

November 20th Westwood Civic Association General Meeting Minutes
Submitted by Karen Strasser, Secretary

Present: Joel Kimmet, Karen Strasser, Valerie Bamann, Becky Weber, Melva Gweyn, Michelle Conda, Mary Kuhl, Mary Jenkins, Irene McNulty, Jerry Hildebrand, Jim McNulty, John Sess

Excused: Jill Minor, Tom Minor

Police Report:

Lt. Richardson and Officer Jennifer Myers were present and Officer Myers gave the following Cincinnati Police Department report: Violent crime down 14%, and thefts from autos down 29%. Officer Meyers advised us to never leave valuables visible in your car. CPD is trying to prevent car break ins. Becky Weber spoke with regard to solicitation at the Western Hills Plaza. Miss Weber witnessed people going around soliciting for funds for drug rehab. Mary Kuhl would like the Plaza management company to know that there are solicitors hanging out at the Plaza and no soliciting signs should be strictly enforced. Per Michelle Conda, two kids always sit outside of Bath and Body Works selling candy. Michelle told the store management and management said, "They're not hurting anyone are they?" Per Lt. Richardson, at Thanksgiving, CPD transitions into Holiday Task force mode at all of the shopping centers. Per Melva Gwyn, Target does not allow pan handlers. Per Lt. Richardson, a few officers are being moved to Westwood in about a week and CPD is implementing online crime reporting. Per Jerry Hildebrand, Captain Neville always spoke of sector policing. Lt. Richardson spoke with regard to sector policing. It has not worked like Captain Neville was hoping. Captain Neville would like to put a District 3 office somewhere centrally located in Westwood. Per Lieutenant Richardson, the Chief has just received a proposal for the software that CPD would like to use to implement online crime reporting. Hopefully this will be up and running sooner than later.

There was a shooting on Sarvis. Becky Weber questioned the fact that no officers ever came down Sarvis. Per Lieutenant Richardson, there were two different shootings that night within a block of Harrison and Sarvis. An officer responded, but didn't see anything. The dispatcher messed up by lumping many calls together that came in on this matter. Becky Weber asked, what is the best procedure to use when shots being fired need to be reported? Lieutenant Richardson advised us to call 911 when shots are being fired. With this particular situation, a kid was hiding under a car and someone was hiding behind a house and there was no response by police. Per Mary Kuhl, we keep hearing that crime is down, but if crime is down, why aren't there any police able to respond when a crime is reported? Per Richardson, crime is down throughout the City. It is irritating when police are not able to respond to calls. Per Becky Weber, how good are the stats? Are you reporting all of the calls that come in? Per John Sess, it is about the

number of reported crimes. Per Joel Kimmet, we are concerned about not getting a response from police when we really need an officer to respond. Kimmet handled a situation himself when no officers were responding to his request.

Kimmet reported that when he called 8 times regarding Sarvis, it was reported as one called. (lumped together) it was one call because Kimmet was the only person who called. If multiple neighbors call about a situation, it is handled more credibly. Per Irene McNulty, we are not happy with our police service right now. Please share this with Chief Craig. Per Jim McNulty, we know that the police go run to run all day and night long. The answer hopefully would be having the police working with the community while partnering to get the real problem properties removed. The police see the terrible buildings. In the long run, it would make the CPD's job much easier. Per Lt. Richardson, Mark Manning is trying to make CMHA accountable for their properties.

**Motion by Mary Jenkins to approve the WCA October General Meeting minutes, seconded by Michelle Conda
All in favor**

Mr. Brinker – owner of 3344 Glenmore

Mr. Brinker has been more active the past six months in managing his property. He has one concern regarding one of his stores selling stolen property – currently nobody is doing that. The cellular store is not selling drug paraphernalia. They sell hookahs. The convenience store does not sell paraphernalia either. Per Jerry Hildebrand, why would one sell hookahs in a cell phone store? Per Joel Kimmet, we will go to the store and check back because it has been almost a year since we have been there. Lastly, concerning the kids who hang out in front of the stores and in the parking lot at 3344 Glenmore, the kids are there daily anywhere from 3p.m. -1a.m. Some of the kids have guns and/or knives. The employees suspect that the kids do sell drugs there. The tenants are calling the police and are asking them to leave. The tenants believe that the loiterers drive customers away. Per Valerie Baumann, do any of the stores have “No Loitering” signs? Mr. Brinker answered, “Yes.” Officer Rich Minella will check the frequency of calls from the tenants at 3344 Glenmore. This tenant claims to call the police frequently. The police are advising Mr. Brinker to improve the lighting, play classical music and make the wall between UDF and the property uncomfortable to sit upon.

Lastly, Mr. Brinker would be interested in selling the property. Per John Sess, Domino's pizza signs are in the right away and need to be removed between the sidewalk and the curb at 3344 Glenmore. Please let the shops know that it is illegal to have the signs between the sidewalk and the curb. Per Mary Kuhl, it is odd that the little stores can't seem to get the bad guys off of their property. UDF doesn't have a problem. It seems that the managers aren't doing what they say they are doing. Kuhl, can't compare Target to S & H Market. The little drive thru on Harrison Ave. doesn't have any trouble because the owner doesn't put up with it. Per Becky Weber, when these problems started about a year ago, the Cell Phone store owner and the Convenience Store owner did nothing to run off the loiterers.

Per Michelle Conda, with regard to 3344. A C1 was given to the Market at 3344 Glenmore. Our opposition was lost in transit. Keith Foreman handles the liquor permit objections. Due process was not followed. There was supposed to be a meeting with all concerned parties if the Community Council opposed the liquor license. For some reason, there was a breakdown and that didn't happen. We are supposed to bring evidence as to why we were opposed. There will be a meeting next week to see how to prevent this type of breakdown from happening again. A C2, which is a permit for liquor, not hard liquor, but rather margarita mix, etc. and wine is working its way through the system at this time.

Per Joel Kimmet, there are some interesting speakers coming here in the upcoming months:

December 18, Ed Cunningham – City Buildings and Inspections

December 18, William Weber – Port Authority

Committee Reports –

Outreach – we are crafting a message to organizations in westwood and trying to reach these organization.

Infrastructure – John Sess

John Sess is still working on getting rid of the advertising benches. It is in the budget for next year, that WCA be charge 300.00 per bench to move the benches for us. John said, what about the community involvement? They say we can't do it in case somebody gets hurt. If the budget passes, the City will start to pick up the illegal advertising benches. John Sess would like to write for a grant to get new, nearly damage proof benches in Westwood.

Membership and promotion –

Per Becky Weber, don't forget to RSVP for the Xmas party. Also, please look for houses to nominate for Holiday yard of the week for during the Holidays.

Public Safety

Becky Weber will be meeting with Chris Kearney and representatives from Avondale to learn more about the Moral Voice.

School Enhancement –

We are recruiting for the schools LSDMC

Melva Gweyn will be on the LSDMC for Midway.

Karen Strasser will put a call out in the newsletter that we are looking LSDMC members for all of the schools

Bracken Wood TIF Project Update -Joel Kimmet

- 3126 has vacated the property and wants to sell. The bank is willing to work with WestCURC.
- 3143 will be perhaps donated and is going through the bank to get permissions to work with WestCURC.

Per Jim McNulty, what can the land bank people do to help us? Per Joel Kimmet, there has to be a tax delinquency in order for the Port Authority to get involved.

With regard to Bracken Woods, WestCURC buys the property, it is deeded over to the City and then we can then get it rezoned.

Mary Kuhl got the city to give us the list of buildings scheduled to be demolished as well as the list of vacated properties. Michelle Conda will put these up on the WCA website

COPPS

Citezens on Patrol recently patrolled down on Orland. They saw lots of litter, tires, etc. in the wooded area. Around the back of 2280 Orland, there is a broken window with no boarding or anything. Tagging can be seen. Broken glass was all over the place. The steps are in terrible disrepair. This is not a good place for children to play and there are kids playing. The property is a mess. Per John Sess, is this on the nuisance list? It is on the list of properties ordered vacant and it is condemned at the same time. There are windows open on the top floor, with missing and broken glass. Joel Kimmet requested that the COPPS go around 3344 Glenmore and see if what Mr. Brinker says is happening is really happening. Some COPP reports on Sarvis would be good to.

Community Gardens Report –

Per Mary Jenkins the Gardens were awarded 3rd place for a Sustainable Communities award by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful.

The core team has made some changes to the rules for next year. New gardeners and renewing gardners will need to look at the rules for next year. Mary Jenkins will do a budget report at the next meeting. Street Vibes newsletter has a great article about the Gardens in their current issue. The retaining wall project is now finished. Only one dirt pile is left. There are a few low spots that need to be filled. By spring, all of the dirt will be leveled off.

Per Sharon Lewis , Westwood School's address is wrong on their website. Karen Strasser will notify Monica Battle, school Principal.

**Motion to adjourn made by Melva Gweyn, seconded by Jerry Hildebrand
All in favor**