

Westwood Civic Association
November 15, 2016 General Meeting Minutes
Submitted by Sara Overstake

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

Welcome, call to order by Shawntee Stallworth Schramm.

Motion by Emily to approve agenda, seconded by Larry. Motion passes unanimously.

Fire, Engine 35 report– Lt. Martin - Truck 35 is now at the nearby firehouse. 419 runs this month, with 363 EMS runs, Truck made 146 runs, 70 were EMS, medic made 343 runs. Safety updates - do not wear loose clothing around stove, do not leave food unattended, keep kids away from heat source, keep heat source clean, keep fire extinguisher in the house. Keep sources of fuel away from heat. Put space heaters on level surfaces, not carpets or rugs. Buy a space heater with an auto shut-off feature. Do not use oven or range to heat house. Keep screen in front of fireplace. Have wood fireplaces inspected and cleaned once a year. Have at least one carbon monoxide detector on each level. Warm up car out of garage. Tonight the 114 recruit class will find out where they will be stationed and graduate Friday. Question about fire extinguishers expiring. If you are unsure, buy a new fire extinguisher.

Police, District 3 report – Officer Rich Minella is the neighborhood officer for East Westwood and Westwood. Shooting at Westbrook apartments today; nonfatal, but there are few details now. Overdose at Epworth apartments, license plates were from Indiana, may was revived. Year to date, numbers are down in all categories except homicides (2 more this year than last year). Do not leave your car running with keys in it or it may get stolen. Sgt. Chatman announced that Officer Minella caught juveniles with a stolen car earlier in the month.

CRC Announcement – Andrea, last Sunday CRC Heart and Soul running group ran a practice 5K, and this is part of the Girls on the Run event. NBA Math Hoops results show 3 kids were picked from Westwood as doing the best in math and they earned NBA gear. November 27 Deck the Hall Event.

Membership Drive Announcement – Members are encouraged to walk around the community and promote membership to the WCA. Question about how members will know their membership is up for renewal now that they receive it electronically. The board members will check with Trinetta about it.

Empty Board Seat - Shawntee – John Bowen is a resident of Westwood, currently a realtor with Comey and Shepherd. **Henry motioned to add John to the board in place of the vacancy from Mary Jenkins leaving. Emily**

seconded. Joel is impressed with John after talking to him a few evenings ago.
Motion passes unanimously.

Nominating Committee-President's Appointment – Three volunteers are needed for each committee. Shawntee asks Joe Corso, Nikki Mayhew, and Heather Kittelson to accept the nomination to this committee.

Nominating Committee-Membership Appointments- Shawntee asks for members to volunteers to join this committee. Larry Eiser, John Eby, Mary Fichter volunteer.

Mercy Land Swap – Previous conversations took place at WCA meetings with David Laing and a realtor (Hilsinger). At this time, there is not an appraisal on the properties. The use for the land being swapped with Woodland Golf Course has to be public outdoor recreation use. The discussion tonight is whether or not to approve the deal. CRC clarified that the Woodland golf course is operating in the black. David Laing did say that the golf course is closed during the off-season. They would like to get 1.4 million for Woodland. Mercy is looking to sell the properties for \$300,000 and \$400,000. There is a question about if that would mean there will be the difference in amounts to put into the property. A comment from a member about there already are ball fields in that area, and what we need are short par 3 golf courses for people to practice. Woodland would leave a gap in places for non-competitive golfers. The city is not restricted to Westwood for the land swap, so it could be possible that they switch it with another community, and Westwood would lose this opportunity. Dunham has already closed. Green Township trustees should be discussing this if they are not in support. There is documentation about the agreement with the sale of the Woodland Golf Course. Recommendation to go to the Green Township group and those neighbors to discuss this issue. Comment about how the city let the golf course get rundown, and then they closed it, and concern that the same will happen at Woodland. **Henry motions that WCA does not support the selling of Woodland Golf Course via land swap in any part of the city. Seconded by Emily.** We need to look out for what is best for Westwood. The property does not belong to Green Township, it belongs to the city, so they may support the land swap in order to bring in tax money. Motion passes with one opposed and one abstention. **Henry motions that the city of Cincinnati looks into acquiring the Mercy Hospital property with the intention of turning it into park or recreational space. Karen seconded.** Technical question about what the difference is between park and recreational space. Motion amended to include recreational space. We have little control over what Mercy does with the land. Suggestion to meet with Mercy about the space. We need to take action to get behind this and support it, but have a good plan to do that. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Promotions Ad Hoc Committees - Shawntee – We are exploring more options for raising money for WCA, and may need to put together ad hoc committees to explore this.

- a) Silent Auction/Fundraiser – Joel proposes that WCA has one large fundraiser for the year to raise enough money to support the

Association. Idea comes from the League of Women Voters. Joel will shadow all committee meetings until the event in February to learn how to put this together. We would find a place in Westwood that could host about 300 people for a dinner and silent auction. Joel is forming a committee to put this event together, planning would take a year, possibly holding this in October or November of 2017. Anyone interested need to contact Joel. Karen does not want this to be in October because of the Westwood Works Halloween party. Also, parents may not be able to handle more expenditures in October. She encourages the group to have it in the Spring. **Shawntee motions that we put together an ad hoc committee to plan a silent auction/fundraiser. Larry seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

- b) Music & Food Fest/Fundraiser – Larry proposed an idea to have a fundraiser that would be a partnership between organizations with food trucks, a variety of music. Location options are near Town Hall or at McHenry and Harrison in Save-A-Lot parking lot. This would not take place in the winter. **Emily motioned for Larry to put together a committee to plan a music and food fest/fundraiser. Steven Schramm seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

NEP Update – US Market Acquisition – A stakeholder group is being put together for NEP. Because of the focus on Westwood with PIVOT (Place-based policing) and Westwood Uniting to Stop the Violence, the intersection of McHenry and Harrison is a focus for the project. There is a sign up sheet to help “walk the beat” to put together the wish list for this initiative. Discussion during NEP meetings about the community acquiring the US Market building and property. Few details are available now. There is discussion about using it for aquaponics, hydroponics, youth council space, or a variety of other uses. Courts cannot step in yet because there is not a lien on the title. The owner is delinquent on taxes, so the ideal situation would be that the community could acquire it for \$1000 once there is a lien on the property, and this would help to clean up the corner. Shawntee proposes that the community supports acquiring US Market. **Motion by Thomas that WCA draft a letter to all interested parties supporting the purchase of US Market to be used for the community for a purpose to be determined at a future date. Seconded by Emily.** This is all in the beginning stages of what could happen since there is not even a lien yet. Is this a similar process for the community gardens? The city purchases lands for community gardens, so that is different. Thomas says that if we are not going to the purchase the property for \$1000, he will personally purchase it himself. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Annual Dinner Dec. 2 or Dec. 9 – Shawntee asks the group which date is better for the Christmas dinner. There is no meeting in December and no business is conducted. Location is Maury’s Tiny Cove at 6:30 (appetizers), 7:00 dinner. **Karen motions that WCA treats the group to \$100 of appetizers at the dinner. Sara seconds.** Joel confirms that the funding is available. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Hot Chocolate at Ryan Park Dec. 3 - Fischer and Harrison intersection was a "hot spot" focus during Westwood Uniting to Stop the Violence. A lot of residents want to get involved, but there is fear. Anne is planning a community building event on Saturday December 3, 2-4pm at Ryan Park. They are looking to pull in partners to join in. **Emily motions to use WCA funds of up to \$100 for this event if donations are not available. Sara seconded.** Suggestion to have WCA members bring baked goods to the dinner the night before for this event. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Other Business

Newsletter – Steven Schramm talked about the high cost of printing Westwords. Dues for WCA have not been increased in years. Steven proposed that we raise the dues for people who want Westwords print version. **Motion by Steven Schramm to add an additional \$5 charge to the \$10 annual dues for people who would like the printed version of the newsletter. Joel seconded.** The benefit is to encourage people to switch to the electronic version, and to help pay for it. Bylaws state that the board can once a year decide to change dues. WCA has one of the lowest dues. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Larry announced that Westwood Works holiday party on December 21 at Muse Café at 7:30pm (regular meeting time).

Updates from Catherine from Dater High School, and Issue 44 passes!

Joel announces that all communities have an additional \$900 of NSP funds. We do not need to have a proposal and go to a review meeting if we add the funding to an existing project.

Emily motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.