

**Westwood Civic Association
Steering Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2009
7 pm Westwood Town Hall**

Meeting Called to Order by President Sess at 7:00 pm. 13 Board Members present, 1 absent, and 1 excused. A quorum was present. Secretary: Kathy Bach.

Present: McNulty, Gweyn, Sess, Kimmet, Baumann, Kuhl, Lewis, McConn, Finn, Bach, Boyd, Lee, Weber. Excused: Hammann, Hollan.

Federal NSP Demolition Funding:

Guests: Michael Cervay, Herman Bowling, and Greg Harris of the City of Cincinnati.

McNulty expressed concern re: not being able to purchase properties (i.e., no land-banking). He says we are missing an opportunity to get rid of some problem properties. City says we can only demolish blighted buildings and laws prohibit land-banking at this time, but they may look at land-banking through the County. Discussion. McNulty wonders if we can acquire some properties using TIF. Cervay says this is possible only if there is a redevelopment plan for the properties. Gweyn states we need stronger enforcement on problem properties.

Sess asks what is the current amount of money allocated for Westwood?

Cervay reports the overall amount of money for Westwood stayed the same. The City took money from WestCURC (rehab) and added it to Civic (demolition). The breakdown:

\$258,432 for demolition

\$270,568 for purchase/rehab

\$70,000 for financing mechanisms, totaling \$599,000.

After learning the amount of funding for demolition had been increased, the proposed plan was approved by both WestCURC and the WCA.

Councilmembers Jeff Berding and Greg Harris—more discussion on Federal NSP money. Boyd expresses concern regarding one application for each neighborhood. Berding wants to minimize the Administration costs. Harris expresses that Westwood is the largest neighborhood and should get a larger share of NSP money.

Dave Garret, Citizens on Patrol (COPS) has a receipt for \$299.73 for 4 voice recorders using local NSP and requests reimbursement (which was approved at a prior meeting).

Invest in Neighborhood Merit Grant

Kimmet reported this grant was submitted in time, but there were many requests, so the amounts may be cut. Kuhl expressed concern of money from flag program going in to the garden program. Kimmet had to finish the grant application under the wire, and regrets there was not enough time to discuss the details before it was due. Discussion. **MOTION** by Lewis to request an amendment to the application that all profits from the sale of the flags go in to WCA general funds. **SECOND** by Lee. Passes unanimously.

City NEP (Neighborhood Enhancement Program) funds

These funds need to be spent in Harrison and McHenry area. \$800 left in this fund. Flowerpots and flags? Discussion.

Committee appointments (pending) (see attached)

Sess reviews Committee appointments.

Sess points out Hollan is only member on School Enhancement Committee. Kuhl volunteers to serve on until Westwood school plan is complete. Bach volunteers to serve after Westwood school plan is complete. Hollan will chair?

Catherine Ross (catross@huff.com) is interested in serving on Buildings and Properties Committee. McConn excuses herself from this committee.

Business District Committee—nominate Randy Hammann to chair. Rick Boyd will serve if Randy is unable.

Public Safety Committee—Rick Ketterer raketterer@gmail.com will also serve on this committee

Promotions and Membership—ok

Preservation Committee—Liz Kissel is invited as well. Lewis will serve on this committee as well. Bach will chair it.

Finance Committee—needs a Chair. Hollan is invited to this committee as well. McConn volunteers for this as well.

Westwood School Report:

Kuhl reports she attended the CPS School Board meeting. CPS had cancelled a meeting on Westwood school due to a “bureaucratic SNAFU.”

MOTION by Kuhl to retain a lawyer up to the amount of \$2,500 to represent WCA’s position on Westwood School.

SECOND by Weber. Discussion: Kuhl would work to get this pro bono. **MOTION TO TABLE** by Lee. **SECOND** by Weber. Lee offers to sit down with Kuhl and Hammann before we vote on this. Discussion. Motion to table defeated. **Original motion passed.**

In favor: 12

Opposed: 1

Sr. Ann Rene McConn—WestCURC

Bell Building Update—see bulleted list from Caroline. Secured “grant information” to secure Law building and turn in to a parking lot. Would make this one of the first historically significant LEEDS building in the country.

Tour Bell Building—Sat at noon

Kuhl expressed concern about WestCURC’s mission and their relationship with METRO. Kuhl requested more communication from WestCURC. Weber is also concerned about METRO relationship.

WestFest—Boyd reports Queen City Electric (Mike Cavanaugh) is our sole sponsor. Per CWCA, we are not allowed to have 2 games at same booth at WesFest.

Good Guy Loitering—Brian Lee—Thursday, 8-10 pm

Catherine Ross—2818 Harrison went for sale for \$20,000.

School Awards

MOTION to spend \$25 on Target Gift Certificates for Student Awards. **SECONDED.** Motion passes unanimously.

With no further business, **Motion to Adjourn** by Kuhl **Seconded** by Lee at 9:10 pm.

**Next Meeting: WCA General Membership Meeting, 5/19/09 at 7pm
Student Awards**