

Westwood Civic Association
January 17, 2017 General Meeting Minutes
Submitted by Sara Overstake

Present: Shawntee Stallworth Schramm, Karen Strasser, Joe Corso, April Stevens, Stephen Schramm, Emily Miller Reynolds, Sara Overstake, Joel Kimmet, Anne Murphy, Larry Eiser, Thomas Sauter, Steve Beckman, Trinetta Zawadzki, John Bowen; Excused absence – Henry Frondorf

Welcome, call to order by Shawntee Stallworth Schramm.

Residents of Westwood are asked to sign the packet for voting on NSP funds.

Motion by Joel to approve agenda, seconded by Thomas. Motion passes unanimously.

Police, District 3 report – Sgt. Chatman and Capt. Jones, December 2016 stats are available. Aggravated assault down from 2015, auto thefts up slightly, burglaries down from last year. Security surveillance suggestions are available to pick up. There was a burglary arrest in January. Auto thefts – 3 of 10 were left running unattended. Resource meeting January 25 at Price Hill Chili at 7:00pm. This is a good way for Westwood to represent District 3 and try to get the National Night Out to be more central instead of in Price Hill. Officer Dawson sent out information about landlord training, details are available online. Captain Jones reviewed 2016. Shootings are down in Westwood and East Westwood. From October through part of December, District 3 experienced a decrease in shootings and crime. Since then, the criminal activity has increased again. Capt. Jones identified 3 areas in Westwood that have a police officer presence each day. Areas are Queen City Avenue, Harrison/McHenry, Harrison from Werk to Montana. The closing of US Market was a positive change in the community. Concern about panhandling. Capt. Jones confirmed this is a problem across the city. When cities try to pass legislation to stop panhandling, but it is protected by 1st amendment rights. There are laws regarding it – cannot be in the street, cannot be aggressive, no standing on traffic island. Concern about speeding on Harrison near Cheviot. Use Fix It Cincy app to get cars towed.

Fire, Engine 35 report– Lt. Martin – no representative

CRC Announcement –Jensy (spelling?) is the new director at Westwood Town Hall. Building is available for rental. There are a lot of activities going on, including zumba.

Metro Representative, Dan St. Charles, board member of SORTA – Metro is at a crossroads, and it is a time for concern but not panic. The situation discussed this evening is not related to the streetcar. There is a goal to reach 20 million rides by the year 2021. To balance the 2017 budget, many cuts had to be made, including capital projects for maintenance, elimination of 4 high level jobs, and others.

Ridership is down. Metro is at a point where they need to make some difficult decisions on how to stay funded. Dwight Ferrell is the CEO. Reinventingmetro@go-metro.com or TellDwight@go-metro.com for feedback. See brochure for more information.

MSD Lick Run Phase 2 Presentation – Andy Bachman – CSO 194 project on Wardall Avenue. Construction will begin in the next 2 months and will be completed by June 30. CSO 195 project on Westwood Northern Blvd, installing 3100 feet of sewers, with goal of completion by June 30. Residents near these projects will receive letters regarding what to expect. A flagger will be in place at times, but 2 lanes will be available during rush hour. Jerry is the project manager for the project on Queen City from Wyoming to East Tower Drive with installation of a 60 inch diameter pipe and relocation of some of the water mains. Concerns expressed about traffic, lack of corridors into the west side without construction, and difficulty getting into and out of “no outlet” streets. All of these projects feed into Lick Run Greenway, which is slated to be completed by December 2018.

Mercy Swap – Craig Hilsinger and Green Township Representative - Woodland Golf Course property must be purchased with a trade with green space. According to Hilsinger, the property is worth around \$570,000, but he is willing to pay 1.4 million, similar to the Hillview golf course sale. The city would get the Mercy and Midway property for around \$400,000 and have about 1 million to put into it. Woodland Golf Course is in Green Township, but is in Cincinnati Public. About 54 million dollars worth of housing will be built on the property. Francis Heil is the law director from Green Township, and is in full support of the sale of the golf course. Greg Weber is present on behalf of Our Lady of Lourdes. Lourdes is land-locked. They would like more space for fields. In light of the conversations, **Thomas motions that WCA revises its prior position and support the land swap deal with Woodland Golf Course and the Mercy/Midway property. Steve Schramm seconded.** Steve Schramm mentions that board members may feel more informed now after conversations. **Majority vote in favor. One abstention. Motion passes.**

Harouna Tambodou – new restaurant – They would like to get the support of the WCA board to change the zoning at the location on Harrison for the restaurant. This will be an African carry-out restaurant. Larry Eiser will work with the representatives to try to help them get the zoning figured out. No motion at this time.

Nominating Committee Reports - Joe said there are three incumbents Steve Schramm, Henry Frondorf, and John Bowen being nominated. Abe Brandyberry accepts a nomination as well. Larry represents the members’ committee. Their additional nomination is Geneva Clark, and she accepts. Members can nominate from the floor as well. No nominations from the floor.

NSP Vote by the membership – WCA received an additional \$900 in NSP funds since the vote on \$6,800. Joel Proposes that Project #8 is \$900 to the youth council. Westwood Multicultural Festival happens in September and could use some

support. Request from the floor to split the funding with the youth council. **Emily motions that the \$900 from the city is split - \$450 to Youth Council and \$450 to Westwood Multicultural Festival. 34 vote in favor. No opposed, no abstentions.**

Other business – Emily has a youth council kickoff on February 11, 11am-1pm at Westwood Town Hall. More info is on WCA website.

Announcement – Westwood Community Gardens accepting applications for the spring. \$25 for plot rental or farm row rental.

Adopt-A-Pot will be back this spring.

Just Hire Me program where neighbors and businesses can hire teens for small projects and chores.

WCA needs help with membership growth.

Emily motions to adjourn. Karen seconds.