

Westwood Civic Association
January 10, 2017 Steering Meeting Minutes
Submitted by Sara Overstake

Present: Shawntee Stallworth Schramm, Karen Strasser, Sara Overstake, Anne Murphy, Steve Beckman, John Bowen, Stephen Schramm, Thomas Sauter, Larry Eiser, Joel Kimmet, Henry Frondorf,

Absent - Joe Corso, Trinette Zawadzki, Emily Miller Reynolds, April Stephens

Welcome, call to order by Shawntee Stallworth-Schramm.

Agenda – Shawntee requested to amend the agenda for Mayor Cranley to speak with the group when he arrives to the meeting. **Sara motioned to amend the agenda to add Mayor Cranley when he arrives. Steven Beckman seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

Minutes from November General Meeting – Joel motioned to approve the minutes from the November General meeting. Sara seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Mayor John Cranley – Quick introductions of the group. The mayor meets monthly with the police to get updates, specifically from PIVOT-focused areas. In District 3, shootings were down this year. A good baseline for Westwood is 2014. Per capita, Westwood is not in the top neighborhoods of shootings, but the increase over the past 3 years is very large. Over the past 60 days, the number of shootings in District 3 has been down exponentially. Avondale numbers are down this year, causing the city to be down by 10%. A large group of apartment buildings with low income/subsidized housing have been under construction and many of those people may have been relocated to Westwood, which may have caused the increase in shootings. The buildings are now reopening, but may not house the same residents as they did previously. WCA should join with civic associations in Price Hill and try to get more police support. Mayor Cranley is asking for a surge of cops in Westwood. The closing of US Market could be a factor in the reduction. Shawntee asked about the Woodland golf course possible sale. Mayor Cranley does not care if the golf course closes, but would like to get the money from the sale for the city. If Westwood does not support it, Mayor Cranley could go to Price Hill to get support. Mayor Cranley believes the money could be 2 million. The city wants to purchase the Mercy Hospital land and part of Midway school for recreational use. Mercy High School and McAuley High School have considered using the space for a stadium. Mayor Cranley suggests WCA gets a meeting together with Mercy and McAuley to discuss the Mercy Hospital area. Another question Mayor Cranley had was if

the process for renovating the Westwood Town Hall grounds was moving fast enough for us. He also wants us to be aware of a couple of other items. For the streetcar, there have been tax abatements downtown for new development. He wants those benefits to be available to neighborhoods. Jessica will put together a meeting for Westwood to participate in regarding this topic. WCA is encouraged to work with the city on some potential policy changes for low income housing across the city.

Help on Membership Drive/Discussion – Shawntee and Steve Schramm need help building up membership. Steve Beckman said renewals are down by a lot this year. We could have all board members help contact renewals. Question about whether or not that is related to email newsletters instead of mailed newsletters. We will keep the conversation going.

NEP Update – Wish List Review – Today there was a press conference to announce the NEP neighborhoods. Shawntee has a wish list of items of concern in the neighborhood. Shawntee will get clarification from Ethel about how they handle code violations when it involves someone who is unable to afford repairs/fixes. Discussion about wish list and possible signature projects for NEP. The US Market, Tax company, and surrounding areas are a target. We need another meeting with Ethel to discuss timeline.

- **NEP Clean Up – April 8, 2017, we need people there!** – We should encourage help from candidates running for council.

Silent Auction Discussion – Joel will put an article in the next Westwords asking anyone to participate on the committee. They may plan to host an event in February 2018. They are looking for a site to host 300 people and serve alcohol. They plan to have a dinner, silent auction, and socializing opportunities. Ticket sales would cover the cost of the food, venue, etc. Profits are from auction and other fundraising ideas at the event. (Sell roses for people to give to others who they want to recognize.) Ideas to consider doing raffles and split-the-pot as well.

Music Festival Discussion – No update. There has been some discussion about location and food vendors, but it really should involve multiple organizations. Westwood Works is working on getting more events in the McHenry and Harrison area. Larry is meeting with a small group tomorrow night to discuss events and partnering with WCA on activities in this area. A suggestion was made to use Ryan Park to do a music festival as well.

Nominating Committee Update – The committee is working on nominating people, but there is not an official report at this time.

Other Business

Shawntee received a phone call from a community member with concerns about the next door neighbor and some items that need to be fixed near their property. Joel will help try to get answers.

Shawntee motioned to adjourn, Thomas seconded. Meeting adjourned.