

**Westwood Civic Association
-General Meeting-
December 16, 2008 – Minutes**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 pm by President McNulty with the Pledge of Allegiance. 15 Board Members present, 0 excused, 0 absent. A quorum was present.

Secretary: Joel Kimmet

Present: McNulty, Gweyn, Sess, Kimmet, Baumann, Hammann, Kuhl, Lewis, McConn, Finn, Bach, Boyd, Lee, Weber and McNulty, Irene.

President McNulty announced a review of the previous meeting's Minutes (11/18/2008) Discussion. MOTION by Boyd, SECOND by McConn, to approve the Minutes from the 11/18/08 General Meeting. Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

Treasurer's Report given by Baumann. MOTION by Sess, SECOND by Boyd, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

President's Report: McNulty reported that he is very proud of our WCA board of directors right now, all are doing a great job, and we have a great board at this moment.

McNulty also reported that the Demolition Progress at 2195 Harrison and 2232 Harrison is in progress, and both properties should be torn down very soon. Demolition equipment is already sitting on-site at 2232 Harrison.

Public Forum:

Sharon Lewis reported that a criminal husband/wife team of burglars were caught by police who were involved in numerous home break-ins around the Boudinot/ Hanna/ Manning street neighborhoods.

John Sess reported that the Gateways Committee Awards were presented to WCA on account of the outstanding work on gateway projects done by WCA members Kuhl, Kimmet and Sess at the Westwood Gateways.

City NSP Report:

Kimmet reported that this meeting, as reported by the Newsletter article sent out previously, was the annual meeting and community vote for the 2009 NSP categories and amounts for the 2009 NSP Program for WCA. Kimmet briefly discussed how the NSP Program works, and how the funds were allocated in the 2008 NSP Contract.

A Sign-In sheet was circulated for all Westwood residents in attendance to "sign-in" for the official vote. A brief discussion took place concerning amounts to be placed into each 2009 NSP category. Kimmet explained we are expecting that \$7,000.00 will be available to each community council for 2009, the same as in 2008. Kimmet suggested that WCA keep the same amounts and categories for 2009 that were used in 2008, since the 2008 projects and Contract worked very smoothly this year.

** The Sign-In Sheet will be attached to the Official 2009 NSP Proposal.

City NSP Report continued:

MOTION by Kuhl, SECOND by Weber, designating the following NSP Categories: \$2,000.00 for Project #1: Neighborhood Improvement Project, \$3,000.00 for Project #2: Newsletter Project, and \$2,000.00 for Project #3: Membership Promotion. A Discussion followed where the Motion was amended to include adding the projects of “Form-Based Codes” and “Officer Education and Training” into Project #1: Neighborhood Improvement Project. All other projects that were used during 2008 will be added into the 2009 Proposal. Discussion. Of the 22 Westwood residents in attendance, 20 voted for the Motion, 2 abstained. **Motion passes.**

MOTION by Lewis, SECOND by Boyd, to include an amount of up to \$250.00 for “Officer Education and Training” project under NSP Category Project #1: Neighborhood Improvement. Discussion. Of the 22 Westwood residents in attendance, 20 voted for the Motion, 2 abstained. **Motion passes.**

MOTION by Boyd, SECOND by McConn, to change “WestFest Mug-Slide” to “Any Festival Games” and to include an amount of up to \$500.00 for these projects under NSP Category Project #3: Membership Promotion. Discussion. Of 22 Westwood residents in attendance, 20 voted for the Motion, 2 abstained. **Motion passes.**

MOTION by Boyd, SECOND by Sess, to include an amount of up to \$2,000.00 from NSP Project #1: Neighborhood Improvement and/or up to \$4,000.00 from any category, as money is left over, for the “Form-Based Codes” Project for WCA in 2009. Discussion. Of 22 Westwood residents in attendance, 20 voted for the Motion, 2 abstained. **Motion passes.**

MOTION by Lewis, SECOND by Boyd, to include an amount of up to \$1,000.00 for “Westwood Community Gardens”, (a project partnered by WCA and the Civic Garden Center) 2163 Harrison, under NSP Project #1: Neighborhood Improvement. Discussion. Of 22 Westwood residents in attendance, 20 voted for the Motion, 2 abstained. **Motion passes.**

Fire Dept. Report:

Fire-Fighter White was present and gave the Fire Report for the month. Current stats show that Engine #35, from Westwood, could be #1 in total runs for 2008, with the total runs so far this year at 3,826. Engine #35 was 2nd in total runs for 2007.

Guests:

Allyson Knue from Artworks gave a presentation on ARTWORKS, and the several murals they have done around Cincinnati. Since 1996, ARTWORKS has offered apprenticeships and art support to local artists and art students. A new project, called “Mural Works” has come out into the community to paint murals for a sense of civic pride in neighborhoods. To date, 18 murals have been painted in several areas around Cincinnati. Community councils submit a mural request form, identify a wall or a

building, vote on the design or design plan, and ARTWORKS employs a local artist or group of artists to complete the mural. Discussion. No action taken at this time.

Guests continued:

Kelly Klosterman from Strengthening Families gave a presentation on the Santa Maria Community Services efforts to partner with Strengthening Families in a “grass roots effort” to gain community input for public awareness for child neglect and abuse. The organization is requesting residents to complete a survey concerning perceptions about child abuse and neglect issues in Westwood. The program focuses on children ages 1-3. The organization wants to evolve into many agencies working together down the road. Discussion. No action taken at this time.

Committee Reports:

Nothing to report at this time.

Old Business:

Kathy Bach reported that the official results of the Mayor’s Recycling Challenge were announced earlier today. WCA board members Bach, Weber, Gweyn, Baumann, and Kimmet attended the awards presentation where WCA was presented with a check for \$1,250.00 for coming in 2nd overall in the challenge. Westwood distributed 642 new Green Recycling Bins, and only lost to East Price Hill who distributed 652 bins. West Price Hill came in 3rd with 568 bins distributed.

President McNulty reported that an anonymous donor contributed \$500.00 to WCA for the WCA/ Wayne Brinkman Student-Of-The-Year Award, so we can add a monetary award for the student winner in 2009.

New Business:

Federal NSP Report: McNulty reported that there will be an informational meeting for the Federal NSP Program tomorrow evening, 12/17/08, at 7pm at Invest-In-Neighborhoods offices downtown, called by IIN Board President Elliot Ellis. Kimmet, Lewis and Baumann will attend for WCA.

Pit Bull Law: McNulty reported that rumors are going about that a new law or proposed law concerning changes in the Pit Bull regulations may be coming. No action at this time.

Yard Sign Project: Kuhl reported that she needs advice on what the “wording” should be on the WCA meeting announcement yard signs. If anyone has ideas, please email her in the next week or so.

Montana Avenue Project Report: McNulty reported that City Council voted today 12/16/08 to accept the “3-lane road diet” plan as proposed by WCA and residents. The plan passed in committee today and should go to full council vote very soon.

New Business Continued:

Web-Site Payment: Lee reported that in order to make Web-Site improvements, WCA needs to buy back the site from David Cook, former webmaster. WCA was presented a bill for \$330.00 from David Cook for WCA to buy the rights to the web-site.

MOTION by Sess, SECOND by Hammann, for WCA to pay David Cook \$330.00 for the WCA web-site rights. Discussion. **Motion passes.**

Montana Avenue Project Continued: Sess reported that out of 200+ letters that were sent to Montana Avenue residents, over 40 came back as “undeliverable” and only 5 residents responded to WCA. It was decided that this was not a good way to do business in the future.

Post Office Account Discussion: McNulty reported that we need to set up a small account at the Post Office for the Treasurer to handle incoming mail marked “Postage Due”. MOTION by Sess, SECOND by Gweyn, that WCA set up a new account at the Cheviot Post Office, in the amount of \$100.00, for items marked, “Postage Due”, and if this account goes below \$25.00, it will get reimbursed back to \$100.00. Discussion.

Motion passes.

Email Voting: McNulty reported that until further notice, WCA will not conduct any email voting. Short Discussion. Closed Issue at this time.

Liquor License Application: McNulty reported that the Quick-Shop, 3323 Wunder has submitted a Liquor License application. MOTION by McConn, SECOND by Hammann, that WCA oppose the liquor license application for 3323 Wunder Avenue. Discussion.

Motion passes.

MOTION by Kuhl, SECOND by Lee, that WCA make a donation of \$300.00 to the Price Hill Civic Club in support of the Police Dist 3 bronze plaque for the 100-year celebration. Discussion. **Motion passes.** (Kimmet-abstaining).

MOTION by Gweyn to write a letter of support to Babe’s Tap Room, suggesting that patrons use the back door and back patio for smoking, not the front sidewalk area. NO SECOND for this Motion. Discussion. Motion fails for lack of a Second.

McNulty reported that an important CMHA appointment is coming up, where the city is rumored to be replacing Don Driehaus as director of CMHA and appointing someone else to that position. Discussion. MOTION by Kuhl, SECOND by Irene McNulty, that WCA write a letter to the City to show WCA supports Don Driehaus keeping his appointment as director of CMHA. Discussion. **Motion passes.**

MOTION by Hammann, SECOND by Boyd, that WCA write a letter of support for Goodwill, and their continued upkeep and good work in the Westwood Business District. Discussion. **Motion passes.**

New Business Continued:

Invest-In-Neighborhoods Future Unsure:

McNulty reported that Invest-In-Neighborhoods might be defunded by City Council, and that another city department may take over the city NSP program. Sr. Anne Rene explained what is currently going on and that she helped start the city NSP program many years ago. Discussion. No action taken at this time.

With no further business, Meeting Adjourned by President McNulty at 8:46 pm.

Next Meeting: January 13, 2009, which is the Steering Meeting, at 7:00 pm at WTH.