

WCA Steering Meeting
August 10, 2010
7:00 P.M.
Westwood Town Hall

Attendance

Present: Bach, Baumann, Boyd, Gweyn, Henke, Kimmet, Kuhl, Lee, Lewis, McConn, McNulty, Neeld, Sess, Weber

Excused: Hollan

Recording Secretary

Mitch Neeld

Western Hills Viaduct Rehab

Stephen Gressel with the City of Cincinnati Dept of Transportation and Engineering discussed the project. It is a four month, \$2 million rehab including expansion joints and resurfacing. They are working on upper deck. The project is scheduled to be finished by end of November. They are not rehabbing the entrance ramp – that is ODOT responsibility. The art deco lamps are not being rehabbed and are not being removed or destroyed. A question was asked about whether there will be a press release. There was not a lot of outreach because this is a maintenance project. The reversible lane will not be re-used.

Stathem and Uhrwiler

There are stop signs that say that the cross traffic does not stop. There were three accidents in 2009. McNulty asked how do we get Lischer and Epworth studied for a four-way stop? Joe Vogel will pass request on. Mary mentioned a problem with Justin Village light at Harrison turning red for no apparent reason at 5:00 in the morning. Mary mentioned a problem with the Mercy Hospital exit onto Boudinot having an extraordinarily long red light. Joe Vogel will check into these traffic light issues. Mr. Childress will make sure that the signage at the end of Stathem is in place.

Montana Ave.

Andrea Henderson with the City spoke on the project. It is in the acquisition phase. Appraisal takes extra time (even for a temporary easement) if appraisers are not allowed access to the dwelling. They hope to go to bid at the end of 2010 and start construction in early 2011. She will meet with Mrs. Mead regarding the temporary easement on Mrs. Mead's property. A question was asked as to whether the widening at Westwood Northern Blvd will be on both sides or only one side? It will mainly be on Mrs. Mead's side of the street. It was emphasized that WCA wants a four-way stop light with left turn lanes and left turn arrows in all directions at Montana Ave. and Harrison Ave. intersection. Joe Vogel will get back to Sess on four-way issue.

Harrison Ave.

The project is behind the Montana Ave. project. Expected to occur in May of 2012. It will require some acquisitions and some relocations. It is a four mile long project – from Higby to Queen City – involving rehabilitation, re-painting, high-friction pavement at some spots, curb re-alignment, the alignment of two Fairmont Avenues, the disconnection of White St., the tightening of a turn at LaFeuille, and others. The project is more involved than the Montana Ave. project. Valerie asked about the closing of the catwalk at Pickbury. Joe Vogel asked to have an email sent.

Scott Ryan

Scott was asked about zoning regarding the Daycare at Epworth Ave. and Montana Ave. (3002 Montana Ave.). Is the fence up to code? Scott stated that it is a front lot line which required four foot fence with 50% opacity. Scott will check into and send email to Sess. With respect to Daycare – there can be no employees, the operator must live at facility, and there can be a maximum of 12 kids. The boarded up doors at GGz is a violation of code. They are restricted to investigating issues of immediate hazard. Investigation of GGz would require a complaint. There may be signage issues. Should call Will Combs or 591-6000. Sess will call about GGz and another property in the Glenmore Business District with broken windows. Beppos has a permit per Roger Foster. Scott reported that signage was a big issue at the last staff meeting. Foreclosures have increased – particularly big apartment buildings. Ownership becomes an issue with foreclosures – changing owners, banks, auditor's page updates. McNulty asked if 2570 Harrison Avenue's VBML is in the process of being revoked. Scott was not sure.

Kuhl

Mary mentioned Candidate's Night – a function of the Promotions Committee. She asked if we should hold it in the auditorium. Lewis noted that Mercy has a better audio system and might have a better turnout. Kuhl noted that it would probably be easier and was more centrally located at Westwood Town Hall. Kuhl asked whether we should have it on a WCA meeting night or on a Thursday. McNulty asked what races would be represented. Kuhl said she would have possible dates for WTH by next Tuesday.

Weber

Becky reported that banner sales were going well. Becky discussed possible issues with the Abundant Ministries in the old Sunshine Cleaners location. It was suggested that we invite the Abundant Ministries owner to the next meeting. Sess will send an email invite. Becky reminded board members to bring a covered dish to the Sept 21 picnic prior to the General Meeting. Becky reported on Mr. Messer's property (i.e. 2111 Harrison) – Joel visited and spoke to tenants and took pictures. Emails have been going back-and-forth to City Council. They have not gotten receivership yet. Mr. Lewis will recommend evacuation and boarding the building. The bank does not have to abide. Downtown Properties is

suing the City over Chronic Nuisance billings for 2400 Harrison Ave. Hearing is in City Hall Rm 300 at 9:00 am on Sept 14. Becky and Chris Kearney met with Capt Neville – he is afraid to enforce to the full extent of the law due to lawsuits. The Art Show and the Westwood Works/ArtWorks mural unveiling are both on Sept 18. Becky does not feel that we should mix the events, that since WCA was not involved in the mural project, they should be kept separate. Boyd mentioned that it is free PR for the Art Show. Kimmet suggested making it one event. Lewis noted that WCA has no say over when Westwood Works holds the mural unveiling event. Boyd noted that Westwood Works had no input over when the unveiling would take place – it was an ArtWorks decision.

MOTION by Lewis that WCA contact Westwood Works and request that the dedication of the mural not be associated with WCA.

SECOND by Gweyn

DISCUSSION – Kimmet would like to make a motion for the opposite. We are not asking it to be stopped. The Western Hills Press article referenced the WCA Art Show and art mural unveiling. Weber stated that a discussion should have been made regarding the affirmative response to Amanda Carlisle's suggestion that the unveiling take place on the same date as the Art Show. Sess noted that WCA would have liked to have had Westwood Works bring the final plan to WCA as a courtesy. Kimmet would like for the three groups to come together again.

MOTION withdrawn.

Kimmet

Joel reported that the Community Gardens project is moving along. The pipe company has cleared and re-seeded the lot. He is working with the adjacent retirement community – showing plans and trying to generate interest. The hope is to remove the fence between the properties and have the retirement community involved in the gardens. Joel reported on the Bracken Wood TIF project. There are 23 properties that we want removed for a completely new subdivision. McNulty noted that Joel set up a monthly meeting to keep on top of these issues. Shaffer Woods – ten homes off of Schaffer Ave. The old entrance to Bracken Woods would be blocked. Joel reported that they were making headway regarding 2111 Harrison Ave. Ken Rigacci? suggested that we add into our letter that this is the same shape that the building was in when it was originally condemned. Joel will be absent for next Tuesday's meeting.

McNulty

Jim reported that it is the Outreach Committee's mission is to reach out to churches to make sure their goals are aligned with our goals. Jim would like to meet individually with the Minister of the Abundant Ministries. Sess will invite him to the next Steering Meeting.

Gweyn

Melva reported that flowers have been pulled from WTH grounds. She will email Capt Neville regarding the theft of landscape on WTH grounds.

McConn

Sr. Ann Rene gave an update on the Bell Building. Purchasing is too expensive for Madcap Puppets. The City does not have the money to make a grant and suggest that the Library could donate the building. The building is too energy inefficient to operate. Madcap is working on a strategy to have the Library donate the building in exchange for plays and educational services to the Library. Sr. Ann Rene brought a rough draft of a postcard campaign. She would like to bring it to the attention of the General Membership at the General Meeting. West Chester, Montgomery and Over-The-Rhine are courting Madcap Puppets.

MOTION by McConn for WCA to allow the presentation of the postcard campaign to the General Meeting and to have WCA write a letter endorsing the donation of the building

SECOND by Kuhl

DISCUSSION – Kuhl asked what the timeframe was. WestCURC option on the building expires at the end of September. City agreed to give WestCURC money to build a parking lot if the library donates the building to Madcap. Madcap expects to have enough shows in a year to bring 38,000 visitors to Westwood.

PASSED (Bach abstained)

(Meeting moved outdoors to picnic table)

Lee

Brian mentioned the Hotdogs for Hanna event on August 21. We need to do a better job of promoting WCA at these events. Brian suggested bringing flags and membership information to the events.

Lewis

Trent discussed an issue with NSP and insurance and Westwood Town Hall cleanup. Trent would like to request alternating locations for National Night Out each year – between, for example, Elder and WTH. Trent communicated an idea for a picnic table give-away. The tables would be painted with WCA logo and given to, for example, Mercy HS or Westwood Town Hall. Trent will develop the picnic table give-away plan. Trent asked if we were donating food for Block Watch.

Neeld

Mitch reported that we are still awaiting a check from the City for the Mayor's Cup win. An email has been sent to Mr. Mallory's assistant – Brenden Reagan.

Baumann

Valerie mentioned the parade on Sept 9.

Sess

John reported on our trips to the Glenmore market and wireless store and the old Beppos. There was drug paraphernalia at the Glenmore location. They were successful in having the owner move the drug paraphernalia behind the counter.

They let them know we were displeased. McNulty reported that he was trying to get a list of items that are used for drugs from the police that we should recommend that the stores do not offer. John mentioned the idea for a Westside Summit. John discussed on possible topic regarding neighborhood boundaries. There was a discussion about how to hold the meeting – who do we invite, what would be the agenda. McNulty suggested every community this side of I-75. Kimmet suggested we stick with District 3 and Northside. Sess suggested the first week in October for the meeting.

MOTION by McNulty to adjourn

SECOND by Gweyn

PASSED unanimously