

**Westwood Civic Association
-Steering Meeting-
January 13, 2009 – Minutes**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 pm by President McNulty. 14 Board members present, 1 excused, 0 absent. A quorum was present. Secretary: Joel Kimmet.

Present: McNulty (Jim), Gweyn, Sess, Kimmet, Baumann, Kuhl, Lewis, McConn, Finn, Bach, Boyd, Lee, Weber, McNulty (Irene). Excused: Hammann.

CPS and Westwood School:

McNulty reported that the CPS meeting was held 1/12/09, Westwood School will be rehabbed, and the addition will be put on the Harrison Avenue side, against the wishes and recommendation of WCA to put the addition on the Epworth Street side. Sr. Anne Rene reported that if the “Form-Based Codes” had been in effect, this would not have happened. Discussion. According to CPS, the major “issues” were parking, playground location, sewer system issues, next-door church support, and the teacher’s parking lot.

MOTION by Lewis, **SECOND** by Kuhl, that WCA write a letter that the “Epworth Street Presentation” be presented in its entirety to CPS, at a subsequent CPS meeting, and that the WCA disapproval with the Harrison Avenue decision be included in the letter. Discussion. Mary Kuhl volunteered to write the letter. **Motion Passes**.

Old Business:

Valerie Baumann submitted bills for \$2.98 and \$7.24 for the WTH Fall Cleanup projects, which have already been voted on previously and already paid at a previous meeting.

Guests/ Presentations:

Caroline Duffy and Sr. Anne Rene made a presentation on the problem/ blighted property located at 2857-2861 Fischer Place, a six-family apartment bldg, which was once two separate homes. Presentation included crime stats, photos, and safety/ threat information. Several neighbors were also present for their support. The entire group asked for WCA support and assistance in having the building acquired and demolished by the city. Discussion. McNulty reported that this address is one of the problem properties that is #1 on our list to the city for demolition. Discussion.

MOTION by Sess, **SECOND** by Bach, that WCA encourage the city to Expedite the Hazard Abatement Process for these properties (2857-2861 Fischer Place) because of safety hazards. Discussion. Caroline Duffy volunteered to write letter. **Motion Passes**.

Guests were also present from Queen City Market, who has applied to the city for liquor license renewal, but no presentation was made by them at this time.

Planning for 01/20/09 Meeting:

McNulty reported that Mr. Curtis Hines, from the city, wants to conduct a “neighborhood walk” of Montana Avenue, and who now wants to work with WCA to plan for the new “road diet” system for the Montana Avenue Project. Gweyn and Kuhl volunteered.

McNulty reported on the “Federal NSP”- A Community Development meeting will be planned with Mr. Herman Bowling with WCA, it is the next step in the process, and will consist of a neighborhood meeting at WTH with the WCA BOD in the near future. In the meantime, WCA needs to develop a priority list of properties that fit the “problem property” or “area benefit” criteria. Eligible properties have to either be abandoned and a public nuisance, or are currently foreclosed upon to fit the “Federal NSP” criteria.

MOTION by Sess, **SECOND** by Irene McNulty, that WCA divide up Westwood into 15 areas, one for each board member, assign each area to a board member to identify and look for blighted/ abandoned buildings to fit the “Federal NSP criteria” in each area.

Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

Irene McNulty reported that all WCA BOD members should think about what committees we want to identify for the next year. Discussion.

John Sess reported that Mr. Tom Wood will make a presentation at the 1/20/09 meeting about Ohio’s Concealed Weapon Carry Law. This will be an informational talk on public safety, training that is available, and how one applies for and trains for a Conceal Carry Permit in Ohio. Discussion.

Website Report by Lee. Lee reported that the WCA check has been given to our former web-master in order to retrieve the passwords and codes to operate the website. We are now awaiting the former web-master to relinquish the passwords and codes to Lee.

McNulty and Kuhl reported that the “I Love Westwood” Facebook Page is now up and running.

McNulty reported that we received a letter from the city that 3610 Higby Avenue is now being demolished, since the property was condemned by the city.

McNulty reported that Becky Weber is taking over the Newsletter in February. Weber reported that she will need help with articles and news items to put in the newsletter.

Lewis reported that he wants to do two or more articles in the Newsletter which would feature a local Westwood business. He asked WCA to consider giving a monthly WCA Business Award. Lewis needs ideas on questions to ask each business for the articles. Discussion on a WCA Business Award. No action taken at this time.

Lee presented an idea about changing the Steering Meeting to an earlier date each month, to eliminate the 2-3 week period that occurs from the General Meeting to the next Steering Meeting. This 2-3 week time frame that occurs between meetings effects deadlines from the city, and letters that come from the city, like liquor license requests, etc. Discussion about the possibility of changing Steering Meeting to 1st Mondays or 1st Thursdays of the month, instead of the second Tuesdays of the month. (cont next page)

After much Discussion it was decided to keep the Steering Meeting where it currently is, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm, and leaving the General Meeting where it currently is, the Third Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm. No changes made.

McNulty reported that the bill from Banicom for the Dist. 3 Rededication Sign was received for \$319.50, instead of the \$300.00 that was approved by WCA at a previous meeting. Discussion.

MOTION by Irene McNulty, **SECOND** by Sess, to change the approved amount to \$319.50 from \$300.00 for the Dist. 3 Rededication Sign from Banicom, Inc.

Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

McNulty reported that the “Wayne Brinkman- WCA- Student of the Year Award” project will need a committee who will work on this project for the May General Meeting. John Sess volunteered to head up this committee. Discussion on contacting each school principal to select a student from each school who fits the award criteria.

Clean and Safe Community Grants:

Lee reported that he would like to head the WCA committee who would submit quarterly proposals to the city in order to obtain Clean and Safe Community Grants for WCA. One idea is to paint vacant store-front windows to look like occupied businesses. Discussion.

Boyd also reported that several sites could be submitted for blight removal, as well as support for the new Westwood Community Gardens site. Discussion.

A volunteer committee was formed: Lee, Bach, Boyd, and Finn. This committee will look at sites, and make proposals to submit for a grant for each quarter of the year.

Public Meetings: A discussion was brought up by Weber on the topic of WCA members speaking at city counsel meetings or committee meetings, and the way introductions are made. Discussion. McNulty stated that WCA members have to be very careful at city meetings. McNulty further stated that WCA members are encouraged to speak out and to be involved, but we have to introduce ourselves as “individuals”, and not representing the “entire group”, unless there is time to discuss the issue at a WCA meeting in advance, and vote on an official stand of the WCA. Discussion.

City NSP: Kuhl stated she was uneasy of how the NSP amounts were changed at the last minute. NSP Manager Kimmet replied that President McNulty approved the last minute changes, and that the amounts changed were within the original parameters passed previously (on November 11, 2008). McNulty stated the changes were approved and fine. Discussion.

CWCA Meetings:

Sess reported that WCA was given one ballot for the CWCA Board of Directors election.

MOTION by Kuhl, **SECOND** by Irene McNulty, that WCA fill out the ballot, and send it back to the CWCA to be counted. **Motion Passes.** Bach and Boyd have the ballot.

With no further business at this time, Meeting Adjourned by McNulty at 8:50 pm.

Next Meeting: General Meeting, 01/20/09, at 7:00 pm at WTH.