

**Westwood Civic Association
General Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2009**

Meeting Called to Order by President McNulty at 7:00 pm. 14 Board Members present, and 1 excused. A quorum was present. Secretary: Joel Kimmet.

Present: McNulty (Jim), Gweyn, Sess, Kimmet, Baumann, Hammann, Kuhl, Lewis, McConn, Finn, Bach, Lee, Weber and McNulty(Irene). Excused: Boyd.

Police Report:

Capt Kim Frey and Officer Rich Minella reported that three juvenile individuals have been arrested in the recent Westwood Library robbery case. (They are between ages 12-17). 18 other individuals have been identified, mostly from Westwood School. A gang has been identified similar to the Taliban Gang from Northside. A special prosecutor has been assigned to the case, and it is moving forward. The police are having a zero tolerance when it comes to gang activity in Westwood. A special Thanks to the Library staff members for helping to identify the suspects through camera surveillance footage.

January 2009 Meeting Minutes:

MOTION by Irene McNulty, SECOND by Sess, to approve the January, 2009 Meeting Minutes. Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Baumann gave the Treasurer's Report and the current account balances.

Federal NSP Report:

President McNulty reported on the current status of the Federal NSP Project. Both WCA and WestCurc are working on the plan together, and a targeted area of Westwood has been identified, which is an approximate 10-12 block area surrounding Westwood Town Hall, Westwood School, and the center is at the corner of Westwood & Montana Aves. WCA and WestCurc will be identifying target properties within this area.

Public Forum:

Representatives of 3311 Gamble Avenue and surrounding area reported about a problem at 3305 Gamble. Last year a home was demolished on this site, and the company who removed the house left trash and debris on the lot next door, and left without removing it. John Sess stated he would look into this report and handle it.

Ms. Kelly Klosterman reported on the progress of her project Strengthening Families & Neighborhoods. The neighborhood study has been going forward for the last 2-3 months.

A concerned resident asked about the new Police District 3 Substation on Glenway Ave. Officer Rich Minella reported that the new substation will be in front of the new Target Store on Glenway Avenue.

A report was made concerning a house on the corner of McFarland and Montana Aves. Apparently a window has been recently broken out, and nothing has been done about it.

Public Forum – Continued:

A report was made concerning the burnt and vacant house at 2818 Harrison Avenue. Several residents are unhappy because the house is just standing wide open, and kids, criminals, transients or anyone can just go in and cause trouble, it needs barricading.

Ms. Marlene Trapp from Westwood Town Hall reported on activities, projects and what's happening this month at the Westwood Town Hall. A new African Mask Display is being proudly displayed in several rooms by a WTH employee, from his private collection.

A report was made concerning the Fleetwood Mansion. This property (5 acres) was recently taken over by Duesch Bank, and is now for sale. WCA needs to keep an eye on this property and try to find a good new owner for it. For Sale for approx. \$250,000.00.

Westwood School Report:

Randy Hammann reported that he will be attending all the Zoning Committee meetings concerning CPS and the Westwood School addition plans. CPS is still requesting to go forward with the Harrison Avenue side addition. WCA opposes this plan and is supporting the Epworth Avenue side addition. Several Zoning Committee meetings are pending where the city is asking for the suggestions and recommendations of WCA. (No vote is needed on this, a previous WCA vote was taken at a previous meeting)

Federal NSP Report Continued:

President McNulty asked all residents to please drive around Westwood and pick out blighted buildings, condemned buildings and problem buildings for our list. Randy Hammann will head up the committee to keep the blighted building list.

New Bus Hub at Glencrossing:

Tim Reynolds from METRO, and Tamara Schlagbaum from JACOBS were present and gave a presentation on the plans for a new Bus Hub at Glenway Crossings. The group needs a zoning variance for a "park and ride" and "bus hub" at the proposed site. The site would have 25 parking slots plus 3 bus bays. The new site would be mainly a transfer site with people transferring from one bus to another, as opposed to an on-boarding-off boarding site. METRO will be responsible for trash pickup, landscaping issues, and security cameras on the site. There would be good lighting at the site, and benches for adequate seating. Much Discussion and Questions from the Floor.

Most concerns from audience centered around loitering issues, trash, and security issues. More Discussion. Concerns from audience over existing routes and route changes. METRO gave their complaint phone number: 513-632-7575.

NO ACTION was taken at this time, METRO will return at a future meeting to discuss the routes and further plans for this proposed site.

City Council Member Greg Harris Presentation:

Mr. Greg Harris from City Council presented his new “Plan For War On Blight”. There will be a Press Conference on 2/18/09, to introduce this new plan, where City Council will propose to use 75% of the new Federal NSP money to go to Blight Removal within the neighborhoods. The new plan has 4 main goals:

1. Permits neighborhoods to use up to 75% Federal NSP \$\$ for acquisition and demolition of blighted sites.
2. Identifies a new continued funding source for blight abatement in neighborhoods.
3. Creates a “Side-Lot Transfer Program” where property owners of residential properties could purchase the vacant lots for \$1, to expand their yards.
4. Allows neighborhood groups to “adopt” the vacant lots to use them as green-space, community gardens, etc.

There was much positive feedback from all present. Discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Liquor Czar Report:

Mr. Rick Ketterer gave the Liquor Czar Report. A meeting with Councilperson Leslie Ghiz will occur February 26, 2009 to discuss liquor control problems within the neighborhoods. A list has been compiled with 36 establishments in Westwood. WCA needs to go through this list and identify “problem” establishments. Discussion. Some of the problems discussed were the Market on Wunder, Rheem Market, Market at the corner of Harrison/Robert, and others. Decisions Pending. Committee needs to meet. The meeting with Leslie Ghiz 2/26/09 is at the Landfair Center, in College Hill.

WCA Annual Dinner Report:

The WCA Annual Dinner will be March 10, 2009, which is the usual Steering Meeting night. Two proposed sites were located, “Outback Restaurant”, and “Willy’s Sports Bar”. President McNulty proposed a “show-of-hands” vote, by all present, and at the conclusion of voting, Outback Restaurant was the clear winner.

MOTION by Kimmet, SECOND by Sess, for WCA to spend up to \$150.00 to design, print and distribute postcard invitations (with postage included) to Westwood residents to invite all to the WCA Dinner. Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

MOTION by Irene McNulty, SECOND by Kuhl, for WCA to spend up to \$80.00 to provide the dinner attendees with appetizers at Outback Restaurant. Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

Student Of The Year Report:

John Sess is planning the Student Of The Year event, which will be at the General Meeting in May, 2009. Sess will coordinate the speakers, presenters. Discussion as to which room to use for the event, and either meeting room at WTH would work out fine.

WCA Website Report:

Brian Lee reported that the website project is ongoing, and that it is a work-in-progress.

Police Dist 3 Resource Report:

Trent Lewis reported that the Dist 3 Resource Meeting will be 2/25/09, 7pm, at the Cincinnati/ Hamilton County Communications Center at 2000 Radcliff Drive.

Montana Avenue Project Report:

President McNulty reported that the Montana Avenue Committee is making some progress, and will be meeting on 2/25/09 at 6pm at Midway School.

New WCA Committees for 2009:

President McNulty reported that a new list of 2009 committees and descriptions of each committee will be available at the March 2009 Steering Meeting.

Yard-Of-The-Month Committee:

President McNulty reported that Dick Finn has volunteered to work on this committee and plant the signs in the winner's yards each month.

Strategic Plan Committee:

President McNulty reported that the Strategic Plan committee will be meeting on 3/2/09 to finalize the strategic plan. Felix Bere from the City suggested several design changes, as well as changes in the graphs and formats that are being used.

New Business:

West-Fest Application:

President McNulty and Kathy Bach reported for Rick Boyd that the 2009 West-Fest application and fee is due. WCA is able to get a "double space" for the single space fee in the same location we had last year. This was a good location for the WCA booth.

MOTION by Kimmert, SECOND by Lewis, that WCA spend up to \$300.00 for the West-Fest application and fee for the 2009 West-Fest WCA Booth. Discussion.

Motion Passes.

Liquor License Applications:

President McNulty reported that two transfer of ownership applications came in: Red Lobster on Glenway Avenue, and Shamrock at 5450 Glenway Avenue.

There were no objections from the group, and the applications will go forward.

Problem Properties:

Melva Gweyn reported on continuing problems at 2861 Harrison and 2153 Harrison. A concerned resident from the group also reported on the problems at 2861 Harrison Avenue. The city seems to be doing nothing to solve these problems. There is much frustrations and concerns by residents living next to and near these properties.

Problem Properties Continued:

President McNulty reported that we need to keep up the pressure on the problem properties, and the city will finally get something done. The Building and Inspections phone number for Inspector Scott Bonnard is 513-352-3458.

MOTION by Irene McNulty to put 2861 Harrison Avenue on the top of the WCA demolition list. Discussion. There was no second on this motion. NO ACTION TAKEN.

Newsletter Committee Report:

Becky Weber reported that all Newsletter articles are due by 3/1/09.

With no further business, Meeting was Adjourned by President McNulty at 8:50 pm.

Next Meeting: WCA Steering Meeting, which is the WCA Annual Dinner, at Outback Restaurant, 3/10/09, at 7pm. Come and join everyone at 6pm for appetizers.