

Meeting Summary
Northwest Plan
Advisory Committee
January 20, 2005
Northwest Library

Attendees

Lori Baudro, Columbus Planning Division
John Best, Far NW Coalition
Nathan Briscoe, Integra Realty Resources
Cheryl Chandler, Shaker Square Civic Assoc.
Kate Fuller, Resident
Curtis Hannah, Integra Realty Resources
David Hartsook, Hartsook Com. Real Estate
Chris Holmes, Brookside Civic Assoc.
Rosemarie Lisko, NW Civic Assoc.
Michelle Keiter, Resident
John Macomber, Brookside Woods
Steve McClary, Columbus Planning Division
Peggy McElroy, NW Civic Assoc.
Alan McKnight, Columbus Rec. and Parks Div.
Kimberly Nixon-Bell, Ranlane Civic Assoc.

Tony Pello, Resident
Scott Prebles, Worthington Schools
Laura Shinn, OSU
Bill Schuck, NW Civic Assoc.
Jim Schimmer, Columbus Economic Development
Steve Soble, Columbus Neighborhood Services
Joe Riedel, Dublin Schools
Kolby Turnock, Casto
Steve Tweed, Columbus Transportation Div.
Suzanne Vais, Columbus Planning Division
Steve Varga, Columbus Neighborhood Services
Jane Weislogel, Shaker Square Civic Assoc./WOOSE
Michelle Williams, Columbus Neighborhood Services

Steve McClary, Administrator of the Columbus Planning Division, opened the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mr. McClary welcomed those in attendance and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to begin the process of updating the Northwest Plan that was adopted by City Council in 1991. Mr. McClary then introduced Suzanne Vais, Senior Planner, who facilitated the meeting.

Ms. Vais briefly discussed the purpose, process and approach of the update to the Northwest Plan. She indicated that the role of the Advisory Committee would be to help guide the process and to identify the issues that will be addressed in the updated plan. Ms. Vais also noted that the boundaries of the planning area are the Franklin/Delaware countyline on the north, the Scioto River on the west, Henderson Road on the south, and the Olentangy River Road on the east.

Next, there was a presentation of photographs from the planning area. The purpose of the presentation was to help the group begin to think about what should be preserved and what should be changed within the area.

Ms. Vais then asked the group to list what their expectations were regarding the plan and the process. The group offered the following thoughts on expectations and items to address in the plan.

Items to address:

- Open/green space preservation
- Traffic concerns
- Don Scott Airport expansion
- 161 development/land use
- Aesthetics and design standards
- Land use
- Redevelopment

Expectations:

- Plan should be comprehensive in nature
- City Council should be involved

Next, Ms. Vais opened it up for the group to begin to identify the specific issues impacting the area. The following items are the responses given by the group (the responses have been sorted into categories).

Land Use

- Development of land adjacent to 161
- Plan should provide land use recommendations for areas that could be annexed to Columbus
- Consider applying overlay to commercial areas to provide standards for development and redevelopment
- Large amount of OSU-owned land in the area should be addressed

Traffic/Transportation

- Cut-through traffic within the residential neighborhood is increasing
- Speed limits do not seem consistent for similar types of roads citywide
- Dangerous and crowded intersections along Sawmill Road and 161
- Infrastructure financing – use tools that are coming out of the “pay as we grow” program. If TIFs are used they should be setup as to not divert money from the schools. (It was noted at the meeting by Jim Schimmer, Administrator of the Columbus Economic Development Division, that this is already the policy of the city).
- Lack of sidewalks and connectivity throughout the area
- COTA linkages/service should be expanded
- Traffic congestion on 161

Open Space/Recreation

- Development of 161 should include public/publicly accessible open/green space
- Need a recreation center to serve entire family

Safety

- Safety and crime issues seem to be on the rise in the area
- Street lights are lacking in some areas, specifically along Smoky Row Road

Other Issues

- OSU Airport expansion – need information regarding updated noise and environmental impact of airport.
- There are multiple jurisdictions within the NW area. Clarify jurisdictional responsibilities (provide map).
- Job creation and economic development
- Are there measures for infrastructure (sewer, water, etc.) capacity?
- Aesthetics of utilities

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:40 pm. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be February 17 at 7 pm at the Northwest Library.