

**WCA General Meeting
July 20, 2010
7:00 P.M.
Westwood Town Hall**

Attendance

Present: Bach, Baumann, Boyd, Gweyn, Hollan, Lewis, Kuhl, McNulty, Neeld, Sess, Weber

Absent: Kimmitt

Excused: Henke, Lee, McConn

Recording Secretary

Mitch Neeld

Cincinnati Fire Department

Firefighter Freeman reported regarding Engine Company 35. June runs: 317 total, 269 EMS, 17 fire. Year runs: 2041 total, 1742 EMS, 90 fire. Runs are down a little bit this year, but up for the last few months. Someone asked about critical runs. Firefighter Freeman reported that in June there were 48 advanced life-support runs and 205 basic life-support runs. Kuhl asked how many Engine Company 21 runs were to Westwood. Someone asked if we could get a map to find out which Company handles what areas. Firefighter Freeman stated that they have a map at the house. Sess asked for a copy. We would need to talk to Capt Felder(sp?) at 352-2335.

Cincinnati Police Department

Officer Minella left crime statistics handouts and copies of chronic nuisance. A member thanked the officers for their work at 3324? Hanna. Officer Matt Thompson introduced himself. He lives in Westwood and requested a "beat" in Westwood. He mentioned that Capt Neville wants his officers to take the initiative to find small problem areas to work on. His area of interest is the Glenmore Ave. area including UDF, the strip mall containing Dominos Pizza and the Broadwell Apartments. Weber mentioned the meeting with Mr. Brinker and that the property was showing improvement. Kuhl mentioned that representatives from UDF had been invited to the meeting, but had not attended. Sess complained about the CD sales at the cell phone store at the old Beppos. Officer Thompson stated that complaints were effective for shutting down the street vendors and that we should complain non-anonymously via 765-1212. Sharon Lewis spoke about being harassed at the Mayridge Apartments and a news segment about the kids on the street. Gweyn mentioned that Beppos owner was the same owner as the Westwood Deli and mentioned the need to contact the owner. Member Michelle asked for some attention to be paid to the apartments on Stathem Ave.. Sess will call traffic engineering and ask them to "re-sign" Stathem Ave. Kuhl asked who is the officer for her "area" and was told to email the Captain. Hollan asked whether there was a list. Officer Thompson stated that there is a first, second and third shift officer for each sector and that we should call anonymously and ask. Sess

will call the Captain and find the names of all of the sector officers and their supervisors. Weber mentioned that the gentleman at 3324 Hanna? Is back with the pit bull. Sharon Lewis asked to have list posted on web site. Trent Lewis asked to have it advertised in the news letter.

Kuhl

Mary reported on the Membership Committee. There is a Good Guy Loitering event at Harrison and Roberts – 8:00 to 10:30 this Friday. There will be a grill-out at Town Hall on Sept 21 at 5:30 (our 2nd annual membership grill-out) to be followed by the general membership meeting. The Art Show is on Sept 18. Membership cards can be printed from website. There are extra newsletters at library.

Gweyn

Melva reported on the Infrastructure Committee. She has had to replace some of the plants in the pots. Some plants on town hall grounds have been stolen. A pot at McHenry and Harrison was hit by car – Melva creatively repaired it. Of the 40 flags hung in May – 5 were damaged but have been fixed by McNulty, Sess, and Kuhl.

Sess

John reported on the Public Safety Committee. John mentioned an arrest on Hanna. District 3's National Night Out is at the Kroger lot on Ferguson Rd – Tuesday, Aug 3 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Weber would like to start calling bad landlords and have them at committee meetings. Weber stated that regarding 2400 Harrison Ave. – the calls must get down to 3 before coming off list. A member noted they don't feel safe at Ferguson Walmart. Sess reported that there is a huge number of calls to that parking lot. Chris Kearney and Becky are meeting with Capt Neville on chronic nuisance issues.

Bach

Kathy reported on the Preservation Committee. The Committee held a meeting last Wednesday. Liz Kissel of the Westwood Historical Society made a presentation on the Gamble Estate. There was a good turnout. Cincinnati Magazine rated Westwood as one of the top 10 places to live in Cincinnati.

Hollan

Nick reported on the School Enhancement Committee. Regarding the Westwood School - the contractor's hiring policy wasn't inclusive enough (low percentage minority contractors). Shawn Parker told Nick that an emergency meeting will be held next week, that the measure will pass, then construction will start. Sess sent an email to the school board regarding the meeting date and time and got no response. Nick will forward date and time to John.

McNulty

Jim reported on the Outreach Committee. No new news to report. Jim reported on problem properties: 2570 Harrison Ave. (the Imperial House) – their VBML is being revoked; 2280 Harrison Ave. – a pre-prosecution hearing was held, the owner did not attend, it is heading toward demolition. Bracken Woods, 2680 Shaffer – there is money to buy and tear down but nothing is happening. It seems we have missed the opportunity – it has been bought and is being worked on. Sess got an email from Markeia Gore and Tom Klumb – list of buildings they are watching. We need to get Ms. Gore and Mr. Klumb to the next meeting. Kuhl would like Mr. Klumb's boss (Kirk?) to also attend. Sess talked about the active search for a new firehouse location and the problems with various sites. McNulty emphasized that our policy is to tear down (not rehab with tax money) apartments. The desire is for 60% single family dwellings.

Baumann

Valerie reported on the Finance Committee. WestFest booth grossed \$354 and netted \$154. The Yard Sale made \$344.25 of which \$40 came from banner sales.

ITN Cincinnati

Nancy Schuster and Katherine Monsterio spoke about "Dignified Transportation for Seniors". They are a private, non-profit, membership organization. They promote safety for seniors. They provide 24/7 transportation to anywhere for any purpose for 60+ year old and/or visually impaired adults. They charge members approximately half of the costs as a fee for the ride. One benefit is a personal transportation account which a member can use later or donate to other members. Kuhl asked what private, non-profit meant in their case and whether it meant no public funds. The answer was none. There is a \$75 membership fee. They need volunteer drivers. They've received good community response. They have been in existence since May 26, 2010. Sess asked about insurance for volunteers. They require valid insurance and a valid driver license. They perform a BMV check, a vehicle inspection and ride along with new drivers. Baumann asked if they screen clients. Members fill complete application and they match members to volunteers. A question was asked about background checks on volunteers. It is done through Deaconess – the same as would be done for a Pharmacist. Their number is 559-2200. Their website is www.itngreatercincinnati.org. Gweyn asked in case of emergency in the middle of the night who would cover? They do not cover emergency transportation. Also if there is no volunteer driver to cover, paid drivers are used.

Extended Care Program

Vickie Welsh of Westwood United Methodist Church spoke about the Strengthening Families Program and how it led to the realization they needed to provide more child care and thus the Extended Care Program. This is paid care from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm in 2 hour increments for those children enrolled in pre-school at UMC. They are licensed for 12 children this year.

Sess mentioned an email to Felix Bere and that the Westwood Strategic Plan was on City Council's agenda for Aug 4. Sess mentioned an email from Valerie Miller of DIY Network's Desperate Landscapes. They are looking for a home in the area. They want the worst of the worst. We will put a link on our website.

Applications for Construction

WestCURC to add a bathroom to house on 3738 Boudinot
Metro for a park and ride bus layover in the parking lot at Glen Crossing.

Kaboom Playground

Trish Kitchell of the Gamble-Nippert YMCA at 661-1105 spoke about the Kaboom Playground build. Aug 28 is build day which she described as "extreme makeover playground". It will be a community playground (i.e. no membership to the YMCA will be required to use the playground). They need 200 volunteers. There are 75 volunteers from Foresters leading the effort. Need builders, landscaping, etc. Karen Strasser, who was instrumental in starting the community block watches, is on the Board at Gamble-Nippert YMCA. We will put the date on our website.

A Member mentioned a dumpster issue on Hanna Ave. It is at a house that is being rehabbed and has been there for approximately 2-1/2 years. Sess sent an email to Bill Jacoby in Waste Collection – and was told that there is no ordinance prohibiting the dumpster. Sess found garbage can verbage in the Cincinnati Municipal Code.

MOTION by ? to write email to City Council, Mr. Jacoby and the City Manager to have dumpster removed.

SECOND by Hollan

DISCUSSION – 2818 Harrison had a three day yard sale. We have a junk car ordinance. We need a POD ordinance. We need a dumpster ordinance. Lewis recommended checking with Scott Ryan regarding possible zoning issues. Kuhl suggested taking pictures and involving the media. Someone mentioned that Dunkin Donuts had to have their dumpster enclosed. Sess asked if we could find out how many times this has been reported.

PASSED unanimously

Kuhl asked how do we nominate someone for Yard of the Month? Call Gil and Joan McLean the Chair persons at 661-6017 and give address, they will see if they accept. Dick Finn delivers and picks up the signs.

MOTION to adjourn by Kuhl

SECOND by Boyd

DISCUSSION none

PASSED unanimously