

WCA General Membership Meeting
May 18, 2010
7:00 P.M.
Westwood Town Hall

Attendance

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

Excused: Boyd

Recording Secretary

Mitch Neeld

Student of the Year Awards

Nicholas Hollan introduced City Council Member Laure Quinlivan to present the awards. The following students were recognized by Nicholas and presented a plaque and Subway Gift Card by Laure:

Jessica Daily – Mother of Mercy HS
Lauren Dinklelacker – Our Lady of Lourdes
Sarah Dunn – Dater Montessori
Olivia Folzenlogen – St. Catherine of Sienna
Brandon Garcia – Midway Elementary
Amber James – Western Hills University HS
Ethen Martin – Westwood Elementary
Alexander Reed – Dater HS
Kenneth Scott – Western Hills Engineering HS

Sr. Nancy Merkle

John Sess on behalf of WCA presented Sr. Nancy with a bouquet of flowers, a \$100.00 donation to a scholarship fund in her name, and a gift card for Henke Winery.

Cincinnati Fire Department

Firefighter Freeman reported Engine 35 statistics: April Runs of 281 and Year-to-Date Runs of 1375 and noted that they were mostly EMS runs. A question was asked regarding why they send the Engine on EMS runs to which Firefighter Freeman answered that there are more Engines which are more strategically located.

Cincinnati Police Department

Officer Minella with District 3 reported on the fact that there is a new Captain – Russ Neville. He discussed the “Price Hill Sweep” in which there were 27 of 50 planned arrests made with an additional 15 arrests and that 25-30% of the arrests were in Westwood. Officer Minella stated that Westwood would be next. Officer Minella also discussed the police equipment stolen from Four Towers.

Blight

Gertrude Dixon from the Prosecutor's Office addressed blight issues in Westwood. Joel Kimmert registered a complaint regarding 2111 Harrison Avenue. An April 29 CERT action at 2111 Harrison was discussed. The case was referred to Brown and Baumann the 2nd and 3rd shift supervisors. The owner, Mr. Abe Messer, showed up for the action and is in the process of evicting several tenants. Mr. Rigacci spoke about the seven year problem with the property, about police not leaving their cars, and about the owner moving evicted tenants to another unit within the property under another name. John Sess will send Mr. Messer a registered letter to invite him to the next Steering meeting to discuss the issue. Jim McNulty spoke about the pre-prosecution hearing for 2280 Harrison Avenue.

Invest In Neighborhoods

Mike Wagner with Invest In Neighborhoods spoke about the organization. It has been in operation since 1982. One program is the Neighborhood Fund which is a perpetual fund to assist Cincinnati's neighborhoods and is currently funded at \$800,000.00

United Dairy Farmers

No representative was present at the meeting. A representative will be at the next Steering meeting.

Westwood Citizen's on Patrol

Ron from Westwood Citizens on Patrol expressed thanks for the tape recorders provided. He noted that there are 30 members for 30,000 residents and solicited volunteers. Jan Ludwig - Westwood COP's Civilian Coordinator reported that they perform 3-4 patrols per week and are venturing further into the Fay Apartments. She also made a plea for funding. COP is in need of vests, flashlights and travel and registration funding for conventions. Jan reported that COPs is holding a fund raiser at City Barbeque at 6475 Glenway Avenue on June 16. She also reported that City Barbeque offers a 25% back offer for 501.C-3 organizations and requested that WCA "lend" COPs it's 501.C-3 status. It was noted that WCA is a 501.C-4 and that since WestCURC is a 501.C-3 that may be an alternative.

MOTION by Kuhl to allow Westwood Citizen's on Patrol to use WCA's 501.C-4 status

SECOND by Lee

DISCUSSION none

PASSED

Messer Property

Mary Kuhl reported that the court hearing for the Sarvis Ct. case is to be held on May 20 in Rm. 124. Mary also reported that a protest at Mr. Messer's home in Loveland will be taking place on May 20 from 5:00 to 5:30. John Sess commented that the protest strategy was effective when use in Delhi recently.

Hamilton County Sherriff's Community Service Work Detail

John Sess reported on the trash cleanup program and requested specific areas to be recommended for cleanup.

Sign Removal

The topic of business, political and other signage in the public right-of-way was discussed. Cautious removal was the recommendation. Sign frames have recycle value and bringing them to the Town Hall was discussed.

Westwood Yard Sale

MOTION by Kuhl to allocate \$25.00 to enter the Westwood Yard Sale

SECOND by Kimmet

DISCUSSION none

PASSED

Amended MOTION by Kuhl to allocate an additional \$25.00 to buy two spots at the Westwood Yard Sale

SECOND by Gweyn

DISCUSSION none

PASSED

Miscellaneous

Joel Kimmet reported that approximately \$400.00 in NSP funding for Westwood Citizen's on Patrol was available and that COPs would have to provide a proposal with estimates.

Steve Chabot reported that WCA is "a heck of a lot more organized than Congress."

Marlene reported that the City has closed 10 pools and that Ryan was not one of them. The dates of operation for Ryan this year are June 7 through July 31. Passes can be bought at Westwood Town Hall.

Trent Lewis discussed the closing of the Pickbury Drive to Werk Road walkway.

MOTION by Lewis to send a letter to Kevin Harmon of the City Traffic and Safety Board to close the walkway

SECOND by McConn

DISCUSSION:

Jim McNulty voiced concern regarding the closing of public walkways and the negative effect on pedestrian traffic. Sharon Lewis discussed issues regarding the walkway and the fact that the neighbors want it closed. Mary Kuhl voiced concern with how the walkway will be closed and whether it will be effective. John Sess proposed an idea of removing the cover vegetation. It was expressed that one of the adjacent property owners – a group home – should take care of their own property. Another suggestion was made that the walkway could be closed naturally by removing the trees and allowing the honeysuckle to re-claim the walkway. Mary Kuhl offered to contact the owner of the Group Home and will report back.

PASSED

John Sess will write the letter to Mr. Harmon.

Mitch Neeld reported that preparations for the Soapbox Derby were underway and that a driver had been identified but not yet committed. Mitch also reported that two sponsors had been secured and that the car would be in his custody by the weekend. Jim McNulty suggested that some amount of funding might be necessary for repairs.
MOTION by McNulty to spend up to \$200.00 on the Soapbox Derby car
SECOND by Lewis
DISCUSSION none
PASSED

Valerie Baumann reported the WCA Income Statement:
Revenue \$3,244.86
Expenses \$654.49
Checking Account Balance \$13,994.46
Savings Account Balance \$3,938.45
Certificate of Deposit \$5000.00
MOTION by Kimmet to approve the WCA Income Statement as read
SECOND by Weber
DISCUSSION none
PASSED

Becky Weber reported on chronic nuisance. Becky recommended inviting S&H and Domino's Pizza owners along with United Dairy Farmer representative to next meeting.

Melva Gweyn reported that the City Plan meetings were in need of common sense resident's participation.

Mary Kuhl reported on the need for a Westwood representative for the Local School Decision Making Council. Jim McNulty volunteered to attend the Wednesday evening meeting at the Westwood School.
MOTION by Lee to nominate Jim McNulty for LSDMC representative
SECOND by Kuhl
DISCUSSION
Someone reported that Liz Kissel may be under the impression that she is the representative.
TABLED until next Steering meeting

John Sess reported that the next Steering meeting will be held on June 8th at 6:30.

Joel Kimmet reported the he and Jim McNulty are on the Problem Property Committee

Brian Lee reported that he is coordinating the booth at WestFest and will need volunteers for the "Stein Slide." Irene McNulty will be handling the volunteer sign-up. Brian also reported that the next Good Guy Loitering will be at Daytona and Glenmore.

He asked for help in the form of a co-coordinator – each would conduct a GGL event every other week.

Jim McNulty requested assistance regarding 2280 Harrison. He requested that members call City Council and inquire as to when this property is going to be torn down. Jim also reported that City Council was meeting tomorrow at 1:30 to vote on the Fay Apartment issue. He requested that members also call City Council to voice their opinion on Fay. Jim answered a question regarding “where are they going to go.”

Kathy Bach reported that the Westside Preservation Summit was being held at 10:00 on June 5 at the Westwood Library.

MOTION by Henke to adjourn the meeting

SECOND by Kuhl

DISCUSSION none

PASSED