

Westwood Civic Association
-General Meeting-
January 20, 2009

Meeting called to Order at 7:00 pm by President McNulty. 15 Board members present, 0 excused, 0 absent. A quorum was present. Secretary: Joel Kimmet.
Present: McNulty (Jim), Gweyn, Sess, Kimmet, Baumann, Hammann, Kuhl, Lewis, McConn, Finn, Bach, Boyd, Lee, Weber, McNulty (Irene).

Treasurer's Report given by Baumann. All accounts are up to date at this time.

Federal NSP Program:

Jim McNulty reported on the Federal NSP Program. Westwood will be divided up into 15 areas (thanks to John Sess who created 15 equal areas on a Westwood map) so each WCA BOD member can receive one specific area. Each member should go out into "their area" to make a listing of blighted, abandoned, foreclosed, or problem properties. The lists will be compiled to be reported later to the Federal NSP Committee.

Street Crime:

Jim McNulty reported that many street robberies have been happening lately in Westwood, especially in the area of the Business District. Captain Frey from Dist 3 will report on the problem as soon as she arrives.

Pit-Bull Law:

Jim McNulty reported that the City Pit-Bull Law has been made more strict. Back in 2003, the law was revised and stated all Pit-Bulls needed to be registered. Only 3 were registered at that time in the city. Now, the new law is even more strict, and we want to encourage the city to enforce this new law in Westwood.

Newsletter:

Jim McNulty reported that WCA BOD member Becky Weber will take over as our new "WestWords" Newsletter Editor beginning with the February '09 Newsletter.

2009 Board of Director's Nominating Committee:

Jim McNulty asked for, and Kuhl reported, that the '09 Nominating Committee did meet and the following list of nominees for the 5 WCA BOD positions for 2009 are as follows:
1. Jim McNulty (incumbent seeking re-election), 2. Brian Lee (incumbent seeking re-election), 3. Mary Kuhl (incumbent seeking re-election), 4. Sr. Ann Rene McConn (incumbent seeking re-election), and 5. Nicholas Hollan (new candidate for 2009).

The only new candidate this time is Mr. Nicholas Hollan. Discussion.

President McNulty asked if there were any other Nominations from the floor. None were stated from the floor. President McNulty stated that Nominations were now **Closed**.
The Candidate's Bios will be published in the Newsletter prior to the Election.

Public Forum:

A question from the floor was asked about the status of the old **Beppo's Market**- McConn reported that WestCurc has made a Grant Proposal and a Grant Request to purchase this property. Once purchased, WestCurc would manage the property, and a reliable tenant has already been located. This entire process is still in the works.

Idea from the floor- Maybe Dist 3 Police could use the building as a sub-station in the meantime, before WestCurc takes the building over. Discussion. Pending.

Introduction of Guests:

Greg Harris- new city councilman, was introduced to those present. Mr. Harris stated that he supports the West-Side, and the demolition projects that we are currently working on.

Laneeta Hanican- rep. from councilman Chris Monzel's office. Ms. Hanican replaces Krista, the former rep. from Chris Monzel's office.

Westwood Town Hall Report:

Marlene from WTH reported on this month's upcoming events at the WTH.

Police Dist 3 Report:

Capt. Frey and Lt. Luck from Dist 3 were present and gave the crime and police report. The police are working to identify local gang signs that have been appearing in the area. One sign is the letter "A" with 5 stars placed around it. This is a Blood-Gang Sign. One other sign is a letter "A+" with a plus sign next to the "A". This sign is an Avondale Gang Sign. Some members of this gang have moved into Westwood recently.

The Police are working on several street robberies that have occurred in Westwood recently. One was outside the Library. Video footage is being analyzed. The Police Robbery Detail and the Police Vortex Unit are coming into Westwood to help investigate these crimes. Residents who see suspicious or gang-related activities can call 765-1212 to report any problems or suspects that are seen. New graffiti has also been seen in the area that is being investigated as well.

The first street surveillance cameras will be up and running on April 1st.

The Noise Ordinance is activated each night after 11 pm. If residents call, they are placed on a priority list, but all calls are recorded and responded to, once placed on the list.

If calling about a specific activity, residents are encouraged to get an accurate description of the suspect(s). Look for items like shoes colors, height, weight, something that stands out. Do not just report that the person has a "black hoody", too many people wear these.

Capt. Frey stated that the biggest problem the Police has is identifying the suspect(s), since most of them wear similar clothing, and dark colored clothing items. The Police need very good descriptions of suspect(s) in order to locate and identify them later.

Dept. of Transportation Report (Montana Avenue):

Curtis Hines gave a presentation on the status of the Montana Avenue project. Feb. 9th is the first meeting with WCA representatives to discuss how the project will go forward. President McNulty reported that the “Road-Diet” project will go forward as approved by WCA. (The 3-lanes concept, with a center left-turn lane).

Curtis Hines stated that the Transportation Dept. is ready to meet with the WCA committee and move forward with the “Road-Diet” project as approved. Discussion. President McNulty gave a brief history on the project to those at the meeting who were new and unaware on the history of this project, and WCA disapproval of previous plans. Curtis Hines stated that “one or two meetings” are necessary, since “we are all on the same page now”, and, “The Feb. 9th meeting will be a good starting point”.

Much Discussion from the floor and WCA Montana Ave. Committee members.

(WCA BOD Montana Ave. Committee members are: Kuhl, Gweyn and Sess).

We will all be awaiting a report from this committee after the Feb. 9th meeting.

Chronic Nuisance Ordinance Report:

Charles Tassell, from Greater Cincinnati, Northern KY Apartment Owner’s Assn., was present and gave a presentation on the Apartment Owner’s interpretations and suggestions on the new Chronic Nuisance Ordinance proposal. The current motion is to make the violations a civil offense and not a criminal offense. Also to increase the monetary fines to slum landlords and slum owners who do not care about their buildings. Much Discussion on criminal –vs- civil violations and penalties. Pros –vs- cons.

The majority of WCA BOD and residents present seem to agree that criminal violations are good, and do have a good effect on problem slum lords, and slum owners.

MOTION by Sess, SECOND by Gweyn, for WCA to OPPOSE the new Ordinance which repeals the criminal violations in the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance, and for WCA to write a letter in support of this decision to the City. Discussion. Motion Passes. (11 in favor, with 3 abstentions).

Ohio Concealed Weapons Carry Law Presentation:

Mr. Tom Wood, and Mr. Chris Adams gave a presentation on Ohio’s Concealed Weapons Carry Law, and how to receive proper training to receive the certification. The presentation covered that all citizens should “Be Aware/ Alert/ and Work Together”. The training program in Ohio is a 12-hour class, which consists of 10-hours in the classroom, and 2-hours on the firing range. Cost is \$55.00 fee and an application.

Mr. Wood explained how the Ohio Law differs from many people’s opinions and lack of understanding on how the law really works. The training is an excellent program.

Discussion from the floor with many questions from the floor.

The presentation was concluded with stories and examples.

Committee Reports:

Sess and Kuhl divided up the 15 Westwood areas to the 15 WCA BOD members for the Federal NSP Program blighted buildings identification process.

The Liquor Control Committee will meet with Councilperson Leslie Ghiz on 1/28/09.

MOTION by Boyd, SECOND by Sess, to approve the 12/16/08 Meeting Minutes and the 01/13/09 Steering Meeting Minutes as Amended. Discussion. Motion Passes.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Meeting was Adjourned by President McNulty at 8:58 pm.

Next Meeting: Steering Meeting, February 10, 2009 at WTH, at 7:00 pm.