

Westwood Civic Association
October 18, 2016 General Membership Meeting Minutes
Submitted by Anne Murphy

Present: Shawntee Stallworth Schramm, Karen Strasser, Joe Corso, Henry Frondorf, Stephen Schramm, Trinette Zawadzki, Larry Eiser, Joel Kimmet, , Mary Jenkins, Anne Murphy, Thomas Sauter, , Emily Miller Reynolds.
Absent –Sara Overstake, Steve Beckman, April Stephens, Joe Corso

Welcome, call to order by Shawntee Stallworth-Schramm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda: Henry proposes to add Hometown Huddle recap to agenda; Joel K. requests to add NSP to agenda; Tom Sauter moves to approve agenda; seconded by Mary Jenkins

Approval of September & October Minutes: Reviewed prior to meeting by the Board; September minutes-no changes; October minutes need to be revised to reflect that East Westwood voted to separate from Westwood –a correction to a quote by Emily Reynolds. Motion to approve by Thomas Sauter; Seconded by Shawntee.

Fire report: Lt. Lohman presenting. 12 fire runs; 38 non-fire runs; 386 EMS runs for a total of 436 runs in September. Smoke alarms need to be replaced after 10 years-check date on units. Lt. Lohman provided a handout explaining where to place smoke alarms in your house. WCA board will contact Lt. Bulger to obtain electronic copy to include in WCA newsletter. Film crew from Tokyo is filming with fire dept. about heroin epidemic.

Narcans administration last month: 16 in 45211, 19 in 45238

Fire Company 35 has a new truck. Truck 35. No additional personnel.

Police Report: Officer Minella presenting. September 2016 crime down in most categories in previous year except for assaults and 1 murder in September compared to 0 in Sept. 2015. Report of shots fired at Epworth & Shafer but no leads/no arrests. Werk Rd. homicide-they believe suspect may have been shot by victim but no leads. Looking for a light colored sedan. No leads on Glenmore homicide. Reports from Otis Flinchpaugh of breaking and entering spree on/near Cheviot and Craig Aves. PO Minella defined terms: burglary is breaking into a house; breaking and entering is breaking into an unoccupied property e.g. a shed. Criminal damage occurs if property damage occurs, e.g. broken window, without

theft.

New liquor license application received for Sakura Steakhouse 5049 Crookshank next to O'Charley's.

Issue 44: Jennifer Wagoner and Laura Mitchell and Christopher Grant Principal of Westwood School asking for support for Issue 44. Support for neighborhood schools as part of Vision 2020 initiative. Westwood is one of the target schools this year. High school initiative to support students on career pathway, enrichment programs for 6-12 grade to better prepare students to graduate and enter into a career/college.

Chris Grant-Vision 2020 initiative focuses on entrepreneurship, partnership with Mortar, University of Cincinnati, and city/community partners. Experiences and curriculum will present entrepreneurial skills. Implementing uniforms and learning to present yourself in a positive light; trying to change the culture of the school. Encourages residents to come and tour the school.

Jennifer Wagoner: Issue 44 is a \$48 million /5 year emergency levy. Had an assessment to evaluate stewardship and improve efficiencies. They are working to implement recommendations where possible to reduce costs but forecasted expenses still exceed current budgeted funds.

\$15 million will be set aside for Preschool. Running out of space in CPS schools for preschool--2 preschool classrooms operating in Westwood Presbyterian church and 4 classrooms in Westwood Vineyard church.

MSD Communications - Montana Sewer project - Cassandra Hillary Communications Manager for MSD and Pat Arnett MSD Chief Engineer presenting.

Cassandra Hillary: Work will begin Nov. 14, 2016. Construction will take place on Montana between Ferncroft and Mustang. Work is estimated to last 9 months (through July/August tentatively).

Invites board members to MSD Stakeholder breakfast Oct. 27 Sharonville Convention Center @ 7:30

Pat Arnett: Notification letters will be sent to community and posted in public area. Project will replace sewer lines in that inspections have been revealed to be rapidly deteriorating. Some traffic will need to be re-routed during portions of the project because sewer lines cross roadway. Eastbound daytime traffic will be detoured during construction to Westwood Northern to

Baltimore back to Montana or toward Hopple and I-75. No other construction plans for Montana Ave. sewers at this time.

Normal traffic flows at expected at night. Maps of the detour plan were provided. Electronic copy of detour map and fact sheet will be provided to WCA Board.

Cameras on McHenry:

Shawntee: Lt. Hammer, supervisor of Pivot Program contacted WCA about options for stabilizing the McHenry/Harrison area as direct patrol phases out. He recommended police cameras at the intersection as a crime deterrent. Cameras would record 24 hours/day. Lt. Hammer will contact CUP, Shepherd's Heart, and owner of the Shell Station to get their feedback.

Geneva Clark: Cameras were a recommendation of the Harrison-McHenry WUSTV team. She is pleased to see this possibility arise.

The topic is open to discussion among residents and the board. Mary Jenkins raised a motion that WCA expresses its support to Lt Hammer for surveillance cameras at the intersection of Harrison and McHenry. Seconded by Thomas Sauter. Motion passes. 9 in favor, 1-objection (Trinette Zawadski) 1-abstention (Steve Schramm)

Housing Court: Mayor's office provided a document the "Housing Court Overview" which Larry Eiser distributed at the meeting.

Larry Eiser presented summary of Housing Court proposal. Would be a Countywide Common Pleas Court to provide a focused mechanism to handle cases against building violations, blight, foreclosures, and evictions. City Council would have to vote on providing additional funds for Housing Court at which point the public could attend and provide comment. The intent is to make a more effective, efficient process for identifying the most problematic propertiess/owners and taking action.

The Housing Court would be under the jurisdiction of Hamilton County courts.

No WCA action needed at this time. The process and structure of the proposed Housing Court is still being established by the Mayor's Office. WCA previously expressed support for the concept at an earlier WCA meeting.

Westwood Coalition – MKSK Maintenance Plan for Town Hall Grounds renovations:

Henry Frondorf: In relation to community and board concerns about proposed dog park, specifically maintenance issues. Henry received a preliminary draft of the Parks maintenance plan. Currently \$132,000 is set aside for all maintenance needs of Town Hall Grounds. Currently no line item for dog park maintenance specifically. Specific maintenance item includes playground maintenance but no specific needs marked for others areas of the grounds.

Karen, Mary J., and Steve S. express their concerns about maintenance and that it is not specifically addressed in maintenance plan given the regular maintenance (i.e., poop scooping) that will be required.

Larry suggests Henry, as Westwood Coalition Representative, to reiterate and stress residents and Board concerns about maintenance developers and city stakeholders, and obtain assurance from the city that this will be included in planning. The common concern is that it will fall to community volunteers to clean up poop.

Mary suggests that since there is no definitive statement on dog park maintenance we should continue to advance the conversation with the city and designers to ensure a good plan is in place or the board can take appropriate action at that point.

Two residents present at meeting express opposition to presence of dog park at all given that there is already a dog park in Westwood and ruining the aesthetics of Town Hall. Emily explained one rationale for the dog park is that it activates the space, drawing people and dogs into the space at different times of the day and year.

Karen suggests there could be dog-events held to activate the space on semi-regular basis without the commitment of the dog park.

Trinette-There is the potential that budget cuts could jeopardize maintenance-as park budgets are a first and easy cut.

The board request for Shawntee and Henry to resolve the maintenance concerns with the city-demand a commitment to maintenance of dog park if we are to move forward. CRC expressed their opposition to Park Board earlier about dog park because they were told there is no budget for dog park maintenance. They were told by the city that CRC staff could do the maintenance which is not feasible.

Thomas Sauter presents a motion to have Shawntee and Henry to follow up on the maintenance plan and demand inclusion of a city funded maintenance plan specific to dog park or to remove dog park from plan. Seconded by Karen.

10-In favor 1-Opposed (Emily Reynolds)

Promotions Committee Update- Plan and Meeting announcement:

Stephen Schramm: Membership drive is in the works. Invites residents to participate. Planning meeting will be held 11/6 3-4. Location TBD. All welcome to attend.

Buildings Report: Joel Kimmet: Presentation of Top 20 worst properties list and the process that occurs before a property makes it onto this list. Hearings are held before properties can be slated for demolition. WCA attends hearings and works with city departments to put pressure on the process for movement by owner or city.

Joel will reach out to those who have expressed interest in participating on the Buildings Committee and hold a committee meeting before the next WCA General meeting.

Finance Committee Report and Proposal: Joel Kimmet: Currently WCA is spending more than annual revenue, gradually depleting a resources. Several ideas have been proposed to reduce spending and raise more funds.

Introduction of electronic newsletter has reduced costs significantly yet big expenses still remain. One priority for raising funds is to increase the membership, thereby generate more dues. Finance Committee proposes differential membership pricing for paper v. electronic newsletter options. Another proposal is to require fund-raising match for any large projects to be partially financed by WCA. Matched funds would have to be raised prior to the funded event. This could become a policy via board vote. No change to bylaws required. NSP funds would be considered 'raised funds' not WCA

funds. NSP funds vary year to year, determined by city, but would provide continued funding to projects as allocated by WCA Board.

Other idea is for WCA to host an Annual Dinner and Silent Auction to raise money and establish a signature event for Westwood and WCA. Modeled after League of Women Voter February event. The League is sharing their structure and event details with Joel to provide ideas for WCA. Propose inaugural event for October 2017. Timing will have to be determined. Discussion will be continued.

Other Business

Henry-Hometown Huddle constructed playground and exercise equipment at Ryan Park. 100 volunteers and Bengals players participated in construction today.

NSP 2017 proposal has been submitted and pre-approved. Review meeting this Thursday for approval.

Bus stop and McHenry & Harrison has been temporarily closed for 90 days as a crime deterrent. Survey of community will determine future status of bus stop.

Updates from CRC on Town Hall programming-Girls on the Run have upcoming 5k, Math competition program for prizes will opportunity to compete in citywide tournament.

Adjourn 8:50

Motion to adjourn by Shawntee. Seconded by Mary Jenkins.