

December 10, 2013 Westwood Civic Association Steering Meeting
Submitted by Karen Strasser, Recording Secretary

President Joel Kimmet welcomed members and guests.

Present:

Becky Weber, Joe Corso, Mary Jenkins, Michelle Conda, Karen Strasser, Joel Kimmet, Mary Kuhl, Tom Hodges, Leslie Rich, Tom Minor, Jill Minor, Valerie Baumann, Melva Gweyn, Irene McNulty

Excused:

Jim McNulty

Joel Kimmet encouraged us to stay focused on Steering meetings being brainstorming sessions and planning meetings for the general meetings.

COPPS Report – Valerie Baumann

Valeria attended a meeting last week and Chief Blackwell was present. She mentioned that the CPD operates under Code Zero during most of the day and evening. Chief Blackwell said that he is going to make District 3 his priority. He also said that he would like to attend some Community Council meetings.

Deck the Hall – Leslie Rich

Leslie thanked WCA members who helped with the Deck the Hall event at Westwood Town Hall. We had approximately 200 – 250 people at the event and we received very good press. There was lots of positive feedback regarding the event. The plan is that this will be an annual event.

Holiday Yard of the Week – Becky Weber

Two of the Holiday Yard of the Week signs have disappeared. Becky would like to order five replacement signs.

Motion by Becky Weber, seconded by Mary Jenkins that we spend \$82.20 to purchase five additional Holiday Yard of the Week signs.

Discussion followed.

Becky has received \$310.00 in WCA monthly newsletter advertising money.

Motion passed unanimously.

Illegal Park Benches

J. Sess has been working with Keith Pettit. This issue is presently in arbitration.

501C4 Status

The WCA 501C4 application has been mailed to the IRS.

Joel Kimmet will track the progress of the re-application on the IRS website.

Problem Properties

- 2614 Harrison Avenue is out to bid for demolition.
- 2610 Harrison Avenue should be demolished. Once we get the no name store at 2614 demolished, Ed will put his efforts into that address. Joel has emailed Ed Cunningham about this property. There have been complains about these properties for years. The problem is that the auditor's website only shows the no name store at 2614 Harrison Avenue. 2610 Harrison Avenue doesn't come up on the auditor's website.
- 3134 Mozart - The trailer is still there. Joel Kimmet will make some calls.

Flags Along Harrison Avenue

The flag team removed the flags.

Jenkins and Strasser will evaluate the condition of the flags and repair those that can be repaired.

Nominating Committees

Joel Kimmet contacted the Nominating Committees today giving them instructions on what they need to be doing between now and January 1.

WCA Committees – Joel Kimmet

All chairpersons/co chairpersons please meet with your committee and have a report for the January Steering meeting. These meetings can be by conference call, etc. We need to get going on our committee work.

Coalition Report – Mary Jenkins

The planning Commission is meeting 12/13 to discuss FBC in the Business District. There was a public meeting on 12/2. Everyone here is invited to convey messages to the Planning Commission.

Next Steps will be to follow up on the specific recommendations regarding Westwood Square, Economic Development, Marketing, etc.

There is no Square pictured on the map. Traffic and Engineering is holding off on a Feasibility Study until the Regulating Plan is in place, before moving forward. The Feasibility Study will look at alternatives that have been suggested, looking at that area of that stretch of road, etc. Per Mary Jenkins understanding, they will be looking at everything that comes into play, such as utilities and other things, when looking at Epworth, Urwiler and Harrison Avenues.

It was suggested that the Coalition gather some community input on a WCA Meeting night because it can be difficult for some people to attend Saturday meetings.

Mary Kuhl asked about what alternative plans to the Westwood Square, as pictured on City plans, may be in play. Kuhl mentioned that Town Hall is the Heart of the Business District.

Kuhl filed a Freedom of Information Request to see what sketches they have made of alternate ideas for a town square. Kuhl then showed sketches that have now been presented by Cameron Ross' office.

(Kimmet) It might be nice to have some meetings where people could submit some alternative suggestions/drawings.

(Jenkins) Drawings were born from the charrettes followed by Community Forums. What came from that was a significant number of respondents identifying Epworth, Urwiler and Harrison as the heart or the center. The feasibility study may suggest that this intersection is not viable. The whole stretch will be looked at because we don't want the feasibility study to just be a yes or no regarding the Epworth, Urwiler, Harrison Avenue intersections.

(J. McNulty) Why are they waiting for the planning commission meeting to do the feasibility study?

(Kimmet) Would it hurt to have another meeting where we could submit some other designs?

(Conda) It would make more sense to have a feasibility study up and down the street and then revisit this issue.

(Jenkins) There has been lots of community input. We can talk until we are blue in the face but there are some real factors where we will take a look. The commitment has been made with \$10,000 being allocated for a feasibility study.

(Kimmet) We will look into how we will be charged for the feasibility study.

Report on Upcoming Guest Speakers – Joel Kimmet

We would love to schedule some great guest speakers for our upcoming meetings. For January and February we may try to invite some of the new City Council members. We can also introduce Mayor Cranley. Mary Kuhl is in charge of scheduling guest speakers so please send requests for specific guest speakers to her.

WCA Newsletter

Some of our members have not been getting newsletters and we are working very hard to make sure that all of our members are receiving their newsletters.

(Becky Weber) Printworks is taking a long time to print the newsletter thereby causing a delay in getting it out to members. We may need to look at a new provider. Last month the events were over by the time our members received a newsletter.

MSD Construction

MSD construction is starting on Queen City Avenue between Sunset and the Queen City bypass.

Website update – Mary Jenkins

Host Gator will be our new website host. The site is registered, but not built yet. Brian Lee will do the bulk of the transition work to the new website. The new provider is in place. Mary Jenkins made the payment for this service.

Motion by Becky Weber that we approve up to \$200.00, seconded by Tom Hodges to reimburse Mary Jenkins for expenses for setting up the Host Gator website.

Motion passed unanimously

(Sharon Lewis) The catwalk on Pickbury should be closed making the area a little bit more secured. Somebody needs to chase down this issue because it was approved by WCA several years ago. This is between Pickbury and Werk Road. Sharon asked the WCA Board look into pursuing closing this cat walk. (3275 Pickbury is the nearest address to the catwalk)

(M. Kuhl) Maybe John Sess should be talked to about this issue.

Joel Kimmet will contact John Sess.

The catwalk is not maintained, public comment has been invited on this issue with a sign and City Council voted to close this catwalk.

At the January general meeting, we will be talking about the NSP categories. This is a vote that can be taken by all of the WCA members. Joel Kimmet will write an article about this subject and put it in the WCA newsletter.

Motion by Karen Strasser that we not have a December General meeting if our members can be notified via constant contact. Seconded by Tom Hodges.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion to adjourn by Mary Jenkins, seconded by Michelle Conda. Meeting adjourned.