

WCA Steering Meeting
October 12, 2010
7:00 P.M.
Westwood Town Hall

Attendance

Present: Weber, Baumann, Kimmett, Lee, Lewis, McConn, and McNulty

Absent: Sess, Gweyn, Neeld, Bach, Boyd, Henke, Hollan, and Kuhl

Recording Secretary

Brian Lee

Approval of the minutes listed as “draft” on the WCA website was tabled until the general meeting on October 19 to allow time for board members to read all of them.

A hearing in a case involving the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance is set for November 10 at 10:30 AM in room 300 in the Hamilton County Court House (1000 Main Street). Residents are encouraged to attend in Westwood spiritwear to show support for the community and enforcement of the ordinance.

McNulty and **Kimmett** talked about the list they created a list of priority properties for demolition. They will be asking the city to act quickly when the properties become available for acquisition and demolition. There may be state money available, according to sources close to **McNulty**. This will require monitoring buildings on the list. Discussion occurred about various properties on the list.

Problems on Hanna Avenue seem to have decreased over the past month.

Weber and **Gweyn** have been going to meetings involving the city’s budget priority process. The city is planning to have an event from November 8 to November 11, from 11AM to 1PM, on Fountain Square. Volunteers will be conducting surveys asking people what the city’s budget priorities should be. If you can get down there, you can have a say. It was also noted that Hamilton County is seeking similar information on its website.

WCA has receive crime stats and they indicate that there have been 2855 arrests in Westwood since the beginning of 2010.

Someone from St. Catherine’s asked for permission to use the image for the WCA banner for gift cards that would be put into Westwood Welcome baskets.

Motion by **McNulty**, second by **Kimmett**, to give permission.

After discussion: Yes votes: 6 No votes: 1 Abstentions: 0

Motion passed.

The Western Economic Council is hosting a debate between Republican Steve Chabot and Democrat Steve Driehaus on October 15th. Those who are interested should contact WEC as soon as possible because seating is limited.

Lewis talked about getting shirts made with the logo from the WCA banner design. National Flag Company, the company that made the banners, may have a computer image of the graphic that a shirt printer could use. **Lewis** will investigate and report back. **Baumann** agreed to assist him.

Lewis also suggested that it was time to start thinking about ways to spend NSP money. One suggestion was a storage unit for WCA property, but **Baumann** suggested using a room on the second floor of her father's building. Another suggestion was picnic tables for the grounds of Westwood Town Hall. The categories of allowable expenses for NSP are neighborhood improvement and membership and promotions. Bring your ideas to the next meeting.

McNulty mentioned that the VBML is not being enforced in Westwood. He said that we need to encourage the city to do so.

Motion by **McNulty**, second by **Lewis**, to ask the city administration and council to study compliance with the Vacant Building Maintenance License regulations in Westwood and to determine what money would be raised if the VBML regulations were more strictly enforced.

After discussion: Yes votes: 7 No votes: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion passed.

McNulty reminded those present that **Lee** will be leaving the WCA board after the general meeting next week. WCA member Jerry Hildebrand has indicated his interest in taking his place.

McNulty discussed the issue of downzoning. He met with Margaret Wuerstle and Felix Bere from the Cincinnati planning department. They indicated that the community needed to decide which areas exactly it wants to target. **McNulty** indicated that a committee should be formed to do so. He, **Kimmatt**, and **McConn** indicated an interest in serving on the committee.

McNulty noted that Cheviot has a large banner that they hang for events and thinks that Westwood should have one. He will contact the city to find out how it would be possible.

Motion by **McNulty**, second by **Baumann**, to authorize **McNulty** to start investigating.

After discussion: Yes votes: 7 No votes: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion passed.

McNulty suggested that the board contact the city and ask them to reconsider using 30% of the Community Development Block Grant money for demolition.

Motion by **McNulty**, second by **Baumann**, to authorize **McNulty** to communicate this to the city.

After discussion: Yes votes: 7 No votes: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion passed.

McNulty suggested that the city get a dog warden.

Motion by **McNulty**, second by **Baumann**, to authorize **McNulty** to suggest this to the city and to suggest that funding could be found from outside sources.

McNulty will find some funding sources to use as examples in the letter.

After discussion: Yes votes: 7 No votes: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion passed.

McConn said the executive director of Mad Cap Puppets will be meeting with the Cincinnati Library CEO about the Bell building. **McConn** met with John Lewandowski who said that the economic impact of the Mad Cap in the Bell building would amount to \$1.4 million being brought into the community over a period of four years.

McConn said that WestCURC may start working with the city to help it acquire the properties on Bracken Woods. The city is having trouble acquiring some of the properties because the owners are asking for much more than the properties are appraised for. **McConn** indicated that this prospect will be discussed at the next WestCURC meeting. **Kimmatt** agreed that the Bracken Woods project was been hampered by the unrealistic expectations of some of the property owners.

Baumann reported that she is in the process of finding someone to audit the WCA financial records to report back to the board.

Meeting adjourned.