

NCC Meeting

5 Feb 2024

The Northland Community Council held its monthly meeting on February 5 at Westerwood. These meetings are open meetings, and any resident of the Northland Area may attend. The following groups made reports: The Community Liaison Officers from the Columbus Police reported that the major issue in the Portland area is stolen cars, and it's not just limited to Kias and Hyundais. One of the big issues is folks warming up their cars without being inside them (this is a ticketable offense). It can take less than 30 seconds for someone to steal a car. Members of the Community Response Team were also present. Sarah Pomeroy, our zone attorney from the City Attorney's Office, reported on issues of concern to the community. She is continuing to work on objections to hotel and liquor licenses in the area, It was noted that there has been a few issues at the hotels near The Continent, as they are currently being used to house some of the people from the Colonial Apartments closure emergency. They hope to have all of those people rehoused in a few months. Many already are. The issues at the Beechwood Newsstand on 161 are being worked on. New lighting and security cameras are being added by the owners of the plaza.

There are many events going on at the Karl Road branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Check the website for more info. The Northland Area Business Association will be holding their quarterly lunch at the Elevate Northland Center on March 12 at 11:30 am. Columbus City Schools will be holding a Summer Job Fair soon. Our Community Liaison Devin Deal noted a couple items of interest. The city is working on a flyer to promote home ownership. The Columbus Police's Citizens Police Academy is now taking applications for the next class. I know that FPCA president Ed Vanasdale has attended in the past and considered it quite useful.

There was an open roundtable with Brad Westall from Columbus Recreations and Parks about the purchase of the old rail right of way that parallels Westerville Rd from Linden up to 161 for a new park. More on that in a separate article.

The Northland Volunteer Awards Banquet will be at Villa Milano on April 16. Tickets may be purchased from the NCC website. The Northland Fourth of July Parade Committee meets at Casa Mescal on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. The theme for this year's parade is Diamonds of Northland, as this will be the 60th parade.

Officers were elected by acclamation for 2024: President, Alicia Ward; Vice President, Pat Hammel; Secretary, Christine Otero; Treasurer, Roger Davidson. NCC Representative (Forest Park) Ken Gilbert conducted the election. No major items came from the NCC Development Committee. Finally a lively discussion took place regarding improvements to 161. We found out that the flower boxes are being removed and will not be replaced. There are currently no plans for anything other than very basic landscaping (i.e., grass) to replace them, as the roads department appears to have ignored our concerns. The NCC hopes to have a discussion on this issue with the city in the near future. It is hoped that there will be some grants available for beautification.

Ken Gilbert
NCC Representative
Forest Park Civic Assn.