

Westwood Civic Association
March 21, 2017 General Meeting Minutes
Submitted by Sara Overstake

Present: Shawntee Stallworth Schramm, Joe Corso, April Stevens, Emily Miller Reynolds, Sara Overstake, Joel Kimmet, Anne Murphy, Larry Eiser, Steve Beckman, John Bowen, Karen Strasser, Stephen Schramm, Thomas Sauter, Trinette Zawadzki, Henry Frondorf; No absences.

1. Call to Order – Shawntee Stallworth Schramm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

4. Approve Agenda – Motion to approve agenda passes unanimously.

5. Approval of February Minutes – Joel motioned to approve February minutes as written, Steve Beckman seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

6. Police – Officer Adrian Gibson – Small spike in crime. There was an arrest for an aggravated robbery on Glenway. Aggravated robbery on March 8 at 5800 Glenway at the UDF, and the officer intervened. Felonious assault at 2699 Westwood Northern, but no arrests at this time. Gun safety is the focus this month. Keep firearms secured and out of reach of kids. Teach kids what to do if they find a firearm. If you want a copy of a police report, there is a flyer available with contact info to obtain that. Captain Jones discussed the crime spike city wide, partially due to the mild weather. In District 3, shootings are below 2016 numbers. More officers are on the street. There is an increase in robberies. Stats are monitored constantly. Heroin continues to be a problem. Police are putting together a plan to have rehab opportunities for overdose victims, which they can begin immediately. Concern about drug trafficking on residential streets. Capt. Jones encourages residents to continue to call to report drug-related incidents, and give their name and number because that information is tracked.

7. Fire – no report because of a call

8. CRC announcements – Jensy, service area coordinator – Monsters of Baseball Saturday March 25 at 2:00pm, sponsored by Madcap. Summer Day Camp registration is online at cincyrec.org. Friday Night Flicks coming up, the first one is April 7 "Turbo". All are encouraged to join the Rec Center. CRC is working with WCA to get a teen Youth Council established. Westwood Moves, Saturday, April 22. Friday Night Teen Nights every Friday.

9. Kendra Schroer presentation – request for zoning change – Property inherited from her dad on Queen City near Cyclorama. The property includes 29 acres, originally over 40 acres, but 13 have been sold to build townhouses (Bluffcrest). Phase 1 of the lick run sewer project is on the property. In December, an agreement with MSD was

reached with eminent domain – a portion of the property will become a creek. Current zoning allows the property to be cleared and have 10 houses put on the property. Heirs of the property would like to request a zoning change to allow for dedicated greenspace. Current zoning is SF 4, which calls for 4,000 square foot lots. They are asking for multi-family subdistrict, RM X Residential Mixed or RM 2 multi-family. The theory is that having multi-family units will allow for more greenspace. Talking to the community is the first step in this process. Questions can be directed to Kendra@fuse.net. Questions from the floor. Concerns about multi-family housing. Next steps will be to discuss with Cyclorama residents.

10. Mercy High School reps – Tom Otten, Dave Mueller, & Cindy Costello from Sisters of Mercy – David Mueller spoke about the announcement of the merging of Mercy and McAuley High Schools. Both schools will close, and a new school will open at the McAuley campus. Meetings have been held with Westwood Coalition. Reasons come down to financial insecurity. They have put about \$9.5 million in subsidies, mostly for tuition assistance. A lot of maintenance of the building has been deferred. It needs over \$4 million in maintenance. The demographics over the next 10 years show a consistent decline in enrollment. Mercy Health system is financially independent of these high schools. What becomes of the building? The building has not been sold. The Sisters of Mercy will most likely not transfer ownership for at least 18 months. The decision to close is firm. They pledged to stay in dialog with Westwood Coalition ongoing regarding the use of the space. Jack Bartley, COO of Sisters of Mercy, will oversee the changes. It is important for the community to know that Mercy's legacy will continue in Westwood from a service standpoint of the students. Sisters of Mercy are not focused on selling right now. Cindy Costello says they are focused on taking care of the students and families. Mercy will care for the building until it is sold. A parent/neighbor mentions her concern that the Mercy McAuley space will experience deferred maintenance in the future as well. Question about vouchers. Currently about 10% of the students receive vouchers, and they are filling empty seats. The model is based on the idea of "the best of both" in combining schools. They are beginning to make connections between the schools now. Email mercymcauleyhs@mercysc.org. Tom Otten is leading the group through these changes. He went to St. Teresa and Elder. He got his degree at Villa Madonna and grad degree from Xavier University. He retired last year as principal of Elder High School. Joe Corso speaks about how we are going to make this a positive opportunity in the community.

11. Youth Council – Emily Miller Reynolds – February 25, had a kickoff for the teens involved. All teens ages 12-18 are invited to join. More information is found at cincynitedyouth.org. Flyers are available on the table.

12. NEP Update – Shawntee Stallworth Schramm - Clean-up will happen April 8, 9am-1pm. Register at eepcincinnatibeautiful.org. There are service projects happening that day as well – painting the former tax building, Jubilee Project with the acquired US Market space, converting it to a market. Blitz week will be April 3-7. Question about what can be put in the dumpsters. No chemicals of any kind, but you can put tires, electronics, etc. The Supercan is really large. NEP includes Westwood and East Westwood. There will be some costs for the clean-up day. East Westwood covers a portion of the cost as well. **Shawntee motioned to a lot \$300 to costs for the**

Clean-up day, including supplies and food. Emily seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

13. Notification of Zoning Hearing – 1. Walmart is changing their signage. There will be a hearing for this. 2. American Tower Corp at 5836 Glenway is requesting an expansion of the existing wireless communications tower. No action taken at this time.

14. Other Business

- **David Laing** – Article in the newspaper about Westwood Town Hall being shut down. This is not going to happen. There were some discussions about possibilities if they needed to cut 10% of the budget, but there are no plans to close Westwood Town Hall. Landmark productions merged with Madcap, and will be using tax credits to build up the town hall grounds and fixing up the Madcap building.
- **Cub Scout Pack 188 from St. Catharine** are here to observe the Westwood Civic meeting.
- **Adopt A Pots** are available to be adopted this year.
- **Henry Frondorf is running for Cincinnati City Council and is getting signatures.**

15. Shawntee motioned to adjourn, Steve Beckman seconded.