

June 19th General Meeting of WCA

Present:

Tom Minor, Michelle Conda, Mary Jenkins, Irene McNulty, John Sess, Becky Weber, Valerie Baumann, Karen Strasser, Mary Kuhl and Melva Gweyn. Joel Kimmet, Jill Minor and Jerry Hildebrand excused. Joe Henke and Nick D'Angelo absent.

Mary Kuhl called the meeting to order.

Fire Department Report:

The numbers seem to be about the same with this house being the second busiest in the City. The fireman will be "filling the boot" the weekend of June 30th. There will be no smoke detector program this summer because there is no money to do so, but, if requested, the fire department can find a way to get a smoke detector for someone in need. There was a three minute response time from the fire department and EMTs when Michelle Conda had her accident.

Police Report:

Officer Rich Minella reported for the CPD. The May crime stats were distributed. A pilot program for prosecuting shop lifters at retail stores is being started. Thefts at retail stores take up too much CPD time. The store where the left has occurred will get information on the suspect, confirm with the police department and then the police will go sign a warrant on the shoplifter and pick them up. So much time will not be wasted if this program is a success. Shoplifting of merchandise under \$1000.00 is now being prosecuted as a misdemeanor. If there is an existing warrant on the shoplifter, the store can release the suspect. Per Becky Weber, "How do the stores feel about it?" Becky Weber feels the stores won't like it. Per Officer Minella, many of the stores don't prosecute anyway. Once caught and arrested, all of the stores have a form that the criminal signs that says they won't come back. Per Tom Minor, who used to be a Kroger store manager, nine out of ten criminals don't carry identification. Per Officer Minella, if we don't know who the criminal is, store and CPD won't let the criminal walk out. Per Jim McNulty, Rolling Ridge is looking worn down with lots of garbage, tall grass, etc. Two suspects on the Midway School arson are under investigation.

Treasurer's Report

No report..

Motion to approve the June 12th Steering minutes

Seconded by Michelle Conda

All in favor

Motion to approve May General Meeting minutes made by John Sess

Seconded by Mary Jenkins

All in Favor

Guests –

Sandra Tolliver – CPS District Parent Mentor

Ann Bailey – Dater High School Resource Coordinator

Problem Properties –

Jim McNulty would like to schedule a meeting next week to discuss problem properties. Will send an email to the committee. Mary Kuhl asked if we have we actually reported the Beppos property to the City? Mary Kuhl will report this property to the City. The broken glass on the property needs to be repaired.

Membership/promotions

Westwood yard sale Saturday, 7/21

Half full on spots. Mary Kuhl gave this report. Offer to collect/pick up items that we can sell. Per Mary Kuhl, to promote WCA we should occasionally pick a street, go door to door, have some membership applications, and get out and talk to people. We can pick an area and canvas. Per Mary Jenkins, we can pick a few dates to go out – let's do a Thursday first to see how it goes. Thursday, 6/28 at 6:30 with a cookout at John Sess' afterwards with Mary Kuhl sending out a reminder email. We should bring extra copies of Westwords. Valerie can pick up extra copies from Reliable Letter. Copies usually go to Town Hall, Westwood Library and Tom Bonhaus who puts them in customer's cars.

Westfest – Report given by Mary Jenkins.

We still need Sat. and Sunday volunteers. The signup sheet was passed around. We are booth number 25 on the corner of Glenmore and Harrison. It sounds like a good spot. Last year the radio station pushed us down a little when they showed up at the last minute. Parking permits are available.

Education -

Per Karen Strasser, a meeting is coming up with Liz Kizzell, Monica Battle and Jill Minor to see where Westwood School is coming from on this subject.

Business district –

No report

Motion from John Sess that the WCA President will send a letter to Traffic and Engineering to see when Montana will be complete. Motion tabled.

Safety –

Meeting after first week in July per Becky Weber. We want to let Mark Manning know where the focus should be.

Infrastructure -

Per Melva Gweyn, who attended meeting downtown. Melva would like to use a model working well in Little Italy in New York City. More info to come.

Community Gardens -

Per Mary Jenkins, the grant has ended from Keep Cinti Beautiful. Top priorities will be the retaining wall, fence between nursing home and gardens and the tool shed. \$1400 after balance paid to Mills Fence. Steve and Cinda Gorman gave us a chipper/shredder.

Newletter –

Per Becky Weber, the deadline will be early again this month. Becky needs all articles by next week.

Gamble house -

Per Mary Kuhl, today is the last day for Green Acres to file an appeal. What if they don't get one? We don't know the answer to that question yet.

General Discussion -

Having guests at meetings – who do we want? Mary Kuhl recommends we have a point person and go ahead and get great speakers and guests. Coming up Harrison in the curve, they are working to straighten the curve up. Montana – when will it be finished? Let's have a report from the City on all of this. We should ask the City to come back and give us a status report on all of these projects. Give Mary Kuhl a list of who we want to come and what we want to talk about – Mary Kuhl is requesting that our board come up with this list. Per Becky Weber, have Ed Cunningham come back and visit. We need to keep reminding him of what we want to do with TIF money, what buildings we want torn down, etc. Bill Jacoby with the Health Dept is in charge of yards with tall grass. Councilman Smitherman had a meeting with Bill Jacoby to talk about tall grass. We could have a fund raiser and cut grass. Mary Kuhl will talk to Chris Smitherman about his conversation with Bill Jacoby. Per Sharon Lewis, shopping carts are being left everywhere. We want all of the managers/bosses here from Target, Krogers, Save a Lot, Bed Bath and Beyond, etc. All of the big bosses should be here at once. Per Melva, Save A Lot needs to address the tables set up in their parking lot under the trees. These are not Save a lot tables. These are squatters who are trespassing. The Save a Lot Manager is working with us. Mary Jenkins would like to hear from Cheviot Westwood Business Assn regarding plans for the Cheviot Arts District. Ask WestCurc to follow up with the idea of joining forces. Ray Croner is the President of CWBA. Per John Sess, Amanda Carlisle will still be doing the Art Show even though she is moving.

Per Jim McNulty, no orders on 3207 Harrison Ave. Plywood and no glass.

On 3/23, sidewalk closing down because of a demo permit.

Per Michelle Conda, what is happening with the stop sign at LaFeuille and Westbrook? Mary Jenkins says City Council voted in favor of the stop sign.

The Director of Town Hall, Dina Hanks would like to be at the meeting with Monica Battle, Karen Strasser and Jill Minor.

Per the Director of Town Hall, "Art for All" artwork is displayed in the Town Hall courtyard area. "Art for All" maps were left for us. The yard sale, July 21, will be held from 9a.m. – 2p.m. this year. We will catch a bigger crowd with these times. Setup will be at 8a.m. We are 50% full on yard sale spaces. The Westwood Yard Sale is not advertised on Craig's list at this time. The Town Hall Director has no problem with John Sess putting the ad up on Craig's list. It is already posted up on Town Hall's program information guide. Dina Hanks brought flyers for programs this summer and she will start working on programs for the fall in two weeks. Town Hall program quarters will now go on a three month basis based on summer being June, July and

August. She would like to showcase Town Hall during the Westwood Art Show. Town Hall now has twenty quilt racks for future use. More and more families and kids are participating in Town Hall programs than ever before. A CRC card is on \$10.00 and is good for a year.

Last year WCA sold pizza at the Art Show and made \$350.00. Selling fruit smoothies is an option for the Art Show. We sold frappaccinos at St. Catharine's Festival. We will reach out to Amanda Carlisle to see what our options might be.

Sharon Lewis – watched Liveable Communities Committee meeting today on television. Four Cincinnati communities had items on the agenda. One community received special permission to get overlays on their business district. We should have somebody here from Liveable Communities as a guest.

Per Becky Weber, we should follow up on the business area meeting. Becky will follow up with Lt. Debi Bauer. Do we want to do another Good Guy Loitering? Becky Weber will send out an email tomorrow regarding this. City Council is getting ready to raise our property taxes. Contact all of them. Some of them are already against it. This is close to going through.

Per Jim McNulty, with the property that is going to be the new firehouse on Harrison Avenue, the contractor is paying the City rent. Should that rent money go into our TIF fund? Our TIF fund bought that property. The Fire Dept was supposed to reimburse our TIF fund \$150,000 when the property was purchased. As head of the Problem Properties Committee, Jim McNulty will check into this.

CMHA is doing a survey. Only 212 in the county have filled it out. It is a major housing study. Most people said we don't need more rental, etc. From the results they have so far, they have no clear vision of what people want. Becky Weber will send the link to the constant contact list.

John Sess has a few receipts for weed and feed and he needs to be reimbursed.

Motion - Irene McNulty motioned that we pay John Sess for the Weed and Feed, totaling \$46.80. Mary Jenkins seconded. All in favor.

Jim McNulty – WCA owns a big bottle of round up. City cut the grass at Boudinot and Glenway. Valerie Baumann identified a problem at Glenway and Boudinot. Jim McNulty has a 210 gallon water tank in his back yard and we can fill it up at Town Hall for free.

Per Mary Kuhl, petitions dropped to her asking for signatures to be able to recall a mayor – trying to get this on the City's books. Right now, if we have a problem with the Mayor, we can't recall him. Joel could contact Duke Energy regarding the street car tax – the City and Duke are fighting about who will be paying the bill for the gas lines to be moved, etc. Duke says that they won't pay it. We should get somebody from Duke to come here and speak to it – Mary Kuhl can't make that call. Joel should.

Melva has the West Fest banners – they need grommets.

Motion to adjourn by Michelle Conda.

Seconded by John Sess
All in favor