



Berwick
civic association

General Meeting
February 6, 2018
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Redeemer Lutheran Church

Tonight's discussions:

- Needed: new membership chair, new blockwatch chair
- Voting on bylaws changes: Renee Weldy
- Area commission discussion and Q&A with the Department of Neighborhoods

Proposed changes to the BCA By-laws

- 1) Consolidate the positions of Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary
- 2) Add position for an Information Officer
- 3) Remove the stipulation that the Annual Meeting be held in the 4th quarter of the year
- 4) Add the stipulation that the Annual Meeting be held within the boundaries of Berwick when possible
- 5) Update the stated boundaries of Berwick
- 6) Standing Committees
 - a) “Publications” changes to “Information”
 - b) “Community Concerns” becomes “Blockwatch”
 - c) Add “Beautification”

7) Changes to Committee descriptions

C. The ~~Publications Information~~ Committee shall:

1. Publish and distribute ~~a newsletter at least four (4) times a year~~ information of interest to the Berwick community.
2. Be responsible for other publications issued by the Association as directed by the Board of Trustees.
3. Manage and support the world wide web, social media and communication application systems.

D. The Membership Committee shall:

1. Collect and record dues received.
2. Maintain a current list of paid members with ~~addresses and phone numbers~~ their contact information.
3. Provide the ~~Recording~~ Secretary with the list of paid members with ~~addresses~~ their contact information.

E. The ~~Community Concerns~~ Blockwatch Committee shall:

1. Investigate complaints associated with code enforcement and neighborhood safety.
2. Represent the Association and interact with city officials to resolve code enforcement and neighborhood safety issues.
3. Arrange Blockwatch meetings.
4. Assist with planning and implementing the National Night Out event.

F. The Beautification Committee shall:

1. Arrange community cleanups
2. Organize other beautification events or projects as needed.

Berwick Civic Association (BCA) Proposed Revised Meeting Schedule



What's going on with area commission petitions?

Two groups have filed petitions with the city to include Berwick in an area commission.

The BCA is deciding which path to take. Tonight we would like to inform residents, answer questions and discuss.

What's going on with area commission petitions?

- The MACC (Mideast Area Community Collaborative) filed a petition on November 16, 2017. You can find more info about this group at mideastareacc.wixsite.com
- Quay Barnes, President of the MACC, spoke to the BCA at our September 2017 meeting.

What's going on with area commission petitions?

- The Berwick Eastmoor Area Commission Task Force filed a petition on December 28, 2017. More info on this group is available at www.berwickeastmoor.org
- Michelle Santuomo of the Central Eastmoor Civic Association and Blockwatch spoke to the BCA at our October 2017 meeting.

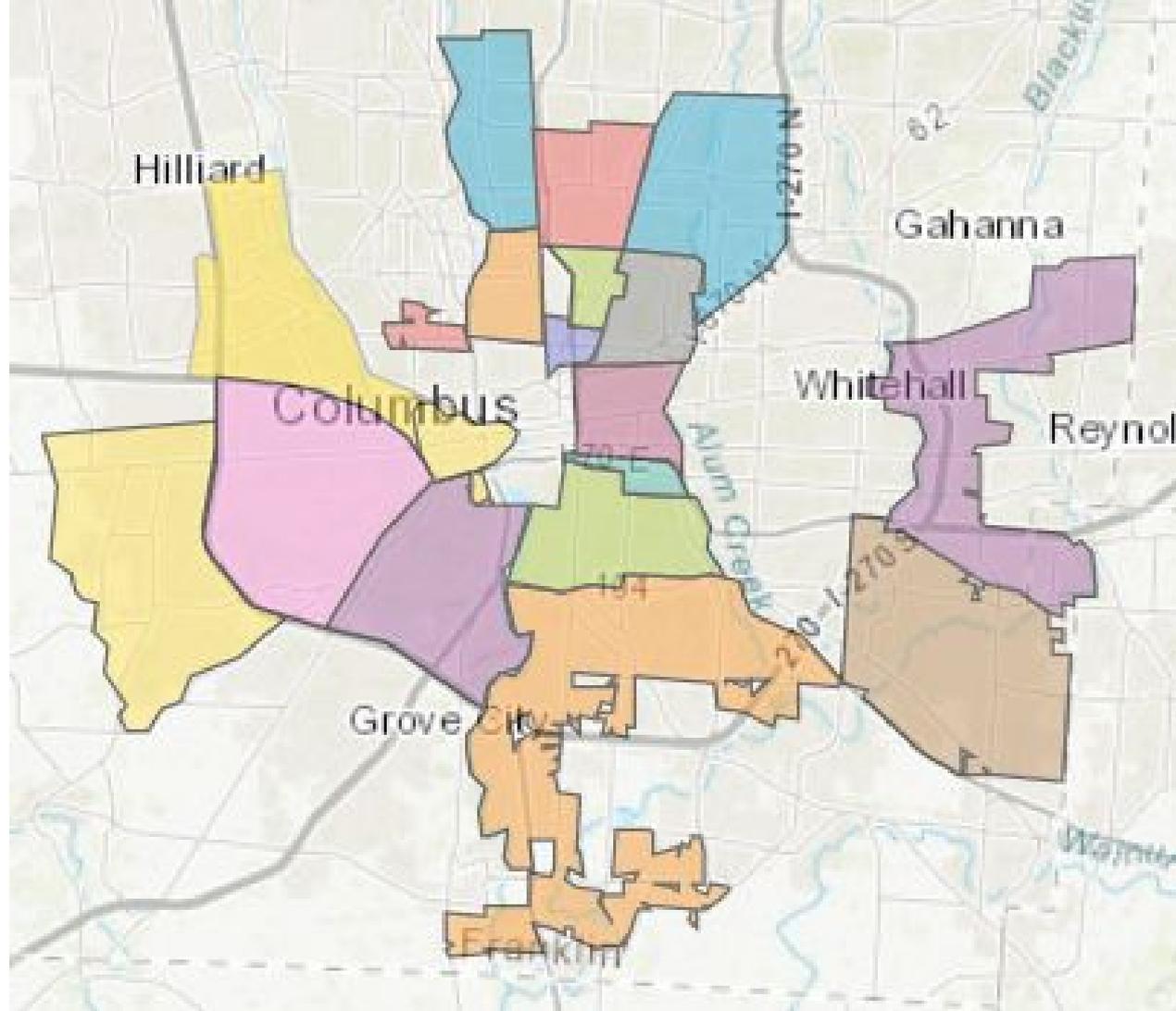
What is an area commission?

Columbus City Council established area Commissions in the early 1970s. The purpose of an area commission is to act as a liaison between neighborhood groups, property owners, residents, developers and city officials.

There are currently 19 area commissions in Columbus.

Smallest geographic area: Milo-Grogan

Largest: Far South Columbus



Current commissions range in size from just over 800 households (Milo-Grogan) to over 24,000 (Greater Hilltop).

5th by Northwest

Clintonville

Columbus Southside

Far East

Far South Columbus

Franklinton

Greater Hilltop

Greater South East

Livingston Avenue

Milo Grogan

Near East

North Central

North Linden

Northeast

South Linden

Southwest

University

Westland

West Scioto

(Info from <https://www.columbus.gov/areacommissions/>)

What is an area commission?

Area commissions are established to afford additional voluntary citizen participation in decision-making in an advisory capacity and to facilitate communication, understanding and cooperation between neighborhood groups, city officials and developers. Disclosure of the by-laws, procedures and rules assures accessibility of necessary information.

What is an area commission?

To qualify as a commission area, an area of the city described in a petition for its establishment shall:

- Consist of a compact, homogeneous area that is manageable in size, being large enough for recognition and small enough for effective representation;
- Maintain neighborhood identity and cohesiveness;
- Whenever feasible, coincide with a designated city planning area;
- Be compatible with boundaries of existing commission areas; and
- Be described by the centerline of natural or artificial boundaries with the fewest changes in course practical, together with an indication of the number of acres and dwelling units contained therein.

What does an area commission do?

An area commission is an advisory body. No duty or function of an area commission shall invalidate any action of council.

What does an area commission do?

In the interests of local planning for local needs, **identify and study the problems and requirements of the commission area** in order to:

- Create plans and policies which will serve as guidelines for future development of the area;
- Bring the problems and needs of the area to the attention of appropriate government agencies or residents; and
- Recommend solutions or legislation.

What does an area commission do?

Aid and promote communications within the commission area and between it and the rest of the city by means of:

- Regular and special meetings of the commission which are open to the public;
- Public hearings on problems, issues, and proposals affecting the area;
- Public forums and surveys to provide an opportunity for area residents, businesses, and organizations to state their problems and concerns;
- Soliciting active cooperation of all segments of the area and city, including organizations, institutions, and government; *(continued on next slide)*

What does an area commission do?

(continued from previous slide)

- Initiating proposals and supporting those introduced by individual citizens or area organizations, which will enhance the quality of life enjoyed by area residents and preserve the unique residential and commercial mix of the area; and
- Promoting and encouraging businesses whose functions, methods of operation, architectural appearance, and locations are consistent with the character and requirements of the area.

What does an area commission do?

Initiate, review and recommend criteria and programs for the preservation, development, and enhancement of the commission area, including, but not limited to, parks, recreational areas, sidewalks, streets and traffic, by means of:

- Reviewing the proposed capital improvements budget and proposing new items and changes relating to the area;
- Making recommendations for restoration and preservation of the historical elements within the area; and
- Receiving and reviewing for recommendation, prior to adoption by governmental bodies, any new or revised comprehensive plan affecting the area.

What does an area commission do?

Recommend priorities for and review government services and operation of the various government departments in the commission area by means of:

- Requesting and receiving from departments or agencies periodic reports concerning governmental services or practices in the area;
- Meeting with administrative heads of any department or agency, or any of their subordinates, to obtain additional information deemed necessary for the commission to fulfill its functions;

(continued on next slide)

What does an area commission do?

(continued from previous slide)

- Requesting and receiving from departments or agencies, prior to implementation, full reports on any proposed changes in service or practice in the area, and recommending approval or disapproval of the proposed changes;
- Reviewing and evaluating pending legislation substantially affecting the area prior to its consideration by council; and
- Regularly receiving for review, comment and recommendation copies of applications and notices of all public hearings related to rezonings, special permits, variances, demolitions, and zoning appeals regarding property located wholly or partially within the area.

What does an area commission do?

Recommend persons from the commission area for nomination to membership on city boards and commissions which make decisions or recommendations affecting the commission area.

What does an area commission do?

The area commission may meet with applicants for rezonings, special permits, demolition permits, or variances regarding property wholly or partly within its commission area to discuss the proposal, its relationship to the area, and possible modifications. In order to assist decision-making without disrupting existing procedures, the area commission shall conduct such meetings and notify the appropriate body of its recommendations in a timely manner. Upon good cause shown, inability of the area commission to make a recommendation may be grounds for postponement of subsequent action by other bodies.

What does an area commission do?

Suggestions and comments of the area commission shall be advisory only and failure of the applicant to comply therewith shall not in itself constitute grounds for denial of the application. Failure of the applicant to consult the appropriate area commission in a timely manner, however, may be grounds for postponement of further action by other bodies.

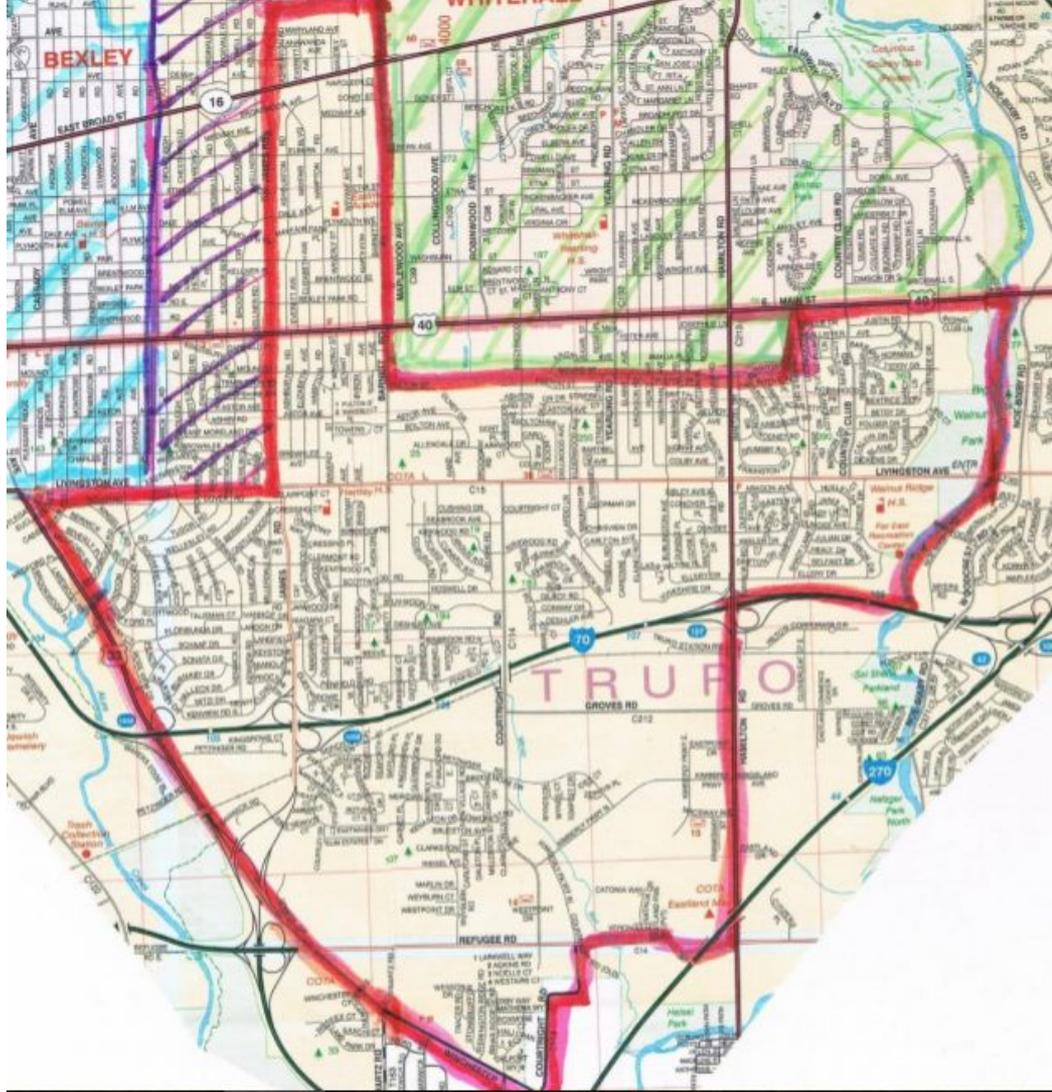
What does an area commission do?

NOTE:

An area commission is not the same as an historic preservation district. Neither the MACC nor the BEAC commission proposals include provisions which one might expect in an historic preservation district (think building and aesthetic restrictions in a place like German Village).

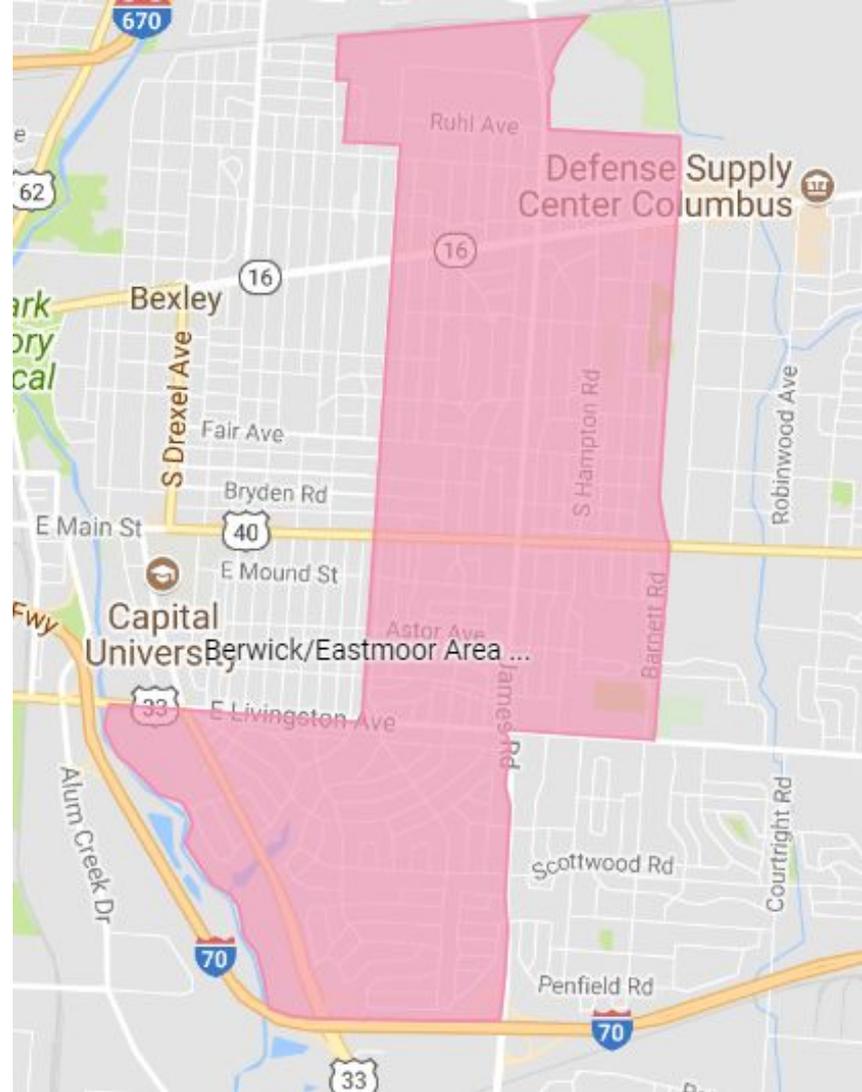
MACC Map

- 19,830 households
- 46,495 residents
- 10.21 square miles



Berwick/Eastmoor Commission Map

- 8,313 households
- 18,125 residents
- 2,400 acres



Trustee thoughts: MACC

Strengths:

- Cohesive group
- Vision
- Association with BCA for several years
- Community connections with leaders
- Overlapping goals
- Past accomplishments

Weaknesses:

- Extremely large geographic area
- Variety of areas of “need/focus”
- Lack of Berwick representation: one member from Berwick will serve on the area commission
- Lack of transparency & communication
- Tendency to continue operating the same way they did as a MACC - stagnation, lack of new ideas

Trustee thoughts: Berwick Eastmoor

Strengths:

- Smaller (6 vs. 14 civic associations)
- Shared goals
- Participation in writing of the bylaws
- Past accomplishments of Civics
- 3 Berwick residents will serve on the commission
- Fresh ideas, no “sacred cows” to kill

Weaknesses:

- Newer group
- Fewer city connections
- Will there be enough active participation to be successful?

Want more information?

- MACC: mideastareacc.wixsite.com
- Berwick Eastmoor Area Commission:
www.berwickeastmoor.org
- Area Commissions: www.columbus.gov/areacommissions

To request hard copies of any documents:

- Sign up here!
- Call (614) Berwick (237-9425)--leave name, address, name of document you'd like

What's next?

- Overlapping borders of proposed commission areas create unprecedented conflict
- 60 day open comment period for all filed petitions
 - MACC comment period ended January 31
 - BEAC comment period closes February 21
- Next step: Department of Neighborhoods will prepare legislation to present to City Council, working with colleagues in Council and following process outlined by city code
- Situation is still fluid and somewhat unclear

Questions?

Comments?



Thank you neighbors, trustees, and
Department of Neighborhoods!