

Westwood Civic Association Meeting Minutes 8/14/12

Present:

Joel Kimmet, Mary Kuhl, Mary Jenkins, Karen Strasser, Jill Minor, Valerie Baumann, Becky Weber, Melva Gweyn, Irene McNulty, Tom Minor, Michelle Conda

Excused:

Joe Henke, Jerry Hildebrand, Nick D'Angelo

Absent:

John Sess

Joel Kimmet called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Membership Committee -

Mary Kuhl, Chair of the Membership Committee, reported on upcoming events. The annual WCA holiday dinner will be held at Palomino's downtown on December 7th. The committee decided to pair neighborhood membership canvassing, with a pizza dinner as follows: August 27th along Epworth from Wardall to Temple with a pizza party later in the week on a resident's front lawn and September 24th on Shaffer with a pizza party on September 26th. October may focus on Talbot but the committee will also check with Citizens on Patrol for other street suggestions. The hope is to promote WCA as an advocate for neighborhoods, promote the creation of block watches and to increase WCA membership. The week of Thanksgiving will begin the holiday yard of the week. We will do this for 6 weeks. Mary Kuhl will get pricing for signs from Harlan Graphics.

Motion by Mary Jenkins to budget \$50.00 for pizza at each neighborhood party.

Seconded by Mary Kuhl

All in favor

Per Mary Kuhl, we need the support of all of our Board members at Steering and General meetings as well as at events. Per Joel Kimmet, more member volunteers are needed. Board members need to be involved. Per Mary Kuhl, she would rather have a vacant space on the board, than have a board member who is not functioning. We would like to treat ourselves to appetizers at the WCA holiday party.

Motion by Mary Jenkins that \$100.00 be spent by WCA on appetizers at Palominos during the December 7th WCA holiday party.

Seconded by Michelle Conda

All in favor

Presentation by Brian Lee – WCA Webmaster

Brian Lee was asked to redesign the WCA website to allow for the committees to have specific areas where they can report on committee work, etc. The website is now setup so that we can post news and update it ourselves. Brian showed us printouts of the home webpage and gave us all a tutorial on how the new webpage works. One nice change is that on the homepage, there is a button which allows one to request being put on our email mailing list. There are also committee buttons where committee reports, activities, etc. will be shown. Lastly, we may post to the general WCA news section, which is an area that can be updated in the same way that the committee pages can be updated. These pages will work just like blogs. There is also a WCA news section, which is an area that can be updated in the same way that the committee pages can be updated.

Mary Jenkins suggested that a description of the committees under each committee listing be added to the website. Becky Weber offered to get the committee descriptions to Brian Lee after the Board has a chance to review the committee descriptions. We need to let Brian know if there is old content on the website that needs to be deleted. Per Mary Kuhl's suggestion, we should all play with the website for a month and maybe Brian can come back to the next steering meeting and answer any questions. Per the WCA board, for now, any Board member or Committee Chair can post in the WCA news area. Brian requests the WCA membership registration form to link to the WCA website as well.

Motion per Mary Kuhl to reimburse Brian Lee \$33.00 for the WCA website one year subscription fee.

Seconded by Michelle Conda

All in favor

Buildings, Properties, Development Committee -

Jim McNulty, Committee Chair, told us that with regard to the multi and single family WCA zone map, Melva and Bruce Gweyn tried working on it unsuccessfully and Melva had to take it to Kinkos today and they couldn't run it off either. She taped it all down. Kinkos suggested that she take it to Robben, which would cost approximately \$85.00. Jim McNulty will take it to the City to see if they can clean it up.

Top 20 worst Westwood buildings list –

3069 Bracken Woods – At this address there is a store on the bottom floor and a hair salon on the top floor. This is a condemned building with little kids running in and out at 10:30 at night. The police are involved. Jim McNulty called Captain Stuebbing. As of yesterday, there is still a store in that building. Per Mary Kuhl, it is time to get the media involved. Jim McNulty asked Captain Neville, what is the process for when a condemned building is occupied? Captain Neville is looking into it. Jim McNulty has Ed Cunningham looking into this matter as well.

On Rolling Ridge, no violations on several complaints of abandoned cars. The City Buildings Department is really overwhelmed.

Per Michelle Conda, we should give the list of top 20 worst Westwood Buildings to Citizens on Patrol. Valeria Baumann spoke to Captain Neville about Rolling Ridge. Captain Neville suggested that WCA write a letter to the management of Rolling Ridge.

Per Joel Kimmet, the owner of 3207 Harrison wants to tear that building down now. (This is the old Economy Glass building) Per Mary Kuhl, why do we want a cool old building torn down in our business district? Mary Kuhl is against the building being torn down.

Joel Kimmet asked for comments on the top 20 list. Mary Jenkins and Mary Kuhl are against the tearing down of 3207 Harrison.

Per Tom Minor, the owner of 3207 was at the business meeting hosted by CPD at Westwood First and there is a vagrant who keeps breaking the glass. Per Mary Kuhl, it is the same with GG's. Will it all be plywood once all of the glass is broken? Per Mary Kuhl, what can we do about this all falling on deaf ears down at City Council? Per Irene McNulty, we need another little bus trip. With regard to 3990 Yearling Court, it is filthy. We can talk to Council, but most of them got elected without Westwood's vote. Per Michelle Conda, bring in the press and take them on a tour. Per Jim McNulty, we need to focus on Rolling Ridge and 2329 Harrison (number 8 on the list). The Buildings Committee should go ahead and bring all of this to the media's attention. We need these stories to come out. The Board supports the committee moving forward. Per Mary Kuhl, we need an official statement from Westwood Civic Association on this matter. Melva Gweyn suggested that we list statements from the people involved in this and create a list of what the City leaders say and then produce a display board proving that complete lies are being told. Per Becky Weber, we have to make sure that we don't feed the media too much info or the story gets too overwhelming. We need to stick to the big story.

Per Jim McNulty, we are selective about what we want torn down and this takes longer than just tearing down everything. We need a pot of money set aside so that when we are ready to tear down, the money will still be available. Per Joel Kimmet, Ed Cunningham says they have money to tear down 800 places and they have only identified 300. We have to ask the Port Authority to set the pot aside.

Public Safety Committee

Per Chair, Becky Weber, with regard to Chronic Nuisance, Chris Kearny will be coming back for our next meeting. This committee is working with the Business District Committee and met with Lieutenant Bauer last week. Plans are underway to do a cleanup with a cookout afterwards. The committee would like to do another Good Guy Loitering soon.

The most recent Good Guy Loitering event went very well.

School committee –

Per Karen Strasser, plans are in full swing for the Celebrate Westwood event set for 9/29. The event will include tours of the newly renovated Westwood School and Westwood Town Hall. Police and Fire have been invited to the event and the Library has confirmed

being at the event. We may cookout burgers and hot dogs for the event. Per Mary Kuhl, fried chicken or pizza may be easier. We have a huge grill being donated by CRC. Per Sharon Lewis, District 3 has lots of burgers left over from National Night Out. Karen Strasser will check into this matter.

Motion requesting \$450.00 by Karen Strasser for burgers, hot dogs, drinks and copying cost for the Celebrate Westwood event on 9/29.

Seconded by Irene McNulty

All in favor

Westwood Art Show

Mary Kuhl talked to Amanda Carlisle regarding the Westwood Art Show. The liquor permit for Henke Winery is already incorporated into her budget. To make it so that we can sell alcoholic beverages, there is another 100.00 license fee. Per Mary Kuhl, WCA needs to ask Amanda for a balance sheet of this event. There is much that we don't know about the financials of this event. Per Becky Weber, Amanda should have a budget and be accountable.

Motion by Mary Kuhl that we pay \$100.00 for a 1-day liquor permit so we can sell margaritas and beer, etc.

Seconded by Becky Weber.

All in favor

Mary Kuhl asked for input on what nice beers to serve. Irene McNulty suggested that it be local beer. Send Mary Kuhl an email suggesting what beers you think would be nice to serve at the Westwood Art Show. Mary Kuhl needs to have a sign made listing the prices of food and drink we are selling at the Art Show.

Motion by Mary Kuhl requesting \$30.00 to make a sign/menu board for the Westwood Art Show

Seconded by Irene McNulty

All in favor

Harvest Home Parade – we are not entered.

Community Gardens –

Report given by Mary Jenkins.

A big stretch of the retaining wall is now up. Many volunteers have worked very hard.

Motion per Michelle Conda that reimbursement for monies spent at the Community Gardens be approved by the Community Gardens core team and accounted for as long as it doesn't go over designated/available funds.

Seconded by Irene McNulty

All in favor

Mary Jenkins will start a chart of work at the Community Gardens in an effort to do a better job of letting everyone know what little jobs there are available at the Gardens.

This chart of work would list the little things that don't involve a site manager supervising.

Westwood strategic Plan

We did a good thing by emailing the Westwood Strategic Plan to all members of City Council. It may be necessary to do more than that. We may need to go downtown and talk individually to council members. Council is getting off track and not adhering to our plan. We need to invite them to a meeting. We need to challenge council members to come to a meeting and hear what we have to say. We want their rsvp ahead of time. We want to let them know what we want to discuss with them. Per Mary Kuhl, we should invite three city council members to each of the next three general meetings. Mary Kuhl will invite the first three with Jim McNulty bringing media attention to us. The council members will respond. Council is going to pass the City's Comprehensive plan soon. Jim McNulty spoke to Mr. Graves, Director of Planning, City of Cincinnati. Mr. Graves will be invited to our general meeting next week.

Karen Strasser will email the electronic copy of the strategic plan to Melva Gweyn, who will get 20 copies made.

Watershed project –

The City of Cincinnati wants to separate the water from the sewage when it runs into the Ohio River. The City has two ways to fix the problem and Lick Run is the worst. The Federal government has said that the City must fix the problem.

Plan 1 –

This plan calls for a big underground hole where all rainwater can be stored.

Plan 2-

Separate all the water out, build ponds, little bridges, etc. This makes the project an urban renewal project instead of a sewage management project.

The City is pushing for plan 2. Jim McNulty likes plan 2. The City wants to tear down most of the historic structures in South Fairmont to do this. South Fairmont may want the big hole in order to save the structures. Gutting the entire neighborhood is going to mean that South Fairmont no longer exists as we know it at all.

Paul Willem, of South Fairmont, is asking the City to support the big hole idea. Part of the Lick Run watershed is in Westwood. Reminder per Mary Kuhl, we are against tearing down single-family structures. We should invite the MSD and Paul Willem next week to our general meeting to discuss this project. This is a big deal.

Per Joel Kimmet, the World Choir Games had potted planters everywhere. Request packets were sent out to all of the neighborhoods. The pots are plastic, but nice looking. Melva Gweyn and Joel Kimmet put in a request to have a few of these pots at the Community Gardens. This request also included a few pots going up on Harrison Ave. Six pots were approved for the Community Gardens. We are required to sign a revocable

street privilege for six pots to be placed. There is also a lease that we will be required to sign along with getting liability insurance for \$500,000. Per Melva Gweyn, there is a problem with the pot at McHenry that Joel Kimmet tried to move. Joel Kimmet will stop by and fix the situation. People put rocks in the pots so that they can sit on them. People sometimes abuse the pots. At Montana and Harrison, the sidewalks are in disrepair and the benches and steps outside of the school are in bad shape. Jill Minor will talk to Westwood School about the problem.

Westwood Citizen of the month –

Tabled for next month.

Port Authority -

Joel Kimmet is working with the Port Authority and is filing the paper work to make 2153 the first property that we work on with the Port Authority. The Port Authority can only work on property that has a serious tax delinquency. The top 20 list has 4 or 5 properties in serious tax delinquency. We are in a good position as a community council to get some of these properties as green space, etc. The property would be deeded to us for \$100.00 per lot. We would care for the spaces and come up with a development plan. 2153 Harrison is our first candidate.

Motion to adjourn by Mary Kuhl

Seconded by Irene McNulty

All in favor - Meeting adjourned.