

Westwood Civic Association

Steering Meeting, July 10, 2012

Present: J. Kimmet, M. Jenkins, M. Conda, V. Baumann, M. Kuhl, B. Weber, J. Hildebrand,
M. Gweyn, N. D'Angelo
Excused: J. Minor, T. Minor, J. Sess, K. Strasser
Absent: I. McNulty, J. Henke

J. Kimmet called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes

Minutes of the June 19, 2012 meeting were reviewed. A number of corrections to attendance and spelling of names is needed. Minutes will be reconsidered at the next meeting.

Invitees

As discussed at the June 19 meeting, M. Kuhl will be inviting various officials and business leaders to future meetings, including Traffic and Engineering employees to discuss street improvement projects and shopping plaza and store representatives to discuss shopping carts and other issues.

Police Chief's Advisory Board

B. Weber updated attendees on Police Chief Craig's advisory board. It was the understanding of neighborhood council representatives that they were to remain on the newly created board. However, after an initial meeting they were dismissed with Chief Craig asking for selection of a single representative from neighborhood associations. After discussion, the chief said he would hold a forum with neighborhood council representatives every three months. That meeting has not yet been scheduled. The North Avondale Neighborhood Association drafted a letter to the chief requesting scheduling of a meeting.

MOTION by M. Jenkins to add WCA as a signatory to the letter

SECONDED by V. Baumann

APPROVED unanimously

Committees

Several committees have scheduled meetings for the coming weeks. Outreach is meeting on July 15, as is Problem Properties. M. Conda noted that Problem Properties wants to include "and Development" in its name. Membership reported \$300 in advertising revenue. M. Jenkins reported on the Westwood Community Gardens, which is now part of Infrastructure, on its t-shirts and its priority projects. M. Gweyn requested reimbursement for supplies for planters.

MOTION by M. Jenkins to approve \$177.98 for reimbursement of supplies through designated NSP funds to M. Gweyn for flower pot planting supplies

SECONDED by M. Conda

APPROVED unanimously

WestFest

M. Jenkins reported that WCA earned \$754 with its Mugslide booth in 2012. That was an increase over 2011's proceeds of \$716. No expenses were submitted for reimbursement. However, V. Baumann reported that a \$50 bill that was accepted in payment at the booth was counterfeit, thus reducing proceeds to a disappointing \$704. Several negative factors about the event were discussed, including the labor involved, the low earnings, the single player factor, and this year, no flags or t-shirts for sale.

M. Jenkins suggested that the event be referred to the Membership committee to consider whether WCA will participate in WestFest in 2013 and to consider other possible festival events and games. V. Baumann requested reimbursement for markers to test for counterfeit bills.

MOTION by B. Weber to approve reimbursement of \$9.90 to V. Baumann for markers

SECONDED by N. D'Angelo

APPROVED unanimously

Westwood Yard Sale

WCA will participate in the yard sale at Westwood Town Hall on July 21, 2012. Two spaces were reserved. All board members are asked to participate. M. Kuhl is coordinating it.

3050 Harrison Avenue

Board members reviewed a request for alteration of a commercial permit to allow a daycare to operate at 3050 Harrison Avenue. There was general objection to the permit request as it is not in keeping with WCA's plan for development of the business district.

MOTION by B. Weber for WCA to submit its objection to the request for permit

SECONDED by M. Kuhl

APPROVED unanimously

3654 Boudinot Avenue

V. Baumann reported that the City is considering a request for zoning variance for 3654 Boudinot Avenue to change it to a three family residential. This would be a significant deviation from the nature of the single family residential nature of the neighborhood.

MOTION by M. Gweyn for WCA to indicate its opposition to the request for variance

SECONDED by N. D'Angelo

APPROVED unanimously

Port Authority meeting

Discussion was held about the time and the prospective attendees for the planned meeting on August 14 of Port Authority and WCA representatives to discuss matters related to problem properties.

Because key board members are unavailable to meet at that time, there was a desire to reschedule.

MOTION by M. Conda for J. Kimmet to contact the Port Authority to reschedule the meeting

SECONDED by M. Kuhl

APPROVED unanimously

Bracken Woods Project

J. Kimmet distributed a spreadsheet showing all of the Bracken Woods project properties and their statuses. The city owns two of the properties now and WestCURC is negotiating for another. Scott Ryan from Building Inspections is reviewing properties for violations.

Chronic Nuisance Properties

B. Weber reported on the top chronic nuisance properties in Westwood, as listed by the police: 2400 Harrison and 3148 Bracken Woods. She expressed her frustration with progress on and interpretation of chronic nuisance issues, largely because there is a tendency to allow abatement plans for some problems to allow for ignoring other behaviors that are equally troubling. WCA will probably need to meet again with the city solicitor assigned to chronic nuisance issues.

Westside News

Fox 19 continues to look for Westside bloggers to report news and events on its website. M. Jenkins has an account now and is willing to post stories as others feed them to her. Also, others are invited to take on reporting as desired. Suggested stories include the yard sale and matters involving 2604 Harrison.

Westwood School

J. Kimmet reported on J. Minor's behalf that a meeting was held with J. Minor, K. Strasser, M. Battle (Westwood School principal), and Dina Hicks (WTH manager) in attendance. It was decided that there would be a joint open house on a date to be determined in September to highlight both locations.

Roadside sales

M. Kuhl reported that a man has been selling items from a booth set up first at the former Kroger on Harrison at McHenry and then from 2468 Harrison. He was reported on McHenry at Fyffe also. M. Kuhl is following up on the issue with Officer Minella, as the sales are occurring on private property.

Membership Canvassing

M. Conda asked if we could reschedule the membership canvassing planned for the Morningridge area. It was agreed that WCA board members would meet on July 24, 2012 at 7 p.m. for canvassing to invite area residents to join WCA.

Adjournment

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jenkins, in the absence of the Recording Secretary