

Westwood Civic Association
April 11, 2017 Steering Meeting Minutes
Submitted by Sara Overstake

Present: Shawntee Stallworth Schramm, Karen Strasser, Sara Overstake, John Bowen, Stephen Schramm, Thomas Sauter, Larry Eiser, Joel Kimmet, Henry Frondorf, Joe Corso, Trinetta Zawadzki, Emily Miller Reynolds, April Stephens

Absent - Anne Murphy, Steve Beckman

Welcome, call to order by Shawntee Stallworth-Schramm.

Agenda – Emily suggests an amendment to the agenda to talk about Westwood Hero. **Joel Kimmet motioned to approve the agenda with the amendment to add a discussion about Westwood Hero. Thomas Sauter seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

Minutes from March General Meeting – Emily Miller Reynolds motioned to approve the minutes from the March General meeting. Larry Eiser seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

McHenry land acquisition letter of support – Ethel Cogan asked for support of the Jubilee Project at 3100, 3144, 3154, and 3158 McHenry – 14+ acres. Clifton Mosque and Hebrew Union will create an urban farm area in this space. Currently the land includes lots and woods and is owned by the city. Ethel needs the letter of support by tomorrow. Hesitancy to vote without having more information, especially if this will cause a wooded area to be removed. Karen Strasser stepped out and called Ethel. Ethel said we have more time to make a decision. We will invite Tom Hargis to the general meeting next week.

Port Authority property – 2280 Harrison – Property owned by Port Authority, 2.5 acres where apartment buildings were torn down. This is a potential property for a community garden. Another idea is having an orchard in this area or a park with walking trails. Joel contacted the Port Authority and found out that it is \$1,000 to purchase the property. We are a 501(c)4, but have explored becoming a 501(c)3. Currently the Westwood Community Gardens are owned by the city and leased to WCA, but the city wants to turn them over to the community councils. Question about how owning the property would affect our insurance requirements/coverage. Question about if it would make more sense for WestCURC to be the owners instead of WCA.

Schools discussion/Planning Public Meeting – Shawntee discussed the importance of having good schools in the Westwood area, and that she has heard that Midway is not doing well. There is a concern that there are disciplinary issues. The information right now is vague, but Shawntee wants the board to be aware. It is important for schools to have good reputations in Westwood. Discussion about LSDMC at each school and the difficulty in getting WCA reps to serve on the LSDM Committees. Regarding the Mercy closure, Westwood Coalition will have a public info session in July to get neighborhood input, specifically regarding the Mercy High School space. WCA should have a small announcement to the public saying we do not have a response to the community yet, but we are planning public meetings to gather information.

Coalition/Townhall grounds update – Henry shared that there was a Coalition meeting last week. Groundbreaking is scheduled for July and may be completed by the end of November. Bids should be out this month.

Youth Council Update – Youth Council had the 4th meeting this past week. Meetings will begin on the 3rd Friday of each month. They have begun working on by-laws. They are being broken into teams with a team leader in each group. There were about 30 kids in attendance. They may explore having a junior delegate to WCA in the future.

Westwood Hero – Helen Russo received this award in the past. The Outreach Committee would like to recommend Tom Bonhaus for the next Westwood Hero award. Karen shared how positive and good Tom Bonhaus is. He is a good neighbor and helps influence others in the community in a positive way. **Emily Miller Reynolds motioned for the next Westwood Hero award to be Tom Bonhaus. Henry Frondorf seconded. Motion passes unanimously. Emily Miller Reynolds motioned for up to \$30 for an award. Larry Eiser seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

Joel Kimmet-reimbursement – Joel has receipts for pizza and other items from first Youth Council event. **Sara Overstake motions that WCA reimburse Joel for the costs of the first Youth Council meeting, totaling \$137.07. Joe Corso seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

Young Citizen Award Update – Everything is covered for this event.

Clean the Green April 1st and NEP Cleanup – Joe Corso gave an update. The event was great. There were 2 full busloads of students who showed up to work. All of the groups made a huge impact. There were approximately 120 bags of garbage picked up. This event was Clean Up Cincy through University of Cincinnati. NEP update – Fire Department did 80 inspections

and found 5 violations. Building Department did 579 inspections with 249 violations, but people are working cooperatively to fix violations. PIVOT violence score at McHenry and Harrison is 62, down from 125. Jubilee market will have Open Houses the first Saturday in May.

WUTSTV – Mother’s Day event – PIVOT team discussed needing a letter to the owners of 3019, 3015, 3023 Bracken Woods regarding problems with the tenants. **Emily Miller Reynolds motioned that Shawntee Stallworth Schramm send letters to these property owners asking them to be better neighbors. Joel Kimmet seconded. Motion passes unanimously.** Emily talked about Lindsey from WUTSTV organizing a lunch to honor mothers who have lost an event to gun violence on May 13th. They are looking for a donation for the event. Any help with securing donations would be great. **Karen motioned that Town Hall Gardens allocation from NSP funds be given as a \$500 Platinum sponsorship at the event. Steven Schramm seconded.** Karen is confident she will not need the money for the grounds. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Flowers for Doreen Cudnik – Doreen was hit by a car and was in ICU, and is still hospitalized. Shawntee is asking for WCA to give flowers. **Steven Schramm motioned for WCA to purchase up to \$75 for a flower arrangement or edible arrangement for Doreen. Sara Overstake seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

Other Business

-Owner of 2805 Harrison Ave. is asking for a zoning relief for a fence on Werk Road, has been approved already. Another numeric variance approved.

-Land Swap Update – David Laing said the land swap plan is still on, but they are now looking at other options with the combining of Mercy and McAuley.

-Thank you to Joel and Karen for their service on Westwood Civic Association. Joel has been on the board since 2005, and Karen since 2010.

-Westwood Civic Leadership Award – Sara sent out letters to the schools for one nomination for the civic leadership awards. **Karen Strasser motioned for up to \$150 for awards and gift cards to Putz’s. Emily Miller Reynolds seconded. Motion passes unanimously.** We need someone of importance to present the awards. Henry and Emily will both ask Yvette Simpson to present the awards.

-Henry suggested we have a grill out before the general meetings. **Henry motioned we have a picnic before the general meetings for May, June, July, August. Emily seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

Shawntee adjourned the meeting.