

**Westwood Civic Association  
-General Meeting-  
November 18, 2008 – Minutes**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 pm by President McNulty. 13 Board Members present, one excused, and 0 absent. A quorum was present. Secretary: Joel Kimmet.

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

**Police Report:**

Capt. Kim Frye and P.O. Rich Minella gave the Police Report for the month. Crime stats were reported on. A report was given on “gang” activities in the area. On 12/14/08, Police Dist. 3 Building in Price Hill will be 100 years old. A celebration is being planned.

**Invest In Neighborhoods Presentation:**

Rick Dieringer, Director at Invest In Neighborhoods (NSP) was our invited guest and gave an interesting presentation. WCA should apply and get a 501(c)(3) designation with State of Ohio in order to be eligible for Foundation Grants. Discussion on why community councils can not vote by email. State of Ohio “open meeting” laws apply.

Note: The City has to inform the community council on –all zoning, liquor license, abatement issues- one month ahead of time- prior to council vote on the issue.

The community council (WCA) can call for a delay in the council vote until WCA holds a meeting to approve/ disapprove the issue.

**Neighborhood Summit:**

Rick Dieringer reported that the Cincinnati Neighborhood Summit will be at Xavier College, January 24, 2009, at the Cintas Center. He encouraged all community council members and interested residents to attend. Program will be 3 hours plus lunch.

Topics: “Form-Based Codes”, “C.I.R.V.- Safety Followup”, and “Best Practice” the Kennedy Heights Project.

**Recycling Bins Project:**

Kathy Back reported our status in the Recycling Bins Project. Currently Westwood is in the lead in this “Mayor’s Challenge” project. Neighbors need to get out and distribute more green bins in our neighborhood, plus register each new bin for it to count. Kathy Bach reported that she brought 20+ bins tonight, and more are available at the library.

**501(c)(3) Issue:**

MOTION by Sess, SECOND by Kimmet, for WCA to apply and become a 501(c)(3) organization with the State of Ohio. Discussion. **Motion Passes.** Committee formed: John Sess, Joel Kimmet and Sr. Ann McConn, to pursue this matter.

**Guests:**

Ms. Jennifer Lewis-Thornton, Teacher from Western Hills Academy High School was introduced along with 20+ students from her government class, who may be attending future meetings as well, to learn how local government and civic associations work.

**Report on Montana Avenue Committee Meeting:**

This meeting was held earlier today 11/18/08 at 2:00 pm. There were 6 WCA Board Members present, including President McNulty who reported that all residents present supported a “smaller project”. City Council rejected the DOT “4-lane” proposal, thereby agreeing with the WCA and residents who attended. DOT now goes back to the “drawing board” to re-design the project. A new meeting to be set in 2 weeks before City Council. DOT will mail a postcard to every resident along the proposed route asking about parking spaces.

**MOTION** by McConn, **SECOND** by Sess, for WCA to work with DOT on the postcard. If DOT does not approve, WCA will send out it’s own postcard to all residents along the route, WCA will try both avenues, with up to \$300.00 set aside for this project.

**Discussion. Motion Passes. Committee formed:** Sess, McConn, Boyd, Baughman. Two week deadline to get this project done.

**WCA Board Vacancy:**

Discussion about the one vacancy that exists on the WCA Board currently due to the resignation of Jim Huhn. This position only goes until March 2009 election.

**MOTION** by Sess, **SECOND** by Gweyn, to install Ms. Irene McNulty as the 15<sup>th</sup> Board Member to fill the vacancy until the elections in March 2009. Irene McNulty also currently serves as WCA Membership Secretary. Irene McNulty accepted the nomination. **Discussion. Motion Passes.**

**Beppo’s Restaurant Issue:**

Sr. Ann McConn reported that the current owner wants to sell the property to WestCurc. WestCurc wants to apply for a grant in order to purchase the property. WestCurc would then lease the building to the current occupants. A plan is in place and in the works.

**Federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program:**

McNulty reported on a new project called the “Federal NSP” different from the City’s Invest In Neighborhoods NSP. This Federal NSP would supply federal monies to neighborhoods for demolition of blighted buildings. **Committee formed:** Kimmet and McConn to work on this new project and report back to WCA on a future date.

**President’s Report:**

McNulty reported on Aspen Village who wants to put up a gate on the street at their entrance. They will be coming to a future WCA meeting to discuss this idea.

Former WCA BOD member Wayne Brinkman recently passed away. Wayne Brinkman was a former WCA BOD President and Secretary. During his time on the WCA BOD he worked closely with the annual Student of The Year Award project. Cont. next page:

**President's Report cont.**

MOTION by Irene McNulty, SECOND by Gweyn, to amend our Annual WCA "Student of The Year Award" to be the "WCA/ Wayne Brinkman Annual Student of The Year Awards" Program. Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

**WCA Web-Site Report:**

Brian Lee reported that he needs a working email list first, and then he can start revamping the current web-site. This will be a "work-in-progress". More later.

**December Meetings:**

MOTION by Weber, SECOND by Gweyn, to cancel the Steering Meeting for December, and have only one meeting in December, the General Meeting on Tues. 12/16/2008. Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

**NSP Issues:**

Kimmet reported that at the next meeting, 12/16/2008, WCA needs to decide on the 2009 NSP categories for our 2009 NSP Proposal. This announcement must also be published in the December WCA Newsletter, so all residents are informed that they can attend this meeting and vote on these categories. This is a requirement by Invest In Neighborhoods. Looks like all neighborhoods will be eligible for \$7,000.00, the same as in 2008. In 2008, we had 3 categories, Neighborhood Improvement, Newsletter, and Membership Promotion. A general discussion, category selection and amount for each category will be decided and voted upon by all residents who attend the Dec. 16, 2008 meeting.

**WCA Christmas Party – 12/5/08:**

MOTION by Irene McNulty, SECOND by Sess, for WCA to provide up to \$60.00 for appetizers at the upcoming Christmas Party 12/5/08, at Rockbottom Brewery, downtown. Discussion. **Motion Passes.** See you all there at the party!

**2009 WCA Nominating Committees:**

Per WCA bylaws and Constitution, two BOD Nominating Committees (of up to 3 members each) must be appointed at the November meeting. One committee is appointed by the Board Members, the other is appointed by the President. The nominating committees then work together to find eligible candidates for the March 2009 election, and report back in January with the list of candidates.

1. First Committee: MOTION by Kimmet, SECOND by Weber, for John Sess, Melva Gweyn and Kathy Bach to be on the first 2009 nominating committee. Discussion.

**Motion Passes.**

2. Second Committee: President McNulty picked: Mary Kuhl, Irene McNulty, and Becky Weber to be on the second 2009 nominating committee.

Both committees will report back at the January meeting with a list of candidates for the 5 WCA BOD positions that will be coming open for the election.

**Guest:**

Bro. Steven Gerard, for "Life Peace Zones" gave a short presentation & needs signatures.

**Newsletter Ads Report:**

Becky Weber has now received over \$520.00 in new ads for the newsletter!  
Great Work Becky!!

**WTH Report:**

Westwood Town Hall is looking for a “Santa” for the holiday season for the annual “Santa Fest” which will be a 2-hour event. Recommendation to ask P.O. Rich Minella to play the part. Pending.

**Western Economic Council Summit:**

The Western Economic Council will be holding it’s “Summit” very soon (no date provided) at the Twin Lanterns Restaurant. WCA was asked to participate this year. There is a \$50.00 registration fee required to attend.

MOTION by Sess, SECOND by Lewis and Boyd, that WCA pay the \$50.00 registration fee to attend the Western Economic Council Summit at Twin Lanterns Restaurant.

Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

With no further business, Meeting Adjourned by President McNulty at 9:00 pm.

Joel J. Kimmet, WCA Secretary.