

Westwood Civic Association Steering Meeting

February 14, 2012

7:00 P.M.

Westwood Town Hall

Attendance

Present: J. McNulty, B. Weber, J. Minor, J. Hildebrand, M. Jenkins, J. Kimmet, V. Baumann, M. Gweyn, Sr. Ann Rene McConn, M. Kuhl, K. Strasser, I. McNulty, S. Ryan, M. Gore, S. Lewis, B. Lee

Excused: J. Henke, J. Sess

Recording Secretary: Mary Jenkins

TIFF Funds, WestCURC, and Bracken Woods

Markiea Gore, development officer with Cincinnati's Office of Economic Development, reported on Westwood's TIFF funds, the \$110,000 returned to the fund from the property slated to house the new fire station, and developments on Bracken Woods Ln. J. Kimmet added details to the discussion of property acquisition on Bracken Woods. Of the 24 properties desired by Westwood for demolition for the construction of new single family homes, two are owned by the City and six homeowners have indicated a willingness to sell. WestCURC is conducting title searches. The fund has \$340,000 available for property acquisition. Additional funds from TIFF and CDBG are set aside for administrative costs. Ms. Gore also noted that the Bell building, to be acquired by WestCURC with funding from a NBDIP grant, the title to be deeded to Madcap Puppets, should be under contract in March.

GG'z Food Mart

M. Kuhl asked S. Ryan, Cincinnati building inspector, about the status of compliance orders on GG'z Food Mart at 3018 Harrison Avenue. Windows and doors have been boarded up at the store, which is in business. The owner of the building has been cited for hazardous conditions, but the building is in foreclosure, so it is taking time to get the store owner to address the problem.

2680 Schaffer Avenue

In response to a question, S. Ryan reported that 2680 Schaffer, a long-time problem property, was vacant, was recently purchased, and is currently occupied. It will be ordered vacated again.

"Triangle" Building at Harrison & Boudinot Avenues

V. Baumann reported that a bulkhead along the side of the building has been open creating a 5-6' hole and other problems. S. Ryan said that inspectors will check it out.

Parking on Lawn

M. Gweyn commented on people parking their cars on their lawns which is against zoning code. The Building department will write orders and, if citations are ignored, there is a \$500/day fine.

Hamilton County Landbank

S. Ryan was asked to come to the March steering meeting to discuss the landbank, Hamilton County's land reutilization corporation.

CWCA

MOTION by V. Baumann to pay CWCA \$55, \$15 for an annual membership and \$40 for sponsorship of the Young Citizens Award.

SECONDED by M. Jenkins.

Discussion of WCA's Student of the Year Award and CWCA's Young Citizens Award suggested that attendees generally favored support for just one of those initiatives. M. Kuhl voiced objection to the WCA Student of the Year Award. K. Strasser offered to organize the Student of the Year Award with I. McNulty's help.

FAILED 9-2.

MOTION by J. Kimmet to pay CWCA \$15 for an annual membership.

SECONDED by Sr. Ann Rene McConn.

PASSED unanimously.

District 3 Resources Committee

MOTION by J. Kimmet to pay the District 3 Resource Committee annual fee.

SECONDED by J. McNulty.

PASSED unanimously.

Western Economic Council

MOTION by V. Baumann to pay the \$50 annual membership fee to Western Economic Council.

SECONDED by M. Gweyn.

PASSED unanimously.

Harrison & Boudinot Avenues

Lt. Debbie Bauer will meet with members of the WCA board at Panera Bread at 5:00 p.m. on February 20, 2012 to discuss strategies for improving the Harrison & Boudinot intersection, in terms of crime reduction, family friendliness, business relations, and more. That group is to report back at the next steering meeting.

Westwood School

B. Weber expressed concern that, although the committee membership hasn't been established, a group has been representing WCA regarding schools. J. McNulty noted that he asked the volunteers to prepare for a meeting with CPS superintendant Mary Ronan. Discussion of Westwood School ensued, continuing discussion of a December 2011 WCA decision to invite the principal of Westwood School to a meeting to ask how WCA can help the school. There was general agreement that the WCA board wants to see Westwood School develop as a city-wide school with a particular focus and as a school of choice. Some of the points raised in the discussion included: efforts like this require community involvement, the Westwood School enjoys parent support and participation, the board wants a board member on the LSDMC, and board members want to see a stronger school. There was general agreement that the questions prepared for Superintendant Ronan by the group appointed by J. McNulty were acceptable.

MOTION by J. Kimmet to appoint J. Minor as WCA's representative to Westwood School's Local School Decision Making Committee.

SECONDED by K. Strasser.

PASSED unanimously.

Form-Based Codes

Sr. Ann Rene McConn handed out a description of Cincinnati's planning process for implementation of form-based codes. She asked board members to help distribute the flyers, inviting residents to the March 6, 2012 meeting about form-based codes and Westwood and to an April 28 city-wide meeting.

Meeting with Chief Craig

M. Kuhl reported on a recent meeting of WCA representatives with Police Chief Craig. She described it as a good meeting, focused on chronic nuisance issues. Chief Craig was amenable to WCA involvement in drafting procedures related to the chronic nuisance ordinance. Chris Kearney and B. Weber volunteered for an advisory committee that Chief Craig is appointing. There will be a follow up meeting with the city solicitor and Captain Neville in attendance.

WCA Board Election

J. McNulty noted that there are still two vacancies on the WCA board now, apart from the positions that will open when current terms end this spring. Nominations close at the next meeting.

MOTION by M. Kuhl to declare J. Henke's position vacant due to frequent, though excused, absences.

SECONDED by B. Weber.

FAILED 6-2.

MOTION by M. Kuhl to appoint I. McNulty to the WCA board, filling the remaining one year of an open seat.

SECONDED by V. Baumann.

PASSED unanimously.

Gamble House

M. Kuhl reported on the status of the Gamble House. A motion will go before City Council this week to require the city solicitor to appeal the recent court decision to allow Greenacres to demolish the Gamble House.

Mailing List

In the interest of increasing membership and means of communicating with members, a proposal was made to use Constant Contact for list management and communications.

MOTION by B. Weber to spend up to \$250 in 2012 for Constant Contact email marketing service.

SECONDED by M. Kuhl.

PASSED unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Mary Jenkins