

**Westwood Civic Association  
General Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2009**

Meeting Called to Order by President McNulty at 7:00 pm. 12 Board Members present, and 3 excused. A quorum was present. Secretary: Kathy Bach (filling in for Joel Kimmet). Present: McNulty, Gweyn, Sess, Baumann, Kuhl, Lewis, McConn, Finn, Bach, Lee, Weber, and Hollan. Excused: Boyd, Kimmet, Hamman.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

McNulty—Gearing up for Spring. Spring is a time for renewal, but also a time for Spring fever. President McNulty urged us to fight the urge to despair and concentrate on fighting the negative. Keep up the fight. Keep up the hope. Stay ahead of the situation.

**POLICE REPORT:**

Officer Rich Minella reported that City started a theft reduction campaign: "Keep your junk in your trunk." New crime statistics from March. Questions/comments from public: Request (again) to be updated on when "McFarlan Gang" goes to trial. Some of the juveniles may have already been to court last week.

2186 Harrison—problem with boarded up windows, and kicked in door. Contact building and inspections.

**February 2009 Meeting Minutes:**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Baumann gave the Treasurer's Report and the current account balances.

MOTION by Sess, SECOND by Kuhl, to approve the Treasurer's report. Discussion. **Motion Passes.**

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Ms. Peg Rhein, the volunteer coordinator for WTH garden reported two upcoming volunteer opportunities:

1. Sunday, 3/21/09 1 pm-3 pm—revisit cleaning up the gardens, prune away dead foliage, pick up fallen branches, rake leaves and loosen up the mulch around the trees and shrubs.
2. "Great American Clean Up" Saturday, 4/25/09 9 am-1 pm—WTH  
Need volunteers for both events. Even if you can't commit to entire time, please contact Peg to volunteer: [paperpeg@cinci.rr.com](mailto:paperpeg@cinci.rr.com)

Ms. Marlene Trapp from Westwood Town Hall. Cincinnati Recreation Commission—program guides are available at WTH. Family events: Madcap, movies in April and May, Bunny Run. Still have space in summer camps for kids/teens.

John Sess-3305 or 3311 Gamble clean-up. Formal thank-you for board members who helped—McConn, Gweyn. The owner sent a check for \$50 to WCA in appreciation for clean-up

A resident expressed concerns about *Westwords*: Is there a policy for written articles being signed by author?

A resident expressed concerns about property at Grasselli and Harrison. Frank McQue's building. Needs some help. Public nuisance hearing?

**GUESTS:**

**Mr. Chris Kearney**, CDCC (Community Driven Crime Control) *and* The Chronic Nuisance Ordinance- How to implement it in Westwood. "It doesn't matter what you know, it matters what you can prove." This is an opportunity for Westwood to join a coalition of neighborhoods that are already on board. Free to join. Need a formal request to Xavier University to join.

MOTION by Lee SECOND by McConn for WCA to write a letter to Dr. Wong at Xavier University to join this coalition. Discussion. **Motion Passes** unanimously. Lee volunteered write letter.

**Bishop Carl Behanan**, Pastor at Grace Temple Apostolic Church in North College Hill. (1724 Dallas Ave). Looking to expand the ministry to 3158 McHenry Avenue. Move from North College Hill to Westwood.

**Mr. Gene Matho**, architect helping Bishop Behanan—architectural development proposal for site at McHenry. Want to bring in programs: Senior living center (HUD 202 program), and possible youth programs. Congregation is 245 members. Questions and discussion.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Liquor Czar, Mr. Rick Ketterer attended Councilmember Ghiz's forum. Disappointed to learn we were too late to submit evidence to the liquor permit hearings. Will be keeping track of all liquor ordinances.

Lewis reported he attended District 3 Resource Meeting—McFarlan gang. Perhaps two more gangs in Westwood, one in Fay Apartments. One in Millvale that targets African refugees 3/1 POV reports start. Next meeting 3/25, 7 pm Price Hill Recreation Center.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Committees** to be created—need to be more proactive setting this up on e-mail. Weber set up 8 committees based on 8 goals from the new Strategic Plan (School Enhancement Committee, etc).

**Montana Avenue Project.** Sess reports they met with City 3 times and we are winning on the "road diet" issue. John will find out date/time of next meeting.

**Federal NSP** (Neighborhood Stabilization Program) has been submitted. McConn and McNulty submitted a joint venture concept plan from WestCURC and WCA. More information to come in June.

**Westwood School Update** McNulty reported the decision by Zoning Hearing Examiner to support WCA's stance to build gymnasium addition on Epworth side.

Kathleen Ernst, resident of Epworth reports she was on the planning team from the start. She commends WCA and CPS (Cincinnati Public Schools) for their efforts. Ms. Ernst has circulated a petition to Epworth residents and has 80 signatures supporting putting the addition on the Harrison Avenue side, and are vehemently opposed to it being on the Epworth side. This petition asks WCA to reverse their decision and support CPS's original recommendation. Discussion ad nauseum. No action. WCA maintains their original position.

**Strategic Plan Update**—McNulty reports we have a draft and need residents to get involved in the planning process. Next meeting is 3/30 at 6:30 pm at WTH.

**Web site update**—Lee reports [www.westwoodcivic.org](http://www.westwoodcivic.org) is up and running and current. Lots of information! Check it out! Brian needs people to send him updates and help keep it current.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Fischer Property** Property is abated to be demolished, but there is an ownership issue. MOTION by McConn SECOND by Lee to add this property to our list to purchase and demolish this property for up to \$30,000. Discussion. **Motion Passes unanimously.**

**Meeting with the Mayor-** Suggested topics—e-mail to [info@westwoodcivic.org](mailto:info@westwoodcivic.org)

**Pogue Center/ VOA**

MOTION by McConn SECOND by Sess to write a letter to appropriate people asking them to move the Pogue Center to relocate to a rural location out of Hamilton County. Discussion.

**Motion Passes.** McNulty will write the letter.

**Ordinance-Neighborhood Support Program**

MOTION by McConn SECOND by Gweyn to send letter to City Council to hold off on this ordinance amending City Council rules. . Discussion. **Motion Passes.** McConn will write the letter.

With no further business, Meeting was adjourned by President McNulty at 9:07 pm.

Next Meeting: WCA Steering Meeting, 4/14/09, 7 pm Westwood Town Hall.