

**Westwood Civic Association  
Steering Meeting**

April 10, 2012

Present: J. McNulty, president, M. Conda, J. Kimmet, J. Minor, M. Jenkins, Sr. Ann Rene McConn, J. Sess, T. Minor, B. Weber, M. Kuhl, K. Strasser, J. Hildebrand, I. McNulty, N. D'Angelo, V. Baumann, M. Gweyn, J. Henke, and members C. Kearney, S. Lewis, L. Bramasco

**Minutes**

The minutes of the March 20, 2012 general meeting were approved as written.

**Boudinot and Harrison Business District**

B. Weber reported on planning for the May 7 event, a three hour-long crime deterrence training for area businesses with District 3 police, as a start to planned improvements to the business district and a pilot for other areas of Westwood. As many board members as possible should be in attendance. B. Weber asked board members to sign up to bring food. Teams of District 3 police and WCA board members are going business to business to deliver invitations and will need a letter from WCA as well.

MOTION by B. Weber to permit up to \$250 for the purchase of food for the event

SECONDED by M. Jenkins

APPROVED unanimously

**WCA Website**

J. McNulty noted that WCA needs a simpler way to get content like events and minutes on the website, perhaps with more distributed responsibility for the site. M. Jenkins reported that she can login to the site but the host server will not accept changes with ftp. B. Weber volunteered to assist and to set up email sign up (via Constant Contact) capability on the site.

**Constant Contact**

M. Jenkins requested multiple mailing lists for WCA members to select desired notices, like Westwood Community Gardens news. B. Weber expressed concern about multiple mailings. M. Jenkins emphasized that it would be at the request of WCA members and a means of communicating based on interests. B. Weber suggested a gatekeeper to monitor volume. M. Kuhl offered to serve this function. J. McNulty stressed the need to use our mailing lists capability.

**Follow up to meeting with Chief Craig**

C. Kearney reported on the follow up to the February 8, 2012 meeting with Cincinnati Police Chief Craig regarding chronic nuisance, measurable outcomes, and repeat offenders. On behalf of WCA, C. Kearney requested more information about repeat offenders and were turned down by Chief Craig. Mr. Kearney distributed a few copies of statistics related to felony level offenses involving guns, drugs, and violence, arrested in January or February 2012 with a previous arrest for the same offense and including people who live or offend in Westwood. Mr. Kearney noted that the police reports do not provide information about juveniles, gang affiliation, who is on bond, probation, parole, or evaded arrest, for example. He added that all of the requested information is discretionary, except for juvenile court records. J. Minor expressed concern about the legality of sharing juvenile information. He commented that WCA should be clearer that it seeks important information like gang affiliation. A discussion ensued about the Moral Voice Initiative community-led discussion in Avondale which has a level of citizen involvement including information about identities of known criminal leaders and their followers. Chief Craig told C. Kearney and others that the community needs to step up and be engaged but

he is concerned about vigilantism and upsetting investigations. M. Kuhl is arranging another meeting with Chief Craig and requests support from WCA. Discussion points included concerns about becoming like CIRV.

MOTION by K. Strasser to send of letter to Chief Craig from WCA, expressing WCA for a Moral Voice Initiative here in Westwood, to explore this opportunity and to enter into a discussion.

SECONDED by M. Kuhl

PASSED unanimously

### **Form-Based Codes**

J. Kimmet, referring to an email he sent to board members, said WCA should be discussing form-based codes with residents in Westwood. Sr. Ann Rene referred to earlier mailings and documentation, describing it as a tool and an overlay to zoning. J. Sess encouraged the board to consider a special meeting, possibly in June, rather than a regular meeting, to allow time for discussion. M. Conda attended the form-based codes meeting and encouraged board members to read materials about it. If a meeting is to be held in Westwood, someone needs to offer to coordinate it.

### **Historic Conservation Board**

J. McNulty noted that the city is looking for a variety of representatives to the Historic Conservation Board. Bob Prokop was named as a good candidate if he is willing.

MOTION by M. Kuhl to nominate Bob Prokop

SECONDED by J. Sess

PASSED unanimously

### **CDAB Board**

J. McNulty reported that the city is looking for board members for the CDA board. J. McNulty offered to serve.

MOTION by V Baumann to submit J. McNulty's name for a board position with WCA's recommendation

SECONDED by J. Kimmet

APPROVED unanimously

### **Keep Cincinnati Beautiful**

The Great American Clean Up is scheduled for April 21. Westwood will have a beautification event at the Westwood Town Hall. WCA is notifying members and others of the event. Pizza is needed for the volunteers' lunch.

MOTION by J. Sess to spend up to \$150 on pizza for the volunteers' lunch

SECONDED J. Kimmet

PASSED unanimously

### **Education Committee**

J. Minor reported that Westwood's Local School Decision Making Committee will do a walk through at Westwood School next week. She hopes to arrange a time for a WCA visit as well. She noted that funds are being collected for a bench and a tree in memory of the Westwood schoolgirl killed recently in an accident on LaFeuille.

MOTION by J. Minor to contributed \$100 to the fund for a memorial bench and tree

SECONDED by K. Strasser

PASSED unanimously

### **Student of the Year Award**

K. Strasser reported that the letter went out to principals at each Westwood School, requesting nominees for the WCA Student of the Year award. I. McNulty suggested that WCA ask C. Smitherman to speak and J. Kimmet suggested C. Seelbach as a second possibility. K. Strasser will pursue.

### **City's Strategic Plan**

J. McNulty commented that WCA needs to continue to ask Charles Graves, Director of City Planning and Buildings, to include neighborhood strategic plans in the city's plan. The city's plan is being posted online. Sr. Ann Rene will bring extra copies of Westwood's strategic plan to the next meeting.

### **National Night Out**

I. McNulty reported that discussion of National Night Out (NNO) was tabled at the last meeting since Captain Neville wasn't there. M. Kuhl said there will still be a discussion about location. She commented that it doesn't require a festival atmosphere; it is designed as a chance for people to meet police and vice versa. NNO is encouraging more intimate events in neighborhoods so the idea of a simple event at Westwood Town Hall and/or Westwood School isn't disharmonious with the NNO plan. Several board members and guests commented on concerns about the possibility of two events in Westwood because it could be a drain on District 3 resources and COPP. More discussion will follow after the late April District 3 Resources Committee meeting.

### **Community Priority Requests**

All of the WCA proposals were submitted, for bus stop benches, a sign for the Westwood Town Hall, and landscaping at the intersection triangles.

### **WestFest**

B. Weber reported on WestFest, which will be held on June 23 and 24. WCA made about \$700 last year. I. McNulty offered to schedule volunteers and to coordinate a WCA booth on Sunday. We need a coordinator for Saturday. B. Weber noted that someone has to submit the application, seek sponsors, and generally coordinate the event. There is a \$275 application fee. J. Sess said he is willing to set up and break down. K. Strasser offered help from her Brownie troop's parents, if a percentage of the proceeds was offered.

### **Madcap Puppets**

Sr. Ann Rene McConn reported that the WestCURC grant agreement for the purchase of the Bell building should be signed later this week, with a closing date at the end of the month. Madcap plans to open the building on June 13<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. to invite the neighborhood to look inside the building. Discussion took place related to nearby properties and the need for business development.

### **Election Dinner**

The annual election dinner and general meeting will be held on April 17, 2012 at the Outback Steakhouse on Glenway.

### **Gated Community**

A proposal for a gated community in Westwood will take place at the May Steering Meeting.

### **Flower Pots**

M. Gweyn reported that a large flower pot, maintained by WCA, was broken recently. J. Kimmet remarked that it can be replaced with NSP funds. M. Gweyn will bring cost information to the next meeting.

### **Election of Officers**

J. McNulty opened nominations for the officer positions and conducted an election, with Sr. Ann Rene McConn assisting him in the counting of paper ballots. Current board members were eligible to vote, including the newly elected members, but not those whose terms are expiring with this meeting.

#### ***President***

Two candidates were nominated for president, M. Kuhl and J. Kimmert.

J. Kimmert was declared the winner with 8 votes, with M. Kuhl receiving 5 votes, and 2 blank ballots.

#### ***Vice-President (first of 2 positions)***

Two candidates were nominated for vice-president, J. Minor and M. Kuhl.

M. Kuhl was declared the winner with 8 votes, with J. Minor receiving 6 votes, and 1 blank ballot.

#### ***Vice-President (second of 2 positions)***

Two candidates were nominated for vice-president, B. Weber and M. Jenkins.

M. Jenkins was declared the winner with 8 votes, with B. Weber receiving 6 votes, and 1 blank ballot.

#### ***Recording Secretary***

K. Strasser was nominated and declared elected, there being no other nominations.

#### ***Treasurer***

V. Baumann was nominated and declared elected, there being no other nominations.

#### ***Membership Secretary***

J. Minor was nominated and declared elected, there being no other nominations.

### **Thanks to departing board members**

Board members expressed their appreciation to J. McNulty and Sr. Ann Rene McConn for their years of excellent service as WCA board members.

### **Adjournment**

MOTION to adjourn by J. Hildebrandt.

SECONDED by M. Kuhl

APPROVED unanimously