

Westwood Civic Association
September 20, 2016 General Meeting Minutes
Submitted by Sara Overstake

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

Welcome, call to order by Mary Jenkins.

Motion by Joel to approve agenda with amendments – With the following items inserted. After neighborhood support, insert approval of General Liability and Directors and Officers Insurance, insert issue related to blight and housing, insert Laura Quinlivan to discuss police documentary. Motion made by Joel, seconded by Thomas. Motion passes unanimously.

Minutes: Thomas motioned to approve August General and Special meeting minutes. Henry seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Fire, Engine 35 report– For month of August, we had 429 total runs, 367 EMS, 29 non-emergency, 23 fire, 342 overdoses. Total runs are down from last month. Discussion about narcan, which is administered to keep people from overdosing. The fire department protocol is to send the person to the hospital after the narcan is administered because the narcan can wear off. It takes about 5 minutes to work. For people who have stopped breathing due to overdose, they will die without narcan.

Police, District 3 report – Officer Rich Minella is the neighborhood officer for East Westwood and Westwood. U.S. Market is now closed. Periodic patrols at Harrison, McHenry Avenue. Store owners and shop keepers in the area seem happy. Duke Energy is putting ribbons on trees and shrubs that need to be trimmed due to power lines. There is a report of breaking and entering attempt on Dunaway. Suspects had gloves on, so fingerprints will not be taken. They did get a license plate. Sgt. Chatman said if you send an email, she will respond. They are investigating the incident on Dunaway. Make sure your home is secure when you are not home, including 2nd floor windows. Officer Minella said compared to last year, every part 1 crime is down this year except homicide (6 this year compared to 5 last year). Mary Jenkins encouraged people to talk to Officer Minella or Karen Strasser about Block Watch. Use the Cincy Fix It App to report concerns.

WCA, Public Safety – Changes in leadership were made at last meeting. Shawntee is leading the Public Safety Committee with Karen Strasser. Shawntee is taking the lead on Westwood Uniting to Stop the Violence. WCA Board Members received a thank you card for the booth at National Night Out. With WUTSTV, there are groups meeting to work on initiatives at the 3 intersections targeted in the neighborhood.

Councilmember Chris Seelbach – There are good things happening in Westwood, including the neighborhood gardens, business district, and others. The Westwood Viaduct is deteriorating quickly and is a complicated issue needing a collaboration with federal, state, and local government. He is encouraging west side residents to put pressure on all levels of government because right now the federal and state government are not supporting it. Chris is working on funding to redirect for the viaduct. Chris reported that the city is doing well. Michael Mann was in attendance as well. Questions for clarification followed. The viaduct is currently a safety issue as pieces are falling off. Comments that we have been talking about this for over 10 years and question about how long it takes for something like this to be fixed. The city cannot handle it alone. Chris is working as hard as he can to convince council about the importance of fixing the viaduct. It is one of the largest priorities for the city, but they cannot repair it alone. Question about whether or not this competes with Brent Spence Bridge. This viaduct is much less costly than Brent Spence Bridge. They have not applied for any grants competing with each other. Chris thanked Mary Jenkins for her great work in Westwood.

Stephen Sippel, Principal Dater High School – Dater High School is located behind Western Hills High School. Eight years ago, it had 760 students (50% Caucasian, 50% African American), now 1250 students (20% caucasian, 60%African American, 15-20% Latino). Dater has become the west side hub for students with English as a second language. Dater gained 300 7th and 8th graders when the shift from elementary schools to high schools happened a couple of years ago. Dater is now larger than WHHS, as of last year, but they share athletic and music programs with WHHS. Students in poverty, over three years ago 62% free/reduced lunch. For 3rd year in a row, they receive Title 1 funding because this percentage is higher. Special college prep program which requires a test to get into. 20% of student population in college prep program. Students in college prep take foreign language starting in 7th grade year. Committees include Instructional Leadership Team [ILT], which deals with day-to-day issues, and a Local School Decision Making Committee [LCDMC], which determines budget, strategic planning. Dater needs an additional community member on the LSDMC. Sara Overstake is the Chair of the School Committee, so anyone interested can contact her. Homecoming is next week. Dater Walk-a-Thon coming up on Friday Oct. 7 at 10:30am, goal is to raise \$50,000. Volunteers needed to stand at stations around the route to stamp students' cards. Call Catherine O'Shea if interested 513-363-7207. Another event is Dater Cares, which involved community service projects on-site and around the community, and they are looking for opportunities. Dater did not do well with state testing scores this year. Schools across the state did not do well on testing. 92% of Algebra I students did not pass the algebra test, which is a completely new format to the students. On the 3rd Tuesday of every month, Dater offers tours of the school. Main office line is 513-363-7200.

Hometown Huddle, Lois Finnell and Dan Jones, CRC – October 18 is the volunteer event (10 slots are available for volunteers). Contact Lois if you are interested in volunteering. All parts of the sports complex will be constructed, thanks to funds from the city to make up the difference. Entire site will be fenced in. There will not be restrooms. The Challenge Course is the first in the state.

Diagrams with information were distributed. This will be located in the old tennis court area. The project is worth over \$350,000.

Clean Up Cincy (Matthew Kiel not present) Shawntee reported- next clean up is October 8, and volunteers are needed. Details are being finalized.

Liquor license, Aldi, 555 Glenway Ave. – Aldi is moving to the Glencrossing plaza and applying for a transfer of location for liquor permit, C1 and C2 and D6. This is not a change in liquor license, just a transfer. **Henry motioned for WCA to express support transfer of location of liquor license, Thomas seconded. District 3 has no objection or concerns. Motions passes unanimously.**

Liquor license, San Luis Grille Taqueria, 5836 Glenway Avenue – Applying for a new D1 license, which allows beer only for on-premises consumption. **Motion by Larry for WCA to express support for the D1 liquor license for San Luis Grille Taqueria. Seconded by Anne. Motion passes, one abstention.**

Sale of public right of way, 5560 Glenway Avenue – Currently Star Car Wash, but will be selling to another business. The proposal is to have the drive aligned with the traffic signal. **Shawntee motioned to support the sale of the public right of way with the condition that the driveway aligns with the traffic light. Seconded by Joel.** Question about whether we know if the sale will definitely include the driveway aligning with the traffic signal. **Motions passes unanimously.**

Neighborhood Support Program, Joel Kimmet – NSP funds are set aside by city for all 52 neighborhoods for the communities to use. We have \$6,800 to spend October 1, 2016-August 31, 2017. There are guidelines for the use of the funding. Joel distributed a handout with the proposal. The proposal includes funding for the newsletter, neighborhood improvement, town hall landscaping projects, Westwood Community Gardens, 9th Annual Westwood Art Show, 2nd Annual West Wheels Car Show, Deck the Hall Event. NSP rules require us to have a neighborhood vote on the funds. Anyone who is a Westwood resident is permitted to vote. Newsletter costs about \$4,800 each year to distribute, which is down from \$8,400 over the past few years as we have more electronic newsletters. Question posed: can funds be shifted? Informal amendments to shift funds are done for amounts under \$1,000 and require a vote of the board. Formal amendments for over \$1,000 require a new proposal submitted before the review committee. This year we did four informal amendments and used all of the funding. We lose the funding if we do not use it. Every neighborhood gets the same amount of funding, regardless of size. Question about money for town hall grounds if the property will be under construction in the Spring. The \$500 amount allows for us to purchase larger shrubs or other items. Neighborhood Improvement includes many small projects – flags, Westwood banners, signs, etc. Suggestion to add the capability of hanging a sign across the street in Westwood advertising events coming up. Question about pots and plants. Joe explained in the last few years, we have not had costs for these pots. People volunteer to take care of the pots. **Steve Schramm motioned to approve the**

NSP budget as written, Shawntee seconded. With the vote, 24 in favor, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

Renewal of General Liability and Directors and Officers Liability Insurance – These policies are up for renewal on October 1, 2016. **Joel motioned to renew General Liability and Directors and Officers Liability Policy for the upcoming year. Thomas seconded.** Liability is necessary for the Community Gardens and Art Show. These are standard policies for these types of organizations. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Blight and Housing – Reps from Westwood joined with reps from other neighborhoods to discuss blight. Other cities have created a housing court, which has designated judges who can recognize repeat offenders. **Larry motioned that WCA write a letter of support for the concept of a housing court to address blight and hold accountable absentee landlords. Thomas seconded.** Joel said this is working well in Cleveland and Columbus. The court is self-sustaining because of the court fees charged. Michael Mann spoke up in support of this type of court. Concerns expressed about it being self-sustaining. There are a lot of details to work through. This opportunity could be put in place quickly, and may require us to go to council and show support. **Motion passes unanimously.**

Documentary of the District 3 building, Laura Quinlivan – PBS wants a documentary about the new District 3 building, which has solar panels and creates enough energy to run year-round. The city cannot fund it because of a conflict of interest. They are \$10,000 from the goal. Frisch's \$15,000, Kroger \$10,000, PNC Bank, Rose Family Foundation, LaRosa's, JTM Meats, and others. Laura is looking for suggestions from members for funding the final \$10,000. Cincywestsidestory.com has info.

Westwood Town Hall, CRC – Bells are running Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm, spinning classes, preschool program begins.

Other Business:

This is Mary's last meeting, and she is grateful to all who support her. Also, she is encouraging people to purchase Westwood banners.

Joel presented a gift to Shawntee for taking over as President – Roberts Rules of Order Book

Michael Miller, resident of Westwood discussed Issue 52 Great Parks Levy, lasts 10 years to replace the 1-year levy in place. He is in support of this levy.

Mary Jenkins Day is today, September 20, 2016. All are welcome to join us at Public House after the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.