjournment – Mr. Kubicki made a motion seconded by Ms. Hughes to adjourn. All present voted to adjourn.

