

Westwood Civic Association
-Steering Meeting-
November 11, 2008 – Minutes

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

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

Excused: Hammann.

The following residents signed in to speak: James Carlton, 3951 Glenmore Ave., and Dean Sawceleh, 2200 Harrison Avenue.

Speaker #1: James Carlton, 3951 Glenmore, spoke about a zoning change request at 3313 Glenmore Avenue for the purposes of a church, they wish to rezone from RM-20 to CCM, as well as acquire two residences next door for a parking lot and activity center. Discussion. WCA Board ruled to take no action at this time.

Speaker #2: Dean Sawceleh, 2200 Harrison Avenue, Westwood Deli, spoke about a zoning change request at 2200 and 2206 Harrison Avenue, and wanting to move his store next door to 2206 Harrison Avenue. They wish to change zoning from RMX to CCM. Much Discussion. The problem is that the current zoning does not allow for a store in either location. Mr. Sawceleh left a drawing of the proposal for 2206 Harrison Avenue, for the WCA records. . MOTION by Lee, SECOND by Sess, for WCA to take no action now, and to wait to see if the City proposes any action. **Motion Passes.**

NSP Report:

Kimmet reviewed remaining monies in 2008 NSP categories: Project#1: Neighborhood Improvement: \$470.35, Project #2: Newsletter: \$0.00, and Project #3: Membership Promotion: \$1544.37. These monies have to be used by 12/31/2008 or WCA will lose the chance to get these reimbursement monies.

Kimmet discussed the possibility of an “Informal Amendment” to move \$1000.00 from Project #3, into Project #1, to cover planned projects until 12/31/2008. Discussion.

MOTION by Sess, SECOND by McConn, for WCA to use the remaining 2008 NSP monies to cover the following projects: New Flags & Installation: \$1800.00, New WCA promotion yard signs: \$250.00, Westwood T-shirts: \$300.00. These projects do fall under the current 2008 NSP Contract for approved 2008 projects. Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

MOTION by Sess, SECOND by Boyd, to adopt the Informal Amendment to move \$1000.00 of NSP funds from Project #3 into Project #1, for remaining 2008 Projects, which include those items listed in the previous motion that was just passed. Discussion. **Motion Passes.** Kimmet will submit the Informal Amendment to NSP Offices.

NSP Continued:

Kimmet reported that the 2008 NSP receipts are currently all up-to-date in all categories.

In the December general meeting, WCA and residents will have to decide what categories and major projects to plan for the 2009 NSP Proposal that is due in January/February.

Invest In Neighborhoods is reporting that \$7,000.00 should be available for 2009 projects. Since WCA uses \$3,000.00 for the newsletter, that leaves \$4,000.00 for other projects that we can plan to use for 2009 projects.

2009 NSP Proposal:

Sr. McConn reported on the new” Form-Based Codes” planning being discussed within Cincinnati. Westwood can be one of four neighborhoods in the lead for this planning, along with College Hill, Pleasant Ridge, and Madisonville. Discussion on “Form-Based Codes” –v- the current zoning within Cincinnati, pros and cons.

The City is leaning towards “Form-Based Codes” and Westwood has the opportunity to be in the fore-front in this critical planning. WCA, along with WestCurc can hold a “Charette” planning meeting to discuss this issue and how it would affect Westwood. The possibility of a Residential Overlay (Harrison Ave) and a Business District Overlay (Harrison Ave), including an Urban Design Overlay for the entire length of Harrison Ave

A similar planning session was conducted in Nashville, TN with much success. WCA may want to dedicate 2009 NSP money for this planning project as a 2009 project. Additional money will come from WestCurc, and business sponsors. Total cost for holding the “Charette” may be \$5,000.00.

Sr. McConn left reading materials/chart comparing Form-Based Codes to current zoning.

MOTION by Boyd, SECOND by Lewis, that WCA write a letter supporting the “Form-Based Codes” concept for Cincinnati and Westwood. Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

WCA Christmas Dinner:

Scheduled for Dec. 5, 2008, at Rock Bottom Brewery, downtown, 8:00 pm.

Arrangements made by committee of Kuhl and Weber. Discussion.

MOTION by Sess, SECOND by Boyd, for \$90.00 to cover preparations/ invitations/ and postage. Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

WTH Clean-up Event:

Gweyn reported this event was a success. Peg Rhein and Gweyn spent \$127.00 for pizza, water, etc. for the volunteers who attended. MOTION by Sess, SECOND by Lee, to reimburse Gweyn and Peg Rhein for \$127.00. Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

New Business:

McNulty reported that the Westwood Strategic Plan for “2009” is becoming a reality. Meetings have been taking place, and anyone interested in joining the planning meetings can call Sharon Lewis to be added to the list to be notified.

McNulty reported that our current WCA Checking Account balance exceeds \$ 11,000.00, and the C.D. Account exceeds \$7,000.00. McNulty proposes to keep a lower amount in the Checking Account, and increase amounts in C.D. Accounts to make more interest. MOTION by McConn, SECOND by Kimmet, for WCA Treasurer to keep \$5,000.00 in WCA Checking Account, and all the remaining balances in multiple C.D. Accounts. Discussion. **Motion Passes.** Treasurer should report to WCA when this takes place.

McNulty reported that the City would like WCA to designate 2 more Blighted Buildings, one at 2680 Shaffer Avenue, one at 3153 Bracken Woods Avenue, which are 2- “4-family” blighted buildings onto the official list of buildings to be torn down. MOTION by Sess, SECOND by Kimmet, that WCA write letter to City approving these additions to the “official tear-down list”. Discussion. **Motion Passes.** McNulty to write letter.

McNulty reported that many citizens of Westwood would like to propose to the City to move the Police Dist. 3 Headquarters from Price Hill to Westwood. Several available sites include the old Target Store location and the old Circuit City store location. MOTION by Gweyn, SECOND by Weber, to write a letter to Cincinnati Police Dept. supporting this proposal. Discussion. **Motion Passes.** McNulty to write letter.

McNulty reported that WCA would like to propose that one of our 2006 vacant lots, “Harrison Ave./ Talbott Ave.” (2163 Harrison Ave.) be the site of “Westwood Gardens”, a community garden site, to be created by WCA and the Civic Garden Center. Currently, Kimmet and Lily Bramasco have been attending the 12-session training put on by the Civic Garden Center, which will last into the spring of 2009. MOTION by Kimmet, SECOND by Sess, that WCA approves the use of this lot as the new “Westwood Community Gardens”. Discussion. **Motion Passes.** Kimmet to write letter.

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

Joel J. Kimmet, WCA Secretary