

WCA General Membership Meeting
June 15, 2010
7:00 P.M.
Westwood Town Hall

Attendance

Present: Bach, Baumann, Boyd, Gweyn, Kimmet, Kuhl, Lee, Lewis, McConn, McNulty, Neeld, Sess, Weber

Absent: Henke, Hollan

Recording Secretary

Mitch Neeld

3324 Hannah Ave

The recent problems at 3324 Hannah were reported by member Jerry. There was gunfire last Sunday. It was mentioned that perhaps we could put pressure on the owner to better screen applicants. Sess stated that it was an issue for the Problem Properties Committee. Weber reported that the property was on the chronic nuisance list. A question was asked: "what does being on the chronic nuisance list mean." Captain Russ Neville of the Cincinnati Police responded: 1.) that the benefit of the chronic nuisance list is from the behavioral side; 2.) it puts pressure on the owners to repair, improve or remove themselves from ownership; 3.) it is not a fast process. Captain Neville also stated that Sarvis Ct is a huge deal to us.

Cincinnati Police

Captain Russ Neville – the new District 3 Captain – and Captain Terri Theetge – Captain of Vice – were in attendance.

Pit Bulls

Capt Neville reported that he met with five representatives from WCA who presented a list of issues and the issue of pit bulls was among the top. Capt Neville reported that the pit bull issue is a new "problem solving project" for the next 30, 60, 90 days and that the police need to abide by the Cincinnati Municipal Code. Officers need to be trained in identification – they were coordinating with the SPCA to train 40 officers. The intended impact by August is to reduce the number of pit bulls from current 50, 60 or 70 to a reasonable number. Irene McNulty noted that officers may need to first be trained to even know that it is illegal. Sharon Lewis reported that at 3153 Mayridge Ct a pit bull was being kept in the boiler room.

Short Hanna

Capt Neville reported that there were no calls for shots fired on Hanna. To his knowledge there was to DEA activity. He asked that the public please call 911 or 765-1212 so that calls are registered and can be analyzed. Member asked why the City can withhold government money for homeless shelters that don't prevent

pan-handling, but can't for organizations like CHMA that don't screen properly for Section 8 housing. Lewis responded that CMHA is to part of the city. Sharon Lewis reported that on the other side of Hanna there has been vandalism and threats involving 14 kids – five of which have been identified. Capt Neville stated that he will be at 3153 Mayridge tomorrow with District Commander and Vice Commander. McNulty reported drug activity on Penrose and Daytona involving two cars. Capt Neville stated that we need to exhibit visibility – it's not acceptable, to think outside the jail. Gweyn talked about how she took on a particular location and keeps an eye on it and recommended adopting a spot. Capt Neville stated that the philosophy of aggressive policing is great for catching them, but we can't house them. His plan is to break the district down into three portions with one lieutenant, four to five sergeants, and 30-33 officers over the first second and "power" shifts. Each officer will adopt an 8-12 block section to focus on, find things that need to be fixed. They will get back to problem solving policing where they interact, but still need community involvement. The officers will still be required to respond to precinct-wide radio runs.

Capt Theetge

District 1 Captain for the last two years. She is now in Central Vice Enforcement Section over-seeing 50 officers with city-wide responsibilities including: drug complaints, liquor permits, porn, gambling and prostitution. She is trying to change the culture which is currently complaint-driven to better support patrol and their direction. She asked that we email complaints and stated that the more information given on the complaint, the more likely it will get assigned to an officer. She noted that it would be easier to work with a point of contact within the group to prioritize vice concerns. Lee mentioned the increased block watch activity in Westwood and those taking pictures and video. She asked to have the images sent electronically and said they were working on prioritizing levels of information and routing them to the proper groups – vice, district, etc. Someone mentioned that the department should set up standards for what information they want and how they want it transmitted. Sess provided "I Love Westwood" shirts.

Officer Minella

Officer Minella reported that the "Benz" tagger was caught. They executed a search warrant on Boudinot, confiscated property and charged him with a felony.

CWW

Connie Rush – a Superintendent for Cincinnati Water Works and Mark Menkhause – an Assistant Superintendent gave a presentation on Issue 8 the Water District proposal. City Manager Dohoney commissioned a group to study Cincinnati Water Works becoming a regional water district. If Cincinnati changes the governance to public water district then voters will get to vote on it before it happens. There is a public meeting at the Cintas Center on July 28 at 6:00 pm. Why change flyers to be distributed covering topics including keeping rates low with declining population in Hamilton County and Cincinnati. Sess asked if City owns water works and why not just expand. Rush noted that the City is only 78

sq. miles and CWW serves 800 sq. miles. The State Constitution says that they can only expand as far as facilities will have a direct benefit to the City and they are at the limit – eg. CWW could not build a treatment facility in Dayton. Ken Ellis – representing the CWW workers – stated that the conversion to a regional water district would represent a downgrade to CWW employees who would lose opportunities for extra work with the City (eg. snow shoveling).

Anthony Brinker

Mr. Brinker is part owner (along with his brother) of the strip mall next to UDF on Glenmore Ave. Sess noted the issues of loitering, litter, calls for service and general mayhem occurring at the businesses located within Mr. Brinker's property. Mr. Brinker stated that he would like a specific list of problems and that it would be easier to address them and get resolution. He stated that if he was required to expend dollars that it probably wouldn't happen. Sharon Lewis stated that due to the market and beeper store, people won't go to Dominos. Dominos has resorted to bring pizzas to customers cars. Lewis noted that the bars across Glenmore have complained. Weber noted that Dominos employees are scared. Kuhl asked when the last time that he was at his property. Kimmert mentioned the individuals selling CDs on a portable table in front of the businesses. Mr. Brinker gave his email address: abrinker@nuvox.net.

Housing Opportunities Made Equal

Gerry Jones and another individual spoke regarding Housing Opportunities Made Equal. They are a non-profit organization at the United Way on Reading Road. They help eliminate discrimination issues in housing. They made available a flyer on discrimination with disabilities. They passed around a sign-in sheet asking for name and neighborhood. High on their agenda is discrimination with disabilities (eg. Down's Syndrome). They discussed what is and what is not protected from discrimination.

Kuhl

Mary reported a CMHA meeting next Tuesday at 6:00 on Western Ave.

Neeld

Reported on the Soapbox derby

Gweyn

Asked if we had banners for sale at WestFest? Boyd answered in the affirmative.

MOTION by Lewis to adjourn.

SECOND by Lee

DISCUSSION none

PASSED