

BROWN TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1830

Fall 2023

Far West Side Area Commission

Volunteers Providing a Voice to Area Residents

On Feb. 4, 2019, Columbus City Council approved an ordinance creating the Far West Side Area Commission--the City's 20th Area Commission. The purpose of an area commission is to act as a liaison between neighborhood groups, property owners, residents, developers, and city officials. The Far West Side Area Commission, composed entirely of volunteers, includes residents in Far West Columbus, surrounding townships (Brown, Norwich, Prairie), and Hilliard.

As any area resident can attest, the local cities (Columbus and Hilliard) and townships don't always seem to work together or with the other jurisdictions' residents. In creating the Far West Side Area Commission, one of our goals was to help facilitate these communications so that all residents' voices are heard, not just those of Columbus residents.

What Does the Area Commission Do?

We meet monthly to hear requests for zoning and rezoning of parcels, Columbus City Council variances, and Columbus Graphics Commission variances. We are an advisory body (as is the Columbus Development Commission and the Big Darby Accord Advisory Panel) and are the first step in Columbus' process for approving the items listed above before going to Columbus City Council for a final decision. As local residents who live, shop, recreate, worship, and work here, we have perspectives and experiences that



city officials in downtown offices do not have. This gives us an opportunity to officially "weigh in" on multiple items.

We share with residents proposed City of Columbus-related projects and plans and how residents can provide valuable input that makes a difference in the outcome. A recent example is the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2024-2050. We identified 18 projects impacting Far West Side and surrounding areas' residents, and sent emails/posted on Facebook and Nextdoor the links to each project for residents to submit their feedback. MORPC and Columbus take this input (requested every 4 years) into account for prioritizing road and pathway construction. In the past, it was common for area projects to receive few, if any, comments. After our plea to residents to comment on projects in the MORPC MTP 2020-2050 Plan, citizens' comments helped bump the Roberts/Frazell/Spindler roundabout project up the

ladder to receive state funding for the design process.

How Can a Brown Township Resident Participate with the Far West Side Area Commission?

Per our bylaws, six at-large elected Commissioners shall be selected from City of Columbus residents within the Commission Area (age 18 years of age or older). In addition, up to three Commissioners may be selected from nominations from individuals residing in the townships within the Commission Area: Brown, Norwich and Prairie. At present, we have two appointed seats open. In addition, we are forming several committees to focus on specific items of concern within the Area Commission, including Recreation and Parks, Elections and Appointments, Commerce, and others.

For more information, please visit our website at FarWestsideCBus.org and "Follow" us on Facebook ("Far West Side Area Commission").

Sign up for our emails by writing to FarWestsideCBus@gmail.com and including your name and area where you live (we sometimes need to reach out to specific parts of our area vs "spamming" the whole email list). We meet at Hilliard Horizon Elementary during the school year (3rd Tuesday for Zoning Committee and 4th Tuesday for our Regular Monthly Meeting) and Hilliard Bradley High School in summers, but it's best to confirm the location on our website.

Zoning in Brown Township

Conditional Use Zoning In the Rural District

Franklin County's Rural District includes land uses that are automatically permitted (the "permitted uses" described in the summer newsletter), as well as land uses that are permitted by special approval under prescribed conditions ("conditional uses"). Permitted uses are allowed by-right, while the conditional uses are only allowed if they are deemed to have met certain conditions and criteria and end with new ownership. To be approved, conditional uses must meet both conditions that are specific to each use (included under the Rural District, Section 302) and general criteria that are listed in Section 815 of the Resolution, which addresses the conditional use approval process.

Rural District Conditional Uses (see Section 302 for conditions that apply to each use):

- Mobile or manufactured homes as temporary residences
- Private schools
- Cemeteries
- Sales associated with permitted agricultural uses on property
- Boarding of animals
- Borrow pits of a limited size provided excavation and rehabilitation occur within one year
- Storage and processing of agricultural products
- Child day care for more than six children
- Accessory apartments
- Private streets
- Ponds
- Bed and breakfasts
- Telecommunications towers

This article is the second in a series about zoning in Brown Township. The Summer 2023 edition of the Brown Township Newsletter included an article about zoning in Brown Township, which focused on the Franklin County Zoning Resolution's Rural District. The Rural District covers unincorporated Brown Township (see Section 302 of the resolution for regulations governing this district). This article addresses conditional uses that may be permitted in the Rural District.

To ensure that they meet applicable conditions and criteria, conditional uses undergo special review by Franklin County staff and review and approval of the Board of Zoning Appeals. This review process, along with the criteria to be used in determining whether or not to approve a proposed conditional use is laid out in Section 815 of the resolution.

The first step in gaining approval for a conditional use is to submit a written application and plot plan to the Development Department, which reviews the submitted materials and provides a report to the Board of Zoning Appeal recommending approval, approval with modifications, or denial of the proposed conditional use.

The Board of Zoning Appeals shall approve the application if three conditions are met:

1. The use is included in the applicable zoning district and the listed conditions are met.

2. The proposal is in accordance with applicable plans and policies for the area.
3. The proposal is in keeping with the land use character and development potential of the area.

The Board of Zoning Appeals may also approve the proposal with modifications that ensure the use is consistent with plans and policies of the area and/or prevent undesirable effects on the surrounding area. Such modifications may address the extent or intensity of the use, the need for screening or landscaping, lighting, access, or other factors. If the proposed conditional use does not meet the required conditions and criteria, either as proposed or with modifications, the Board of Zoning Appeals will deny the proposal.

Brown Township zoning

Franklin County
Economic Development and
Planning Department
150 South Front Street,
FSL Suite 10
Columbus, Ohio 43215 7104
Tel. 614 525 3094
Fax 614 525 7155

[Development.FranklinCountyOhio.gov
/planning-zoning/zoning](mailto:Development.FranklinCountyOhio.gov/planning-zoning/zoning)

To report a zoning complaint:

Contact David Smith, the Zoning Officer assigned to Brown Township (David.Smith@FranklinCountyOhio.gov or 614-525-5627).

ISKCON Temple Project

An Update on Construction

Iskcon Greater Columbus is delighted to announce the grand start of our construction site, the ground is now digging as we write this. Our start date was August, and we are now in the phases of building the structures outside of our temple. We have received all county approvals and CK Construction, an Ohio based construction company is our contractor of choice.

CK Construction builds for a variety of markets, including healthcare, education, industrial and cultural organizations. More information can be found on their website - ckbuilds.com

CK Construction Group is currently mobilized on the ISKCON project, working alongside KN Excavation to provide the site grading, un-



derground utilities, and a completed building pad. This will enable CK to begin the foundational and structural portions of the ISKCON Temple by the end of the year.

Our facility is a fifteen-minute drive from downtown Columbus. While all amenities are close by, ISKCON Greater Columbus is planning a haven of simple living and high thinking. The landscaped grounds will include waking trails, retreat facilities, cow sanctuary, and farmland. There will be a farm-to-table café, multiple rooms for children to play, and a large playground along with a beautiful garden.

We are confident that our new land will give us space for the Lord to continue to grow our faith family and provide a place of 'temporary' permanence that we could call home for many years to come. We look forward to the unity and relationships that are built as we labor together to open this new temple. We wish to complete the construction of the temple so that we move in by early spring of 2025. It goes without saying that all this tremendous work requires the continued support of the community.

A temple of this magnitude and purpose will undoubtedly become our legacy for many generations to come. We would like to thank all the members for their support and cooperation with this project.

This article was written and approved by ISKCON Greater Columbus Management. - ISKCONColumbus.com

Block Watch

Did you know that Brown Township has an active block-watch? Blockwatches, also known as neighborhood watches, are important because they have been associated with up to 26% reduction in neighborhood crime. Brown Township covers a large area, and it is critical for all Brown Township residents to be involved in the blockwatch to help keep our community safe. If you would like to sign up to receive Brown Township Blockwatch communications, please visit www.browntwp.org and click on the

'Sign up for Block Watch Communications'. If you prefer to receive communication through Nextdoor.com, please join the Brown Township Blockwatch group (bit.ly/btbw). The same information will be posted through both outlets.



The Brown Township Blockwatch is actively looking for Blockwatch Road Captains. A road captain is a designated individual who is the main point of contact for all blockwatch-related communication on their road. If you are interested in being a road captain or have other blockwatch related questions, please contact Stan Rozdeba at:

BTBlockWatchCoordinator4@gmail.com

We plan to have a meeting with the community deputy in the next month, so please sign up soon if you would like to participate.

This article was written by the Brown Township Blockwatch Coordinators



Brown Township
2491 Walker Road
Hilliard, OH 43026

Brown Township Administration Office

2491 Walker Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026
(614) 876-2133

Website

www.BrownTwp.org

Fiscal Officer

Becky Kent • (614) 446-2359

Trustees

Mr. Gary Dever • (614) 876-4768

Mrs. Pamela Sayre • (614) 582-0191

Mr. Joseph Martin • (614) 309-8879

Norwich Fire Department

Dave Baird, Chief • (614) 876-7694

Franklin County Sheriff's Department

Emergency • 911

Non-Emergency • (614) 525-3333

Meetings are held the third Monday of
every month at 7:00 p.m. at
2491 Walker Rd., Hilliard, Ohio



L-R: Trustees Pam Sayre,
Gary Dever and Joe Martin
Seated: Fiscal Officer Becky Kent

Vote on Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Incorporated Brown Township / Hilliard
Hoffman Trails Elementary School
4301 Hoffman Farms Drive
Unincorporated Brown Township
Brown Elementary School
2494 Walker Road
Visit Vote.FranklinCountyOhio.gov

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PUBLIC SAFETY SUMMARY

Each issue of the Brown Township newsletter
contains a quarterly wrap-up of public safety
reports and calls in Brown Township.

Norwich Township Fire Department

Call to address in both incorporated and
unincorporated portions of Brown Township.

Fire Calls

EMS Calls

Incorp Unincorp Incorp Unincorp

JUN 2023	4	1	0	19
JUL 2023	1	7	3	24
AUG 2023	4	4	4	13

Franklin County Sheriff

Call to address in both incorporated and
unincorporated portions of Brown Town-
ship:

June 2023

June 30 – Reported on July 10, Breaking and
Entering at an address on Hubbard Road.

July 2023

July 12 – pieces of a vehicle found under the
bridge on Scioto Darby Creek Rd.

July 14 - Reported on July 15, Grand Theft
of motor vehicle at an address on Amity Rd.

August 2023

August 5 - A known person was threatened
by unknown person at a Walker Rd. address.

August 21 - Theft at address on Morris Rd.

Hilliard Division of Police

Non-routine calls to Brown Township ad-
dresses within the City of Hilliard:

June 2023

No non-routine calls.

July 2023

No non-routine calls.

August 2023

No non-routine calls

Medication Disposal

Dispose of unused medication in the red
disposal station inside main entrance of the
Joint Safety Services Building located at 5181
Northwest Parkway, which is next to the
Franklin County Fairgrounds.