



Short North Civic Association

Agenda

April 21, 2022

7:00 pm – Caretaker’s Cottage – Zoom

Attendees: Bobby Thaxton (Board), Bob Stern (Board), Jim Farmer (Board), Caroline Stinziano (Board), Kathy Rhinehart (Board), Harrison Poku-Yeboah, Officer Mark Hauenstein

- I. Welcome – Bobby Thaxton
- II. Approval of Minutes for March -- Caroline Stinziano

Caroline presented the March 2022 minutes for approval.

Motion: Kathy

Second: Jim

Member vote: Minutes passed with unanimous approval.

III. Report from the Organization

- A. Financial Report – Jim Farmer
 - Jim provided financial update for April
 - Not taking in as much membership revenue as previous years
- B. Membership – Kathy Rhinehart
 - Working on e-mail to e-mail list to clean up list and membership
- C. Committee Additions – Development Committee; Membership Committee
 - Committees approved by the SNCA Board
 - Development Committee – Marc Conte, Jack Decker & Lisa Morton
 - Membership Committee – Kathy to work on putting together committee

IV. City/Community Reports

- A. Update from the City of Columbus – Harrison Poku-Yeboah
 - City News
 - Provided update on initiatives from each member of City Council
 - Will coordinate someone to provide and update on the new 311 features at a future SNCA meeting

- Harrison will look into sending e-mail updates with key City news similar to previous liaisons
- B. Short North Violence and Injury Prevention Workgroup – Chet

Bobby:

- Meetings and talks continue
 - SN Alliance going to have program with police on the streets similar to last summer
 - Work on good neighbor agreements continues
 - Moving towards more of a pledge for businesses to sign
- C. Good Neighbor Agreement Meeting Report – Chet
- Work on good neighbor agreements continues
 - Moving towards more of a pledge for businesses to sign

V. SNCA Organizational Reports

- A. Short North Yard Sale – Bobby Thaxton
- Returning – June 4th 2022
 - Weinland Park Civic Associations has expressed interested in having sale on same day and being included in event
 - Will update map to allow for Weinland Park locations
- B. Goodale Park Music Series – Bobby Thaxton
- Back this summer for 4 weeks
 - \$2k grant received to offset the cost of event
- C. Screen on the Green – Bobby Thaxton
- June 15th, August 19th, and September 16th
- D. Tour of Homes and Gardens – Caroline Stinziano
- Tour is September 18th; Preview Event is Saturday, September 17th @ Hubbard Park Place
 - No updates
- E. Block Watch – Chet Ridenour
- No update this month
- CPD report:
- Office Hauenstein provided update on crime in are since last meeting.
 - Violent crime up with warmer weather
 - Mostly along High St.
 - There is a coordinated plan in place to manage ATV/motorcycle activity that was disruptive last year
 - Focus on logging/tracking to identify patterns/hot spots
 - Neighbors should report activity via the non-emergency police line
 - Include location, how many people you are seeing and any other details
 - CPD will work with business owners to get no trespassing authority
 - Asked if no trespassing authority already obtained for former CheckSmart location
 - Officer Hauenstein will follow-up

- F. Short North Foundation Report – Chet Ridenour
 - No update this month

- G. Victorian Village Commission – Marc Conte/Jack Decker
 - Sent in 3 names for nomination to VVC
 - Submitted to City Council for approval.
 - Update on property discussed at last SNCA meeting (former Flower Child property)
 - New bar/restaurant being proposed
 - Neighbors showed up to April VVC meeting
 - Jack Decker prepared and submitted a statement highlighting possible issues with code
 - VVC did not end up meeting because did not have quorum

Motion to add support of the Short North Civic Association to the letter prepared by Jack Decker highlighting code concerns on former Flower Child property.

Motion : Jim Farmer

Second : Kathy Rhinehart

Member Vote : Motion passed with unanimous approval.

**Final letter sent to VVC attached for reference

- H. Short North Gala – Bobby Thaxton
 - Discussed ways to support Short North Gala (May 1st)

Motion to recommend purchase of a table at SN Gala at the Arch Table sponsor level (\$1,750)

Motion : Bobby Thaxton

Second : Kathy Rhinehart

Member Vote : Motion passed with unanimous approval.

VI. Public Comments

- FYI – Lushscapes has submitted proposal for maintenance of medians and planters on Neil Avenue
- Same cost as last year

VII. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned – 8:05pm.



May 11, 2022

Victorian Village Commission
c/o Columbus Historic Preservation Office
111 N. Front Street, 3rd Floor
Columbus OH 43215

Regarding: Re: VV-22-008 / 989 N. High Street-Public Comments / Letter sent to VVC on April 11,
2022 from Jack W. Decker
Via email: VVC@columbus.gov; KABarnard@columbus.gov

Dear Commissioners:

During the April 21, 2022, meeting of the Short North Civic Association, members of the Association voted unanimously to add the support of the Short North Civic Association to the letter of concern that was drafted by Jack W. Decker and sent via e-mail to the Commission on April 11, 2022 regarding the 989 N. High Street application.

Sincerely,

L Robert Thaxton

L. Robert Thaxton
President, Short North Civic Association
on behalf of the Short North Civic Association

JACK W. DECKER

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1077 Neil Avenue
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April 11, 2022

Victorian Village Commission
c/o Columbus Historic Preservation Office
111 N. Front Street, 3rd Floor
Columbus OH 43215

Re: VV-22-008 / 989 N. High Street – Public Comments
Via email: VVC@columbus.gov; KABarnard@columbus.gov

Dear Commissioners:

At the end of the March 17, 2022, meeting of the Short North Civic Association, several residents of the townhouses along Starr Avenue abutting the above property expressed opposition to the 989 N. High Street application. The residents appeared to be distressed, and genuinely confused, whether the Victorian Village Commission was a proper forum to address their concerns about anticipated noise and light pollution from the proposed alterations to the rear of 989 N. High Street. In the agenda for the Commission's April 13, 2022, meeting, Commissioner Siwo was paraphrased, accurately or not, as having stated, "It's not up to the Commission to consider if crime and other factors (such as noise) truly fall within preview of review. [*Sic*]. It's not just the ... Commission's responsibility to address sound, use, and crime issues." Other Commissioners were described, however, as noting "noise" to be "important," stating that that "the intensity of the use is difficult" and "It's hard to be in favor of the space as currently proposed."

C.C.C. § 3116.13(A) states, "Landscaping, parking, utility or service areas, walkways and similar improvements should be *compatible* to ... adjacent contributing properties ... and the overall environment." (Emphasis added). "Compatible" is not defined.

The Commission has a guideline, however, that expands upon the meaning of "compatibility" in the foregoing section. The Short North Design Guidelines, applicable here, provide at 3.13, "Commercial Patios and Outdoor Dining," that "Outdoor spaces should be designed in a manner to minimize negative offsite impacts of light and noise." Of course, this was part of a set of guidelines adopted by both VVC and IVC, and by Columbus City Council, in 2011.

While only "guidelines," the Short North Design Guidelines have the same dignity as the City Code itself in the Commission's deliberations. C.C.C. § 3116.09(B)(1) states, "(B) At the public hearing the commission shall issue a certificate of appropriateness to the applicant if one of the following conditions applies: (1) The ... site improvement ... is appropriate as defined by the architectural standards in C.C. ... 3116.13 ... the pertinent typical architectural characteristics *and such guidelines* as the commission shall have adopted..." or if the Commission finds "unusual and

compelling circumstances,” or a “substantial economic hardship,” or fails to act. (Emphasis added).

Simply put, it is the Commission’s *responsibility* under the Code and Guidelines to determine whether the outdoor service area is designed in a manner to “minimize” the impact of noise and light – particularly its’ impact on nearby contributing historic structures which it is the Commission’s overall central obligation to protect. If the outdoor service area cannot be so designed, consistently with other guidelines and in a manner compatible with nearby contributing structures, the application must be denied.

The site in question has two characteristics that, in combination, distinguish it from any outdoor service patio that the Commission has approved, within our memories, since 2004: (1) the proximity of the proposed patio to the row of townhouses, whose first floors are elevated and which have virtually no back yards, rendering a privacy fence of any reasonable height wholly inadequate to shield these properties from noise and light generated by outdoor dining and drinking; and (2) the existence of a sheer 3-story masonry wall, forming the north wall of the White Castle garage, which, along with the 989 N. High Street structures themselves, will reflect sound generated behind 989 N. High Street towards the Starr Avenue townhouses. (Photos attached).

Proposed self-imposed restrictions, such as promises not to use outdoor speakers and that the plan is for a “food-focused restaurant concept” will prove difficult, if not impossible, to enforce once a certificate is issued, and as time passes and the occupant of the space changes.

It is, of course, the Commission’s central mission to protect historic contributing structures from negative impacts, including the constructive condemnation of historic residences as the result of exterior alterations to nearby properties.

Finally, we agree with the unidentified commissioner’s comment that it is “not this Commission’s purpose to pick winners and losers.” It is not “picking winners and losers,” however, to consider the nature of other restaurants/bars run by the applicants and the applicants’ record of responsiveness to complaints about noise and crime, for the *purpose* of, and to the extent relevant to, determining how much noise *this* new application is likely to generate, and therefore, what design features would be necessary to protect nearby contributing structures from such adverse effects. This application can be denied even without considering such factors, however.

This letter represents each our individual, personal views, and not yet those of the Short North Civic Association, which has not had the opportunity to meet to fully develop a position regarding this application. Nor do we individually represent any of the Starr Avenue townhouse residents.

Very truly yours,

/s/ L. Robert Thaxton

President, Short North Civic Ass’n
490 City Park Ave.
Columbus OH 43215

/s/ Robert Stern

Robert Stern
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Columbus OH 43201

/s/ Lisa Craig Morton

Lisa Craig Morton
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