

WCA General Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2010
7:00 P.M.
Westwood Town Hall

Attendance

Present: Bach, Baumann, Boyd, Kuhl, Lee, Lewis, Neeld, Sess, Weber

Excused: Gweyn, McConn, McNulty

Absent: Henke, Hollan, Kimmet

Recording Secretary

Mitch Neeld

2111 Harrison Ave.

Member Ken reported that the building was boarded up yesterday and that he slept great last night. Weber noted that we are now working on demolishing the building. She emailed Mr. Cunningham yesterday.

CPD

Officer Rich Minella explained and left copies of the latest crime statistics. There were 37 total thefts from autos in September. He explained that the "control number" on the reports is a tracking number used in the system. Anyone who has been arrested or has a ticket has a control number.

There was a shooting on Bracken Woods Lane following an argument in a laundry room. The victim was shot in the hip. The shooter was charged with felonious assault.

Officer Minella noted that "if you don't want it taken or stolen, lock it up." Sharon Lewis asked about the glass missing in the Glenway-facing door at Sears. Capt. Neville commented that he was pretty sure it was not shot out, but was a case of criminal damaging.

Someone reported that the three-day-a-week yard sales on Montana were back.

Capt Russ Neville reported on the City budget cuts. He went to the Chief's staff meeting and learned that the police department will experience a \$16.7M reduction in the 2011 budget. They have only been able to identify \$830K in potential non-payroll savings. The worst-case scenario is, in the next 30-60 days, 144 layoffs and 160 demotions (138 Specialists to Officer, 22 Sergeants to Officer). That would still leave a \$6.3M shortfall. The issue is further complicated by a \$4.7M grant that would have to be paid back if action is taken on any of 150 "protected" officers. Kuhl asked where the CIRV money comes from. Neville said that he would have to find out. Weber noted that \$900 of the City money and \$4M of the State money could go to cops. Melva noted that at the Citizens for Community Involvement meetings, most community representative are

proponents of cutting the police budget. Melva and Becky were the only ones “pulling for the cops.” Capt Neville stated that he doesn’t doubt and appreciates the support of Westwood. Lee asked how much overtime and night court would cost. Neville didn’t feel that it was supported outside of law enforcement. Neville’s biggest concern other than for the cops’ jobs is the ability for the already overloaded force to handle the response in the future. Sess noted that over the next five Wednesdays (10/27 through 11/24) the City Budget and Finance Committee will be hearing from the “citizenry.”

Weber asked about a Jericho Robinson? whose name keeps showing up on drug arrest reports. She asked if he was on the CIRV list. Capt Neville responded that drug offenses do not place an individual on the CIRV list - only gang-related or violent offenses.

Capt Neville noted that CFD was getting hit pretty hard too.

Pickbury Drive to Werk Road “Steps” Closing

Sess reported on a letter from Tom Klumb. The City is considering closing the steps between Pickbury Drive and Werk Road. Baumann will follow up.

MSD Breakfast Meeting

Jack ? from the Metropolitan Sewer District invited the membership to a breakfast meeting being held by MSD on 10/26 at 7:30 am at the Sharonville Convention Center.

Farmer’s Market

Mary ? and Karen ? spoke on behalf of the newly established Lettuce Eat Well Farmer’s Market at Harvest Home. They were previously located at the Joy Community Church. They decided they wanted to operate year round, so moved to Harvest Home. Their opening was last Friday. They left flyers. They have crafts, local honey, eggs, sausage, salad, winter squash, chicken, pork, rabbit and more. They are looking for more vendors – perhaps those that have large gardens or are crafters. They are also looking for volunteers. Weber noted that Barb Piatt? with their organization had written an article to be published in the upcoming WCA newsletter.

League of Women’s Voters Guides

Sess offered election guides from the League of Women’s Voters on state and local races.

Community Priority Request

Sess received an email on Sept 30 for requests due Oct 1. The CPR process gives communities opportunity to submit requests for funding projects. We “missed the boat.”

Meeting Minutes

Weber reminded that we need to vote on minutes from past meetings.
MOTION by Weber to dispense of reading of the minutes and to approve May through Oct Steering and General meeting minutes.
SECOND by Kuhl
DISCUSSION none
PASSED unanimously

Tracy Hunter

Tracy Hunter – Hamilton County Juvenile Court Judge Candidate – introduced herself and her platform. She is a pastor in Westwood.

Blight

Gertrude Dixon from the Prosecutor's Office asked for completed blight forms and left blank forms.

Diehl Road Shelter

Drew ? from the Talbert House spoke about the relocation effort for the homeless shelter on Diehl Road. This has been a temporary shelter for homeless men since 1939? It is in Westwood, but affects Diehl Road/Green Township residents. A relocation committee has been formed from the community and representatives from Green Township and the Talbert House. Kuhl asked who from Westwood was on the committee. Sess responded that he has asked to become a member and that Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune has agreed to notify Sess of future meetings.

Citizens for Community Renewal

Sess presented an email from Jeffrey Stec. There is a meeting on Oct 20 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Fire Museum. Weber and Gweyn will attend. They are working on getting more people involved.

Kuhl

Nothing to report on committees

Westwood Concern is hosting a candidate night next Tuesday at Midway School at 7:00 pm.

Weber

WCA still has banners for sale. Newsletter articles are due by Nov 1. Having a meeting next Monday with ? on chronic nuisance ordinance.

Lewis

Baumann and Lewis met over the weekend regarding an audit of WCA's books. Sess asked if we needed a motion to accept the audit. Lewis thought it unnecessary.

Baumann

Valerie provided a financial report as follows: \$3900 in statement savings, \$14000 in checking.

MOTION by Lee to accept the financials as reported

SECOND by Lewis

DISCUSSION none

PASSED unanimously

Lee

There will be one more Good Guy Loitering event next Friday, Oct 29. This is Brian's last meeting as a Board Member. He will continue to maintain the website. He noted that we will all need to be diligent about getting website items to him as he will not be present at the meetings to receive them.

Board Vacancy

Sess noted that there will soon be a vacancy on the Board. We will need to fill the remaining 2-1/2 years of Brian's term. Sess noted that member Jerry Hildebrand, who lives on Hanna Ave., has shown an interest in filling the vacancy. Jerry confirmed his interest, but noted that he is on-call for work every other week.

MOTION by Baumann to elect Jerry Hildebrand to fill the vacancy on the WCA Board

SECOND by Kuhl

DISCUSSION none

PASSED unanimously

Gamble Estate

Liz Kissel reported that the City may have set a date for the eminent domain hearing. Ron Wahl, from Roxanne Qualls' office, communicated that they are looking at Nov 3 at the Midway school as a possible date and venue. The objective of the meeting is to solicit community input. Liz would like more information on the process. Sess asked whether there has been activity on the replacement of windows. Kuhl noted that neighbors have not reported activity and assumes that nothing has been done. Kuhl suggests individually writing Judge Susan Dlott with our thanks for her involvement.

Imperial House

Sess reported that there will be a chronic nuisance hearing regarding 2570 Harrison Ave. (the Imperial House) on Oct 29 at 9:00 am at 3300 Central Pkwy. Weber will attend. Sess will try to attend. Sess noted that we want to get this building torn down and that it would be a great location for a new firehouse.

Westwood Town Hall – CRC

Marlene reported that the Cincinnati Recreation Commission is also going to be negatively affected by City cuts. She has heard rumors of up to \$2.5M in cuts, possibly 21 layoffs, and of possible facility closings (pools, etc). They don't collect enough class fees to maintain current levels and keep the building open. They

can't raise prices – the community won't support it. They are, however, looking for Yoga and Pilates instructors.

Miscellaneous

Sess recalled that it was a mistake to have sent a mass email regarding Duke Energy's free CFL bulb program. The email turned into a philosophical and political debate and offended some of the addressees. Someone mentioned that we should simply exercise our "Delete" keys. Another noted that addressees of future emails should be included in Bcc instead of To or Cc.

Sess also mentioned that part of the Western Hills Viaduct that has been closed is re-opening this weekend.

MOTION by Baumann for WCA to recommend the closing of the steps between Werk Road and Pickbury Drive

SECOND by Lee

DISCUSSION none

PASSED unanimously

MOTION by Kuhl to adjourn the meeting

SECOND by Lee

DISCUSSION none

PASSED unanimously