

Westwood Civic Association General Meeting October 15, 2013  
submitted by Karen Strasser, Recording Secretary

Present: J. McNulty, I. McNulty, V. Baumann, B. Weber, J. Corso, M. Jenkins, K. Strasser, J. Kimmet, M. Kuhl, M. Gweyn, M. Conda

Excused: T. Hodges, L. Ridge, J. Minor, T. Minors

**Cincinnati Police Report – Officer Rich Minella**

CPD welcomed Chief Blackwell two weeks ago. The groundbreaking for District 3's new building on Ferguson Avenue was held. 3167 Gobel was served a search warrant today and the building is going to be torn down. Somewhere behind the Dunkin Donuts at Werk and Glenway there was a shooting last evening.

Dina Hanks commented on the fact that we've had some young ladies at the corner of Montana and Harrison in their finest attire. The young ladies, ranging in age from 16 – 20 are definitely trying to attract some business around 5 or 6p.m.

**Motion by Karen Strasser to approve the minutes of August Steering, August General meeting, September Steering and September General meeting with corrections made to the September General meeting, seconded by J. Corso.**

Sharon Lewis stated corrections to the September General Minutes.

**Motion passed, all in favor.**

**Guest speakers**

**Department of Transportation and Engineering.  
Western Hills Viaduct Preliminary Engineering Study.  
Richard Szekeresh - Supervising Structural Engineer**

The Western Hills Viaduct was constructed in 1932 with major rehabilitation in 1977 and is now reaching the end of its design life. There is concrete deterioration and structural steel deterioration.

Input from 2012 public meetings included the following points-

- ❖ The Viaduct is mostly used for commuting to Downtown and Uptown from the Western neighborhoods.
- ❖ Trip lengths are typically 20-30 minutes.
- ❖ Bike and pedestrian accommodations are poor and therefore lightly used.
- ❖ Maintain existing connections.
- ❖ Improve geometry and safety.
- ❖ Acceptable closure period is up to six months.

Information on this project can be found at [www.cincinnati-oh.gov/dote/dote-projects/western-hills-viaduct/](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/dote/dote-projects/western-hills-viaduct/)

(Szekeres) There will need to be coordination with ODOT, CSX, Norfolk Southern Railroads and MDS for this project. We have to start the process, have public presentations, etc. Many things need to be worked out through this process.

Mr. Szekeres then discussed design constraints which include ODOT, CSX, Lick Run and Duke High tension lines.

Alternatives are being studied and it has been determined that any alternatives would require such major reconstruction that we would not really be saving that much money. The southern corridor has been identified for further study following this evaluation process. Feasible alternatives and bridge configuration will be identified.

Design issues and concerns include:

- ❖ Requires partial demolition of viaduct during construction
- ❖ Interferes with Lick Run Project
- ❖ Estimated costs \$170 – 200 million
- ❖ Additional right of way requirements.

Feasible alternatives input will be scheduled for the spring of 2014  
Discussion of the preferred alternatives will be scheduled for fall 2014.

It was stated that this project is far from being started because the source of money for this project has not yet been determined.

(J. McNulty) Will there be a left exit off of I-75 anymore?

(Szekeres) No, it will be a right side exit.

With regard to the look of this gateway to Western Hills it was stated that ODOT and the Federal Government won't pay for any aesthetics. The City has to come up with the money if we want something above ODOT's standard structure.

### **Town Hall Report – Dina Hanks**

Dina has received phone calls from a lady living close to Town Hall who complains about the bells when they ring. Dina has the bells set at the lowest level.

Dina referred this complaint to the WCA Board stating that the bells play from 9a.m. – 9p.m. and play 1 song.

**Motion by M. Gweyn and seconded by J. Corso that we keep the bells on at Westwood Town Hall.**

**All in favor, motion passed.**

- ❖ Town Hall will host the Halloween Howl 6-8p.m, 10/25 with a costume contest at 7p.m. This free carnival will include games.
- ❖ Haunted tours of Town Hall will be held 11/1 from 6:30 – 8p.m. and those interested may register at the Westwood Library.

Dina Hanks announced that she is changing jobs to work with the seniors as the service area coordinator for the Senior Division of CRC.

**J. McNulty – Buildings/demo Report**

The following demos were announced:

- ❖ 3073, 3111, 3157 on Bracken Woods Lane
- ❖ 2321 Dautel
- ❖ Corner of Faber and Harrison

We have an issue with police and fire going into these buildings all of the time and seeing all of these violations. The owners keep the properties just good enough outside. We have been asking for years for the police and fire to fill out a little form to get these houses in the system.

3117 will be our first demolition on Gobel and that will be coming up soon. We are quietly taking the houses on Bracken Woods Lanes down one by one.

J. McNulty requested that we continue to write up broken gutters, broken glass, etc. on Westwood properties reminding us that our policy is to save the single family houses and tear down multifamily housing. The community has enough multifamily stock without these buildings.

(Kimmet) What about 2200 Harrison?

(J. McNulty) Nothing is going on there so far. We are getting the ones that are the worst torn down by feeding them to Ed Cunningham one address at a time. The system gets overwhelmed. Now we just go one by one.

(Greg Kissel) Have we written a letter to the City about 2200 Harrison?

(Kimmet) This property is high on our list.

(Greg Kissel) This building is particularly dangerous in the condition that it is in and it most likely represents a hazard to the public and could be declared structurally deficient.

**Motion by M. Kuhl, seconded by M. Conda that we write a letter stating that 2200 Harrison represents a hazard to the public, and should be declared structurally deficient with demolition expedited.**

Discussion followed:  
(J. McNulty) I will write the letter.

**Motion passed, all in favor**

A short conversation followed regarding eventual plans for the Bracken Wood area.

**Website Updates – Mary Jenkins**

(Jenkins) Our website is unstable and we need a committee to work on the website. Long term there is the question of responsibility. This needs to be given to some group of people. Becky and Michelle and I are interested in this.

Jenkins will send an email to the Board polling who wants to be on this ad hoc committee.

(J. McNulty) A woman inherited 3208 McHenry, a vacant property, and would like to donate this property for use as green space, a community garden, etc.

(Jenkins) This brings up a conversation about 2280 Harrison Ave and the idea of land banking this property. Are there issues that we as a Board need to address like insurance, etc.

(J. McNulty) The Port Authority was going to help us get some of these properties. Maybe the land bank people can handle making sure that a property comes to us clean.

(I. McNulty) Who pays the property tax?

(Kimmet) We will talk about issues associated with owning property, like taxes, at the steering committee.

(Gweyn) 10/26 will be Make a Difference day from 9a.m. – noon. Students from area schools will be present. The event is mostly at Westwood Town Hall. We can spread out and do litter pickup, cleanup street pots. After 11/11 Veterans Day, we will be taking down the flags for the winter and moving some pots.

**Motion by V. Baumann that we spend up to \$60.00 on pizza for the Fall Make a Difference Day on 10/26, seconded by Jenkins.  
Motion passed, all in favor.**

### **Public Safety Committee – John Sess**

Will discuss Eugenie /Werkastle issue at our upcoming committee meeting  
11/3 the illegal advertising benches are supposed to be removed.  
Metro may be interested in helping to fund nice benches.  
Friendly's Market is advertising cigarettes and that is illegal and being looked into.

(G. Kissel) We live on Boudinot at Ramona. There is not a street light on that street. We would like to see lighting on the street. We had the copper down spots stolen from our house.

(J. Sess) I will look into this.

### **Outreach Committee – Mary Jenkins**

Many of you will remember that a gentleman from White Oak Community Church came to talk to our group and this was referred to Outreach. We are trying to have a conversation with him and we have not yet managed to arrange for a meeting.

### **Westwood Community Gardens - Mary Jenkins**

The tool shed is going up within the next month.

### **Bylaws Review – Joel Kimmet**

We are going to start setting aside twenty minutes at each Steering Committee meeting so that we can work on the constitution/bylaws review.

(Member) What is going to happen to the Fire House?

(G. Kissel) Last we heard was the City had not yet gone through any process with regard to repurposing the building.

**Motion by J. McNulty that all meetings attended by WCA Board members in official capacity will be open to the public and openly publicized. Seconded by I. McNulty.**

Discussion followed, but the motion needed to be tabled because we did not have a reasonable amount of time to discuss the motion prior to voting.

**Motion to adjourn by Joe Corso, seconded by Mary Jenkins.**