

February 12, 2013 Westwood Civic Association Steering Committee Minutes

Submitted by Karen Strasser

Present:

Becky Weber, Mary Jenkins, Karen Strasser, Melva Gweyn, Valerie Baumann, Joel Kimmet, Irene McNulty, Michelle Conda, Mary Kuhl, Jim McNulty

Excused:

Jill Minor, Tom Minor, Jerry Hildebrand

Absent:

John Sess

Westwood Art Show

The meeting opened with guest, Jess Thayer, Westwood Art show Coordinator. Her email address is thayerjl@gmail.com. Jess's phone number is 513.617.4391. The City has decided that everyone who does an event has to go through the same permitting process from large events (such as *Taste of Cincinnati*) to very small events. All vendors will be required to have a Transient Vendor's License. The license will cost \$25.00. This goes through the Ohio Vendor's Gateway. Jess will ask for the vendor's license number on the Art show application. Jess is willing to guide the vendors through the process if they need help. September 14th is the date of the Westwood Art Show. The permit application needs to be submitted to the City no less than 60 days prior to the event being scheduled.

Motion to accept Jess Thayer as our Art Show Coordinator by Michelle Conda

Seconded by Mary Jenkins

Motion approved – all in favor.

All of the vendors participating in the Art Show will be kept to the outside. This is designed to be easy for the patrons to navigate. John Lewendoski at MadCap has offered to open up the front lawn of the Bell Building and perhaps allow a food vendor on those grounds as well. Per Joel Kimmet, there should be no limit to the number of vendors. We want this event to be bigger and bigger every year. Per Becky Weber, last year, besides selling beer, we sold other alcoholic beverages. Per Mary Kuhl, WCA paid a huge fee for insurance, etc. and we need to get the Art Show Committee informed about all of these things. We feel that Amanda did an awesome job, however, there are things that we would like to improve upon. Per Joel Kimmet, we want to make sure that each and every vendor pays the same fee to be in the event.

The Art Show Committee will be next Monday, 2/18 at 5p.m. at Panera Bread on Glenway Avenue. We will need to let the Committee members who are not present this evening know about the Art Show Committee meeting.

Gamble Property Update –

At a recent meeting, our attorney said that we should withdraw ourselves as a named party in the Gamble case. Individual neighbors who are party to the case appeared willing to sign the papers to withdraw from the case. Per Irene McNulty, to continue would be a risk to all of us. Per Joel Kimmet, if we keep going, the potential liability for all of us is very, very high.

**Motion by Michelle Conda that WCA withdraws from the Gamble House court case
Seconded by Mary Jenkins**

Motion passed 5 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions

Mercy Hospital Reuse meeting with Vince Day

The consultants hired by Mercy were very open to all types of uses for the Mercy Hospital building located at Queen City and Boudinot. They were hired by Mercy as a consultant for determining a new use for the building. We made ourselves perfectly clear with regard to low income housing, etc. in the spirit of adhering to the Westwood Strategic Plan. Per Sharon Lewis, a demolition permit has been given. Michelle Conda will contact consultant Vince Day's office, to gather the facts.

District 3 Police Station Presentation -

At the District 3 Relocation meeting, many options were discussed. West Price Hill is in support of Westwood with regard to this location. Per Irene McNulty, we could make little postcards and have neighbors mail in the postcards to CPD. We could also put the postcard in the WCA Newsletter. These would be sent to the City Manager. The Senior City Planner for the City is Katherine Keough-Jurs. WCA is endorsing the Ferguson Road location. Mary Kuhl spoke with Scott Stiles and she reported that he felt it was a very good meeting. The City is not ready for another meeting just yet. They have lots of information to assimilate. Per Mary Jenkins, we should be careful that we do not push for Ferguson too soon in case a better site comes along. Per Becky Weber, we need to make our wishes known with the decision makers, sooner than later. Other locations discussed have been Midway, Ferguson and Mercy Hospital.

Motion by Mary Jenkins that WCA identifies the following qualities as desirable for the new District 3 Police Station: Central location, ease of access to major roads, little to no demolition necessary and correct size of the lot.

For this reason, we support the Ferguson Road location. Seconded by Michelle Conda.

Motion passed – all in favor.

We need to determine our next step. East Price Hill voted for Consadine which is owned by CMHA and will not be an option. Per Mary Kuhl, we should write a letter to all elected officials in Cincinnati. We need to reiterate that we are after a central location. Joel Kimmet will draft a letter for the WCA Board and get our input before this letter is mailed to all of the City officials. Per Mary Jenkins, we should increase public awareness for this campaign through Social Media, our newsletter and Block Watches.

Irene will talk to Jim McNulty about drafting an insert for a postcard for the Westwords. There will be an explanation in the newsletter regarding the purpose of the postcard.

**Motion by Irene McNulty that a cap of \$150.00 be spent to make the postcards for the March newsletter. Seconded by Melva Gweyn.
Motion passed – all in favor.**

Business District Flower Pots -

Per Melva Gweyn, the Park Board wants organizations or individuals to sponsor the pots for \$200.00 each. Melva already takes care of 19 flower pots and the City takes care of 33 for a total of 52 pots. The City would then take care of planting and watering the pots. Per Mary Jenkins, the City would maintain all 52 pots if we found sponsors. This conversation will be further discussed at our next meeting.

TriState Veteran's Association

Presentation by Harold Brooks. The proposed site for this development is the property directly behind Sav a Lot on Harrison Avenue. This property is currently zoned SF6 and is owned by Judson Village. The TriState Veteran's Association wants to make the property a housing development for veterans. Joel Kimmet talked to Judson Village. The parcel is 11.7 acres.

**Motion by Becky Weber, seconded by Mary Kuhl, that we are against the TriState Veteran's Association project because the location is SF6.
All in favor – motion passed.**

2400 Harrison Avenue

Update given by Jim McNulty. Jim McNulty advises contacting CMHA regarding this property. We don't want the vouchers to be transferred.

**Motion by Jim McNulty, seconded by Mary Kuhl that letters be sent to HUD local and National, the President and everyone we can think of to explain what is going on at 2400 Harrison Ave.
All in favor – motion passed.**

**Motion by J. Kimmet, seconded by M. Kuhl to put Jim McNulty in Nick D'Angelos vacant WCA Board position.
All in favor – motion passed.**

Nominating Committing –

Mary Jenkins and Michelle Conda will constitute the Board appointed Nominating Committee. A second nominating committee will be formed by the General membership at the February General Meeting.

Westwide Summit –

Presented by Mary Kuhl that we should invite many friends and neighbors to come together and get plugged in to a Westside Forum. Subjects covered would include

parking meters. We could do this in conjunction with the Business Districts. Midway would be a great location for this meeting. Mary Kuhl will head up this Committee.

Candidate's Night –

This is a City Council race that needs to be talked about. Mary Kuhl will see if Price Hill is interested in pairing up again and hosting the event in Price Hill. Mary Kuhl will contact Mark Armstrong regarding this matter.

Westwood School –

Jim McNulty will invite Mary Ronan to the March WCA General meeting.

Motion by Jim McNulty, seconded by Mary Jenkins that we subscribe to Constant Contact by paying \$126.00.

All in favor – motion passed.

Moved by Michelle Conda, seconded by Mary Kuhl, that on February 22nd, Joel Kimmet will speak on behalf of Westwood Civic at the DBL Hearings- Condemned properties.

All in favor – motion passed.

3228 Coral Park –

Per Karen Strasser, this rental house has been a huge problem. Block Watch is working with CPD to remedy the situation.

Motion by Jim McNulty, seconded by Irene McNulty that transportation and engineering perform a study on Woodrow and Fleetwood.

Motion passed – all in favor.

Liquor license – Captain Neville will provide Michelle Conda with a list of all liquor license holders.

2280 Harrison Ave.–

The application has been sent to the Port Authority.

The buyer must have backed out because of all of the problems with the property. We will be able to buy the property for \$100.00.

Community Gardens Report –

Grant and funding proposals have been submitted to Kiwanis, Keep and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful. State Farm has funding and we are looking into this for the Community Gardens or green space. There is nothing wrong with looking for multiple sources of funding.

Money for purchasing flowers

What do we want to do with the Flower Fund?

Per Becky Weber, when Valerie says that the Flower Fund is running low, we will know as Board members that we can make donations personally if we want.

Motion by Jim McNulty that Mary Kuhl be reimbursed for flower expenditure, seconded by Mary Jenkins.

Motion passed – all in favor.

Motion by Michelle Conda, seconded by Jim McNulty that WCA match Flower donations up to \$75.00 per year.

Motion withdrawn.

Newcomer Funeral Home –

Mary Kuhl drove past the funeral home. Mary Kuhl is challenging the Board to drive past and look at the orange pole. Newcomer would like us to come back and reconsider the height allowed for their sign. Per Mary Jenkins, if Newcomer wants to come back with a new proposal, we will look at it again.

Motion to adjourn by Mary Jenkins,

Seconded by Michelle Conda

All in favor, meeting adjourned.