

Roll Call

In attendance: Valerie Baumann, Joe Corso, Larry Eiser, Henry Frondorf, Melva Gweyn, Mary Jenkins, Joel Kimmet, Emily Miller Reynolds, Shawntee Stallworth Schramm.

Excused: Steve Beckman, Irene McNulty, Sara Overstake, Steve Schramm, Karen Strasser, Trinette Zawadzki

1. Meeting called to order by Mary Jenkins

2. July 2015 Steering minutes approved. Moved by Joel K, seconded by Larry E

3. Properties

2518 Queen City (Stone House)

Several WCA members attended a hearing. Fire and Police expressed concern, all others spoke against demolition. City interested in working with neighborhood to help if an individual or organization will take ownership.

Rehabilitation (just to stabilize the structure) is estimated at approximately \$50,000.00. The City will do legal work if an owner can be found.

WestCURC may be interested in being the receiver (not to be confused with owner). They would like all Westwood organizations to collaborate. WestCURC hopes Westwood Historic would take a leadership role on the project.

Currently the property is unsecured, no permission to secure yet exists. The owner lives in Florida and has thus far been unresponsive.

3077 Bracken Woods

This building was taken off of the agenda of the hearing because criminal proceedings have begun against the owner. The city is filing action. On August 6, the building was recommended to be demolished. Current owner purchased approximately 6 months ago. A hearing will be held in the end of August.

2911 Harrison. Triends (correct spelling, T not F. Former Heartbeat Motors location)

Property was used in past as an automotive business, under then current code. City says the intent when Heartbeat closed was not for the location to stop operating as an automotive business.

Was not vacant for the required 365 days for the business to have to conform to Form-Based Code. WCA board members and community members are working to establish a timeline.

In the meantime, violations are being reported, such as cars parked on the sidewalk right of way. Reports can be made to the City by phone (513-591-6000), online at 5916000.com, or through the City's app for smart phones.

3207 Harrison (Triangle Building)

Proposal to paint the back of building

2194-2198 Queen City (Golden Nugget)

Owner requested a liquor license transfer. At a hearing in May, the City objected to a liquor license renewal at this location, but it is now a TREX (transfer exempt, meaning wants to transfer license from another business). Current owner is G Max LLC, DBA G-Monis.

Motion by Melva G. to object to the license transfer, seconded by Valerie B.

Do not know what City's objection to renewal was. Other neighborhoods also object.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Wardall Traffic Calming Update

Neighbor on Highpoint was concerned about traffic (high speed, side-swipe accidents, cars driving outside of lanes). The City Dept of Transportation reopened past study [see City response, attached]. Mary Jenkins will contact City and ask them to survey residents regarding solutions.

5. Outreach Update

Outreach Committee started on policies for *Westwords*.

We prefer letters that relate to a recent letter or article, or a relevant neighborhood issue.

All letters and articles will go through our editorial review process.

Letters and articles are limited to approximately 250 words, and may be edited for space and clarity. Letters will be published as space allows, and may be held for subsequent editions. Longer letters may be considered for features or articles.

Any letter that includes the following may be refused printing: hate speech, or libel/defamation. No anonymous or open letters will be printed. For verification purposes, (but not to be printed), letters must also include the writer's home address, e-mail address (if available) and telephone number. Sources may be requested for the purpose of fact checking.

Members get first priority for printing, then non-members.

Motion by Emily R. to accept recommendation. Larry E seconded. Joe C. requested that "if available" be added to after email. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Clean Up Blitz, Sept 5. 9a-12p, focusing on Historic Business District.

Hopefully will also be another Blitz week. Larry from Parks will be taking care of walkways, and hopefully tree-scaping around Town Hall.

Need volunteers to help with clean up of sidewalks. Are working with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and the Tool Bank to help with the clean up.

7. Digital *Westwords*

Will go to members who opted in. Will start promoting in newsletter.

8. Draft report of member survey

47 respondents. Top three priorities: public safety, building & properties, zoning & land use. Next month will discuss what's actionable and what's already being worked on in committee.

9. Problem Solving to address gun violence meeting

WCA board members, WCA members, and community members attended a CPPC meeting to talk about a process to engage community in the task of reducing violence using the SARA model. On Tuesday August 25th 7pm, at Western Hills Church of the Brethren, another meeting will be held to start planning a neighborhood summit.

10. Westwood Strategic Plan

WestCURC has asked for input to revisit the Westwood Strategic Plan.

Motion by Emily R. to respond to WestCURC's letter, acknowledge that the existing Strategic Plan needs to be revisited and assessed, in an inclusive community-driven process. Joel K seconded.

In favor: 8. Opposed: 2 (Melva G, Valerie B). Abstained: 0. Motion passed.

Mary J wants it to be clear; a letter came from WestCURC, the vote tonight it simply to respond to the letter, the issue must be discussed further.

11. Mary J reminds the board to send information for the board book.

12. Foundation study is forthcoming, WTH foundation in good general condition, detailed report coming soon.

WTH siding is completed.

13. NSP vote will be at the August General Meeting

14. Joel is working on the Top 20 Problem Properties list.

15. Westwood Works asked if WCA would like to work together on Deck the Hall. Mary J would like more information.

16. Sharon Lewis reports that the MetroPCS location at the corner of Glenmore and Montana has been blocking the sidewalk right of way with signage and a booth.

17. Melva G, referencing the member survey, is concerned that "we're saying 'inclusive'," and described it as coded language. Emily R states that WCA has given some community members the impression that the organization has not been inclusive of all neighbors in the past and that WCA cannot improve the neighborhood without cooperation from all sorts of residents. Mary J states that inclusion must be discussed openly at an upcoming meeting.

18. Sharon Lewis reports that posters went up for a concert at Knights of Columbus (for a rapper), she would like them removed.

19. Meeting adjourned.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kelly, Martha <Martha.Kelly@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Date: Thu, Jul 30, 2015 at 4:50 PM

Subject: RE: Wardall Ave - traffic calming

To: Mary Jenkins <jenkinswestwood@gmail.com>

Mary,

I wanted to get back to you with some information, though I don't have specific numbers to send right now. But our engineering staff has been reviewing the crash history and found that there are a considerable number of crashes related to sideswiping vehicles and parked vehicles. We have also driven it several times and looked at parking while there. I personally have been there on a week night and also a weekend. I experienced two drivers coming right at me who would not get over or slow down as they passed me in the opposite direction. We can firm up our information for you, but we generally agree on this solution:

- Restrict all parking on the north side of Wardall from Boudinot to Westwood Northern Boulevard. Paint a centerline so that there is one lane westbound, and then one lane eastbound with parking – though some will still have to be prohibited at side streets to have proper visibility. This will keep people in their appropriate path, and will provide good sight distance for High Point and other major driveways. It appeared in our observations that little on-street parking was used from Boudinot to Epworth, but that there was parking used on-street from Epworth to Westwood Northern, but mostly on the south side. But it seemed as though there would be enough parking for all residents, even if only on the one side.

- If the concept of removing one side of parking is not something that the residents will consider, then the only other option is to remove more parking to each side of the side streets and major driveways to allow for better sight distance, and also across from these side streets so that vehicles can maneuver more safely. This will help in isolated locations, but will not reduce the side swipe and parked car crashes where drivers are trying to squeeze between them.

These are our initial thoughts based on the observations and crash data. I would love to get your thoughts on this and what you might need from us. Feel free to call me at 352-3648 or 477-7372 if you have time to discuss. I wasn't sure if you wanted us to pursue a post card survey of residents, or have a meeting with them.....just let me know. And I can put our data together for you too.

Hope this is helpful! We appreciate the resident bringing this to our attention.

Sincerely,

Martha