

**WCA General Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2012
submitted by Karen Strasser**

In Attendance:

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

Absent:

Joe Henke, Nick D'Angelo

WCA President Joel Kimmet called the meeting to order. He welcomed guests Tyrone Miller, resident of Westwood for four years and Steve Smookler, Council of Aging.

MOTION BY MARY JENKINS to approve the 8/21/12 WCA general meeting minutes
SECONDED by John Sess.

ALL IN FAVOR

Police Report – PO Rich Minella

PO Jennifer Myers came with Officer Minella to learn about Westwood.

Officer Minella distributed the August crime statistics.

On August 30, the police executed seven simultaneous search warrants on drug dealers. This involved over 100 officers. Lower level drug dealers/suppliers were arrested later in the afternoon.

District Three received money to tear down buildings. One recent teardown was a house damaged by fire. Kuhl reminded us that our goal is to tear down multi-family homes and apartments, not single-family homes, in accordance with the Westwood Strategic Plan.

Requests to PO Minella:

1. Check for people using the turning lane on Montana Ave. as a passing lane. It would be good to up patrols during rush hour, especially the afternoon. (Jenkins and Conda)
2. Car parked in ROW on Woodrow (Conda)
3. Bicycles being sold in front of a home at 3058 Glenmore. Now there is a wood-burning stove out front (Hildebrand). Officer Minella said he had talked with the gentleman about the bikes. Members report it is a person renting from the owner that is causing the problems.
4. Drug dealings on Sarvis Court (Weber)
5. Patrols near Westwood School when it lets out. Several fights have occurred (McNulty)
6. Midway School needs patrols—kids throwing litter and fighting. PO Minella said he would call the principal. (Sharon Lewis)

Liquor License Issue

(Kimmel) 3344 Glenmore has applied for a liquor license. This is a new liquor license application because this is technically a new business. It appears that what is actually happening is this is going to be the same business with a new name. We voted at the August meeting to oppose the liquor license based on problems that COPPs had at this address. An officer called Joel Kimmet and said that the police aren't going to oppose the liquor license because it is a new business with no record of liquor trouble at this address. Joel Kimmet went through and saw page after page of violations listed on the city website. We are asking Officer Minella to please tell Captain Neville that we are upset.

Officer Rich Minella explained there could not be an objection by District Three because there was no background on the business to show violations. There will be another meeting where the Cincinnati Police Department can object to a liquor license for this business based on criminal activity at this address. The Westwood Civic Association can still vehemently object.

(McNulty). Did the Rheem Market at 3222 McHenry get there liquor license back? We need to check into this.

Liquor license permit request letters are also sent to Dina Hanks at Town Hall. She has offered to forward them to us.

The State of Ohio and City of Cincinnati requested a 30-day extension in order to approve or deny the liquor license application for the following:

2026 Harrison Avenue
3222 McHenry – Rheem Market
S and H market – 3344 Glenmore

O Charlie's, 5070 Crookshank, requests a transfer of ownership for their liquor license.
MOTION BY JOHN SESS that we don't oppose this.
SECONDED BY MARY KUHL
ALL IN FAVOR

There is never enough time for us to respond to liquor license issues. Mary Kuhl will check into this with the proper authorities.

Fire Report – Captain Freel

Construction has been started on the new Fire Station with an expected move in date of Autumn 2013.

The Westwood Fire House will host an Open House in mid October 2012. Exact date to be announced.

A fire truck will be available for the Celebrate Westwood event on September 29, 2012.

Per Sharon Lewis, what is the policy of a car parked blocking fireplug for many months? At the corner of Hannah and Mayridge Court, there is always a black car with license plates “King Ken” parked illegally at a fireplug. The Fire Department can report it to the police and police will ticket the car. The policy is that a vehicle cannot be parked within ten inches on either side of a fireplug.

Turn in newsletter items

The WCA newsletter deadline is the first of the month. It would help greatly if you turned in your items without having to be reminded on a monthly basis.

Holiday Yard of the Month

Becky Weber showed us the sign for Holiday Yard of the Week. Jill Minor suggested that if resident is not home, a letter should be left with the sign

Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio—Steve Smookler

There is an elderly services levy coming up in the November election. This levy provides funds to support seniors. Services available include Meals on Wheels, medical transport, personal care and Life Line. Most of the seniors who utilize these services do not qualify for Medicaid.

An example of a senior who uses these services would be a woman in their late 70’s who is wheelchair bound and needs dialysis 3 times each week. The Council on Aging takes her to dialysis so that family members don’t have to take off work.

95% of seniors would rather be living in their home versus a nursing home. Those who qualify for services have intermittent help from family, an income less than 20,000, are at least 60 years old, home bound and frail. 1/3 of recipients provide financial support towards the services they are receiving.

There is no financial screening for Meals on Wheels in Hamilton County. If these recipients didn’t have this support, they would end up in a nursing home.

This levy coming up is at the same level as 5 years ago and is 1.29 mills meaning there is no increase.

Facts to know on this issue:

- 1 in 4 household have someone 65 years or older.
- The 85 and older population is growing the fastest.
- In Hamilton County, there are 16,000 seniors 75 and older.
- 1 out of 5 live close to poverty level.

How is this 1.29 mills spent? (Sess)

The Council on Aging operating costs are 6%.

Go to www.help4seniors.org and www.helpforelderly.org for a breakdown of these costs.

Do you only assist low-income seniors? (Bauman)

No. The lowest income seniors get similar services through Medicaid. These services are for the middle class person who does not qualify for Medicaid.

Valerie Baumann was told by the Council on Aging that they have a hard time finding people who want to work on Saturdays and she was very disappointed. She has a family member who needed these services.

Somebody called Mary Kuhl regarding the Glenmore Avenue building where the Council on Aging was formerly located. Mr. Smookler didn't know specifically about the building. He reports the services are contracted out.

CRC/Westwood Town Hall—Dina Hanks

The CRC programs held at Westwood Town Hall are running now through November. These programs are for preschoolers on up. We need to try and get more people in the building. We have distributed 3000 to 4000 brochures and we are still having trouble getting people into the building.

Dina needs our help in getting the word out. The classes are small.

Dina is trying to go old school and put things into print. Direct mail promotional pieces have been mailed to homes, etc. Many people tell her that they don't get the Internet. She has a talented staff who may lose their jobs because classes are not filling up. They are expecting a 1-1.2million decrease in funding for 2013 CRC citywide.

The City Manager will let the CRC know what the budget looks like for 2013 at the end of the month. Westwood Town hall could be on the chopping block for 2013. They are looking at the cost of the upkeep on the building. Dina is looking for suggestions for classes at Town Hall for next quarter.

It was suggested staff go door to door to promote services, classes, etc. to let parents know that the programs are being offered. Dina says she must use time and funding wisely to promote the center.

Plan Cincinnati

Melva Gweyn attended the "Plan Cincinnati" meeting. City Council did not pass the plan. They are giving it another week. There is some talk about affordable housing. Roxanne Qualls said that she had just gotten a report regarding how market rate housing brings in economic growth. Melva Gweyn requested the report.

MOTION BY KAREN STRASSER that a letter be sent to each member of City Council reminding them that the Westwood Strategic Plan be considered as they are voting on the "Plan Cincinnati."

SECONDED BY MICHELLE CONDA

ALL IN FAVOR

Art Show –

Joel Kimmet thanked all volunteers from WCA who participated in the event. We worked at this event from 9a.m. – 6p.m.

There is a meeting scheduled for Monday to go over the Art Show and make plans for next year. Mary Kuhl requests that the meeting be rescheduled so that Becky Weber can attend. John Sess defers to Mary Kuhl to reschedule the meeting. This meeting will be helpful while it is fresh on everyone's mind. Get your receipts to Valerie Baumann immediately.

We approved up to \$400.00 at a previous meeting to cover the cost of drinks and food at the Art Show.

Insurance Issue –

We can no longer get insurance through Invest in Neighborhoods. Insurance companies have tightened their rules and regulations across the country. Since 1982, Invest in Neighborhoods has been insuring all of the Community Councils. The City was supposed to help, but so far nothing has happened through the City. WCA had to spend \$678.00 for insurance for the Art Show - \$378.00 for alcohol liability and the rest for the event in general. Joel Kimmet spoke to Joe Henke before the Art Show and gave him a copy of the insurance policy. Mr. Henke was asked if he wanted to help us with the insurance cost since half of the insurance alcohol liability was to cover Henke Winery. If this is not resolved by next year, the vendor fee can be increased, etc. This year, we had 34 hours to quickly get an insurance policy.

Four companies are going to give us estimates for insurance for the Celebrate Westwood and Howl of the Harvest Moon events.

MOTION BY MARY KUHL that we pay up to \$1,500 for a WCA annual insurance policy.

SECONDED BY MARY JENKINS

Discussion followed with a suggestion that we add officers and directors liability on the policy. (Jenkins and Conda)

The insurance ideally would be refundable if all of a sudden we get insurance through the City. (Sess)

Westwood Art Show

Mary Kuhl, thinks that the food and drink expenses of Art Show will not be higher than the \$400.00 that was approved, but the \$24.00 for ice may put us over the approved amount.

MOTION BY MARY KUHL to approve up to a \$100.00 overage on the approved amount of \$400.00 for the Art Show food and drink expenditure.

SECONDED BY MARY JENKINS

ALL IN FAVOR

Celebrate Westwood

Michelle Conda will pick up food from JTM and Queen City Sausage for the Celebrate Westwood Event. The event is developing as planned, with Cincinnati police, COPP, SWAT and many others in attendance. Food is available for a donation.

Howl at the Harvest Moon

John Sess is the Chairperson for the Howl At the Harvest Moon event being held at the Westwood Community Gardens on September 29th from 6:30 till 10:00 p.m.
Everyone is invited

MOTION BY KAREN STRASSER to take food left over from the Celebrate Westwood event on 9/29 to the Howl at the Harvest Moon Community Garden party.
SECONDED BY VALERIE BAUMANN
ALL IN FAVOR

Meet the Candidates

Per Mary Kuhl, there will be a Meet the Candidates night on 10/18 at Town Hall. Invites are going out tomorrow. Some Green Township people will be attending too. The doors will open at 6p.m. and the event will begin at 6:30p.m.

501 C3 status

Per Joel Kimmert, a committee has been formed to work on WCA attaining a 501c3 status. We are working on changing our designation, which is 501 c4 at the present time.

Per Becky Weber, the President of Mt. Washington Community Council says that they already worked on their 501 C3 status. The Clifton Community Council has also gone through this change and is about to get approved.

Per Joel Kimmert, how we write up this request for the status change is very significant. The Community Garden will be very helpful in getting us the 501C3 status.

Chronic Nuisance

Becky Weber informed us that she attended a meeting with Councilman Smitherman and Councilman Sittenfeld to discuss Chronic Nuisance. They were able to get the procedure stopped from going to Public Safety. Ms. Weber was able to talk to the new Director of CMHA. He agrees with not letting people participate in the voucher program if the building is in violation of the Chronic Nuisance Law. The new director believes voucher use is not a right, but a privilege.

There will be a meet and greet for the new director next Wednesday at 3:30 at the Refuge Bar.

With regard to 2311 Harrison Ave., new tenants are in and mattresses are already out on the road.

Westwood Civic Association Attendance Requirements for Board Members

Mary Kuhl wants WCA Board members to attend meetings. It is not right when Board members do not attend general meetings. Nick D'Angelo has not been to one meeting.

MOTION BY MARY KUHL that we send a letter to Nick D'Angelo removing him from the Board

SECONDED BY JOHN SESS.

Discussion followed.

The bylaws say that you have to miss 3 general meetings in a row.

John Sess asked Mary Kuhl to amend her motion.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

NEW MOTION PER MARY KUHL THAT Joel Kimmet email or write a letter requesting that Nick D'Angelo voluntarily resign from the WCA Board.

SECONDED BY JOHN SESS

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION BY MARY KUHL that we remove Joe Henke from the WCA Board.

SECONDED BY JERRY HILDEBRAND

Discussion followed

MOTION FAILED

3 in favor, 10 opposed

MOTION BY JOHN SESS that we send Joe Henke a letter requesting that he voluntarily resign from the WCA Board.

SECONDED BY MARY JENKINS

Discussion followed

MOTION WITHDRAWN BY JOHN SESS

MOTION BY JOHN SESS that WCA send Joe Henke a letter requesting that he voluntarily resign or the Board will vote to remove him.

SECONDED BY MICHELLE CONDA

MOTION PASSED

11 in favor, 2 opposed

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY MARY KUHL

SECONDED BY JOHN SESS

ALL IN FAVOR