Minutes
Columbus Community Coalition Meeting
March 29, 2008

The Columbus Community Coalition met at the John Ashburn Junior Youth Center, 85 Clarendon Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Columbus Community Coalition members present were: Jennifer Adair, Co-Chair – Northwest Civic Association; Becky Obester, Co-Chair – Fifth by Northwest Area Commission; Debera Diggs, Co-Chair – Southside; Gary Baker – Friends of the Hilltop; Chris Gawronski – Clintonville Area Commission; Dave Paul – Northland Community Council; Tiffany White -- NCAC; Dru Bagley – Hilltop Area Commission; Linda Henry – Southside Neighbors Against Crime; Katie Radnor -- SOCA, Lisa Grazier -- Blockwatch, Mike Wells and Matt Baldwin – Scioto Southland Civic Association

The following minutes were recorded by Co-Chair, Becky Obester.

Co-Chair Jennifer Adair called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

I.   Welcome and Overview
Jennifer Adair, Co-Chair opened the meeting with a brief review of the Coalition's accomplishments, goals and proposed agenda/timeline for the members in attendance. It was explained that Jen, Becky and Debera have been elected as Co-Chairs until June, at that time the position will rotate to the next elected group.

Those in attendance were asked to introduce themselves and state their afflation/organization for the record.

II.   Reading of the Minutes of Previous Meetings
A.   January 31, 2008 – First Meeting
The minutes were read by Jennifer Adair to the Coalition, the minutes were updated with one correction – changing "choose" to "chose". (G. Baker moved that we approve the minutes as amended, D. Diggs seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved).

B.   March 12, 2008 – First Community Coalition Steering Committee Meeting
The minutes were read by Jennifer Adair – Co-Chair to the Coalition. (D. Diggs motioned that the minutes be approved, C. Gawronski seconded the motion and noted as a compliment the amount of work that had gone into the Community Coalition by the three co-chairs. The minutes were approved unanimously, with no changes).

C.   March 22, 2008 – Second Steering Committee Meeting
Jennifer Adair – Co-Chair, Coalition, read the minutes. The Mission and Purpose of the Columbus Community Coalition as defined by the Steering committee were reviewed, updated and approved with changes after much discussion.

III.   Steering Committee Report
A.   Purpose/Mission
The recommended Purpose of the Columbus Community Coalition is from the Steering Committee was:
1.   To foster relationships between Area Commissions, Civic Advisory Bodies and other types of Community Organizations and Groups, for the purpose of information sharing.

2.   To utilize the strength of the Columbus Community Coalition to influence policies, procedures, rules and law, in order to improve the quality of life in the City of Columbus.

The following changes were made:

    a. "The City of Columbus" was changed to "Columbus, Ohio" – As proposed by Dave Paul to change it to just "Columbus, Ohio" as a broader and more general term. Discussion followed - to include working on inclusive areas and other cities and townships within the boundaries of Columbus proper. (C. Gawronski motioned to change the wording to "Columbus, Ohio". D. Paul seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously).

    b. The Purpose. Point #2, as proposed from the Steering Committee meeting with the update was reviewed; (M. Wells motioned to approve the Purpose/Mission Statement in full. C. Gawronski seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously).

    c. Point of order – Mike Wells asked the question if we were going to run Coalition meetings in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. Co-Chair, Jennifer Adair iterated that this had not been decided as of yet – and proposed future discussion around this item.

The approved Purpose of the Columbus Community Coalition is:

1.   **To foster relationships between Area Commissions, Civic Advisory Bodies and other types of Community Organizations and Groups, for the purpose of information sharing.**

2.   **To utilize the strength of the Columbus Community Coalition to influence policies, procedures, rules and law, in order to improve the quality of life in Columbus, Ohio.**

The recommended Mission of the CCC, per the Steering Committee, was:

Mission: **The Columbus Community Coalition fosters and enhances the relationship among community groups by advocating to improve the quality of life in the City of Columbus.**

The following discussion and changes were made:

    a. General discussion ensued, per the proposed Mission Statement as put forth, initiated by Mike Wells and Dave Paul that we should change the Mission statement wording to "Columbus, Ohio" as well. Jen Adair agreed. (C. Gawronski made a motion that the amended Mission statement be approved, with changes. M. Wells seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously as the approved Mission statement – with changes was approved).

    b. Dave Paul, at this point made a grammatical update to the approved Mission statement, to change relationship to relationships. (G. Baker motioned for approval of the amended Mission, C. Gawronski seconded the motion. The motion carried with amended changes unanimously).

The approved Mission statement is set forth as:

Mission: **The Columbus Community Coalition fosters and enhances the relationships among community groups by advocating to improve the quality of life in Columbus, Ohio.**

B.   **Membership**

Jennifer Adair updated the group that the Steering Committee had talked about having individual members, organization members or a combination of both. The Committee had voted to have "Entities" or organizations as the General Membership of CCC, rather than individuals. The Steering Committee had defined *Entity* as "an Area Commission, Civic Advisory Body, Civic Association or other types of community group or organization, including a not-for-profit 501 (C)(3) or not-for-profit 501 (C)(4) organization". Jennifer asked for a Motion on adopting this definition of membership. (Motion made by A. Jones, second by G. Baker, vote taken, motion passed with no objections.)

The following discussion was had:

    a. Mike Wells questioned whether we needed to define "Entity" per se. Jennifer Adair related additional background information about the thought process of so defining "Entity" and other terminology – with the thought that we should distinguish between corporate interests, groups versus individual memberships and the like in order to even the playing field and to prevent gerrymandering.

    b. Dave Paul suggested added language, such as "Including but not limited to…" specific groups… after discussion among the CCC attendees it was decided to leave the wording "as is" because it was felt that the language was specific enough without being over worked.

Jennifer then discussed that the Committee determined that a second level of membership was necessary, and called it an Associate Membership. Associate Member is defined as "an individual, business, business organization, church, social organization, and not-for-profit 501 (C)(6) organizations." Jennifer asked for a Motion on adopting this definition of associate membership. (Motion made by B. Obester, second by G. Baker, friendly amendment by C. Girves, accepted by B. Obester and G. Baker, vote taken, motion passed with no objections).

The following discussion was had:
a. Gary Baker and Matt Wiles brought up general questions as to what was defined each of the types of 501's and why this was important. Jennifer Adair referenced Catherine Girves' discussion at the Steering Committee meeting, and added that as Catherine was not in attendance at this group meeting – she could not explain to that level of detail – but emphasized once again the Steering Committee was attempting to define these in order to prevent one body from steering the rest of the group towards a political or social agenda either purposefully or unwittingly without a chance for the body as a whole to weigh in and vote.

b. Dave Paul added to the discussion that he believed a 501 C (4) was defined as a "Civic League".

c. Mike Wiles added that most of the organizations coming to us would be 501 C (3) organizations.

d. Chris Gawronski asked for a point of clarification – followed by Gary Baker and Dave Paul in a general discussion as to why we were defining these organizations in such detail, as to the necessity. That non-profits may not fall into the same category as business interests – in relationship to the CCC. Jennifer Adair iterated that the thought was C(6)'s which are partially for profit institutions could also have their own agenda, and may not be specifically community oriented.

e. It was decided through general discussion, to continue with the review of the membership outline as provided by Jennifer Adair – without changes. Jen Adair noted she would check with Catherine Girves as to the various definitions – and relay that to the group at our next meeting.

Jennifer then discussed the rights of membership stating that the Committee further defined the rights of General and Associate Members. A *General Member* is an entity that has voting rights, can hold leadership positions, has full participation in discussion at all meetings, and has full participation in CCC Committees. An *Associate Member* has full participation in discussion at all meetings and has full participation in CCC Committees, except cannot become a member of the Steering Committee. An Associate Member is a non-voting member. The Committee will develop a Membership form for eligible organizations to appoint representatives. Those forms must be complete by the June meeting. Anita Jones volunteered to develop the form. (D. Paul suggested the friendly amendment definition that "An Associate members is a non-voting member who cannot serve on the Steering Committee" as an amended motion. C. Gowronski seconded the amended motion. M. Wiles accepted the friendly amended motion as part of his motion. G. Baker seconded the amended motion. The motion carried unanimously).

The following discussion was had:
a. Chris Gawronski questioned the word "representatives" in the last paragraph. It was decided to leave it as is, to be defined by the form that Anita Jones was developing, and should have available at the next Steering

Committee meeting – with the intention of having them completed and returned throughout the membership by the meeting in June. The form is intended to capture what group they represent, who appointed them, and to be signed by the organization that sent them.

b. Dave Paul made a point of order – as to geographic designations – no limit if there is more than one organization representing an area. Jen ratified this, supported by Tiffany White and Debera Diggs. (Dru Bagley of the Hilltop Area Commission joined the meeting.)

c. Mike Wiles brought a new point of order, as to where the Steering Committee intending to include Block Watches as available for membership? Discussion ensued, led by Jennifer Adair that we should accept this group despite of the large number of Block Watches – and that specifically captains and as a group, they should be admitted.

d. Gary Baker put forward the question about the Strategic Response Bureau (SRB) as to whether they should be included. There was much discussion as to groups, the intention of the CCC, if captains should represent block watches only, if it should be decided in individual committees – on a case–by–case basis. (After much discussion, about narrowly defined versus broader rules of membership M. Wiles put forth a motion that "Membership" as defined by the Steering Committee be approved. G. Baker seconded the motion).

e. Chris Gawronski brought a point of order, as to why "Associate Members" was defined if they could come to meetings, but not vote.

C.   Meetings

Jennifer Adair continued the agenda outlining the next point that the Steering Committee thought that the CCC would meet quarterly and that a slate of dates would be presented to the CCC for formal vote. Two slates of dates for meetings were proposed

Slate One: June 26, 2008; September 25, 2008; and January 29, 2008 (Thursdays)
Slate Two: June 28, 2008; September 27, 2008; and January 31, 2008 (Saturdays)

General discussion ensued regarding potential conflicts versus potential attendees. Jen Adair proposed that the Thursday dates may be a better timeframe based on the attendance at the first meeting in January versus this meeting in March on a Saturday. (G. Baker moved that we meet on Thursdays. M. Baldwin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously).

Jennifer discussed the time for the Thursday meetings. It was generally decided that 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. would be the best timeframe with the majority of potential attendees work schedules. (T. White made a motion to this effect. G. Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried to meet at 6:30. J. Adair asked to B. Obester to locate a meeting place as a follow-up item, and it was agreed to this as an action item).

Jennifer continued with the proposed next Meeting time and place – as determined by the Steering Committee meeting to be held on April 12, 2008 from 2-4 p.m. at Capital University Law School, 303 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, Room A121. All attendees agreed.

IV.   Committee Reports

General discussion took place as to the structure of committees, committee reports, and the amount of information to be captured on the form – as an "interest form". The questions were put forth regarding one vote per group – by Chris Gawronski and continued discussion by Dave Paul. The question was also put forward: Minimum committee service for members – by Dave Paul. Jennifer Adair iterated that the Steering Committee had not established these rules – suggesting perhaps it could be at the discretion of the Committee heads. It was decided that additional discussion could take place at the Steering Committee on these discussion points – as to the format of the committees as well as the purpose and detail-level of the form.

It was put forth by Tiffany White that it would expeditious to have copies of the form distributed as quickly as possible. Dave Paul, as Web master, volunteered to post the form to the Web site – once the form was completed.

V.   New Business
A.   <u>MORPC Presentation</u>
Chris Gawronski presented the MORPC Capital Ways draft recommendations for Columbus 2008-2030. Chris explained that every four years MORPC makes a recommendation based on ongoing input from the community – to be approved in April of 2008. The most important items were the list of approved projects looking forward to transportation in Columbus in 2030 and determining how to spend available funds for Franklin County. Projected growth in population/transportation needs is high, and the list of project request grows beyond the bounds of the budget, every year. With more of a gap every year. Transportation needs not only include commuters, but cargo and freight, as well as walking and biking needs of the community. Mass transit including buses and the proposed trolley/commuter train routes are also included in the budget. To provide feedback on the budget, proposals and transportation, interested parties may go to: www.morpc.com.   The benefits of improved transportation are 1) improved air quality 2) increased travel options, 3) reduction in bottle necks, and 4) increased use of technology. MORPC had an Open House 04/03/08 and is still taking suggestions through the Web site and the form.

B. <u>RNNC Meeting</u>
Dave Paul covered the upcoming RNNC meeting. Dave explained that this an opportunity for community leaders to get together at the State Conference and talk about issues, grant opportunities, awards for community service, etc. Dave handed out forms to the group, and iterated that we are to R.S.V.P. or ask questions of Joanne at the City of Columbus 614/645–5220. The RNNC forms will be posted to the CCC Web site – and representation is limited to one individual per group

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. (Motion by G. Baker, second by D. Diggs, vote taken, motion passed with no objections).