

Westwood Civic General Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2011
Westwood Town Hall

Board members present at meeting:

Jim McNulty, Melva Gwyn, Becky Weber, Valerie Baumann, Joe Kimmet, Mary Kuhl, Karen Strasser, Jerry Hildebrand

Board members absent excused: Sr. Ann Rene McConn, John Sess, Jill Minor, Mary Jenkins

Absent: Joe Henke

Cincinnati Police Department report by Officer Jennifer Dawson. National Night out was a big success. Many hamburgers are left over if anybody wants to request the hamburgers for a community event, they would be donated. Block Watch Captain meetings are held the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30p.m. at Cincinnati Federal Saving Bank. This month's meeting has been moved to 8/18 at the same time and location. A Neighborhood Summit is tentatively set for 10/15/11 at Roberts Academy. The format will be very educational. More information to come soon. Officer Dawson reported that one of our officers, Sgt. Ron Schaeper was involved in a car accident on Columbia Parkway. He is in critical condition. He has severe head trauma and leg injuries – made it through surgery. Driver of other car charged with aggravated vehicular assault. Alcohol and/or drugs may have been a factor. Driver had 4 suspensions.

Becky Weber discussed 2111 Harrison Ave. Many who hung out there moving to 2201 and 2203. Always hanging out playing cards in driveway. Bad news and getting worse. We need police activity there – maybe police can clear out the parking lot. Many youth hanging out there. They have nothing else to do. We need police involvement at this location. Officer Dawson will look into this.

Irene McNulty brought attention to another location that needs police to look at – Corner of Roberts and Harrison at the deli. All the traffic is frequently blocked. Presa caneri dog loose on Homestead frequently. Irene will call the non emergency line next time the dog is loose in the area. Jill inquired about a female cab driver shot twice ending up in District 3 parking lot – a Ron's Cab driver.

Officer Dawson taking email addresses for an email distribution of crime stats. Officer Dawson stated that crime is presently down in district 3 at least 14%. No other area of town can boast of such a significant decrease in crime stats.

Twenty two raised beds in place at the Community Gardens. There used to be an old apt. building there. WCA got the city to tear it down and rent the property to us. Eventually there will be a total of 60 beds. Go to Westwood Civic Website and click on the Westwood Community Gardens. Open house from 6:30-8:30 Wednesday 8/24. The entire fence grant is \$10,000 for the Community Gardens. At our last meeting we voted to do installments of \$3000, \$3000, etc. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful will pay the first \$3000 for us and we won't have to go through Valerie and WCA's checking account.

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful sometimes takes 6 - 8 weeks to get anybody paid/reimbursed. This could cause us a serious cash flow problem for the following payments. This must be wrong or we must have miss information. Joel will go down to Keep Cincinnati Beautiful immediately to see if the payment process can be speeded up. We need to make sure that Mills Fence is paid in a timely manner. Mary Kuhl suggested that we call Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and inform them that we can't wait 6-8 weeks for checks and the time frame is not acceptable.

Desperate Landscapes still looking for a Westwood yard to makeover. Please nominate a yard if you are aware of a yard that is a good candidate for a makeover.

Do we want to have the City Council candidates come here this year? The Town Hall Auditorium is not available. Midway School may be available. We need, as an organization, to be neutral towards all candidates. September 13th is the next Steering Committee. We need to get organized if we want to make a "Meet the Candidates" evening a reality.

Art Show – Queen City Pizza and bottled water being sold by WCA. We will go and pickup the pizza as needed during the event. Motion by Joel Kimmet that up to \$200.00 be allocated for startup money, pizza,, water and startup change. Seconded by Valerie Baumann. No discussion. Everyone in favor. Becky Weber has some LaSalle High School boys to help with setup. Per Westwood town Hall representative, the vendors can't use the Town Hall dumpster. Karen Strasser will send her red four wheel cart for the LaSalle boys to help vendors get moved into their booth locations. Benches will be painted right before the event. Capital improvements happening at Town Hall.

Chronic Nuisance Ordinance –

Becky Weber sent everyone a copy of the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance. We don't like CPD's Chronic Nuisance Ordinance as much as Charlie Winburn's proposed changes. Members of WCA who have studied the Winburn proposal really like it better than the CPD version. A public hearing will be held in September. Becky Weber made a motion, seconded by Joel Kimmet to support the Charlie Winburn version of the Chronic Nuisance ordinance. All were in favor. We need voices at the hearing. Jim McNulty would like to see us with an email data base. Becky Weber will type up all of the email contacts we have from people providing contact information on the WCA website.

Zoning –

3454 McHenry in East Westwood. This is within the Westwood statistical neighborhood approximation. Using government money, the builder wants to build housing there. We are opposed to taking big acreage and rezoning it to multi family housing. This subject is soon to come up again at the planning commission. We need to look out for this in the near future and put some energy into this zoning fight.

We need to look at 3080 McHenry. Almost empty. It is in terrible shape. For some unknown reason, they have many violations, and they have been given more and more time extensions to correct the violations. The clock has been rolled back yet again

restarting the timetable to fix the property. This property should have been in court by now. Jim McNulty looking into why the entire process has been restarted again. Scott Ryan should come back to the meetings because he was very helpful. We could have our top 5 priorities in terms of which buildings we are going after. 2201-2203 Harrison case is being built. Problems are coming from 2111 too. WCA will write the owner of the property a letter. Melva believes we need more help from other sources. Per Melva, the people who own these properties are buying more and more buildings and renting to unsavory tenants. Council constantly rezoning to keep the situation complicated.

2111 Harrison - waiting for the police to investigate the copper stolen. The city sent a truck over. Some windows boarded up. They have had the most peaceful summer that they have had in years. Mary Kuhl made a motion to write 2111 Harrison property owner, Dorothy Gaines about 2201-2203 Harrison. Seconded by Joel Kimmet. We are going to communicate with the owner of that property what is going on there. She will be invited to one of our meetings. All in favor. Becky Weber will draft the letter .

Mary Kuhl made a motion to communicate to the owner what is going on at 3080 McHenry. We need to let the owner know that we want the building torn down. Seconded by Joel Kimmet. In the letter add that it is part of our strategic plan to demolish, not rehab, such buildings.

2329 Harrison Ave. – we want to demolish it too. Letter sent to CMHA regarding this. Chairman Lamont Taylor of CMHA called Jim McNulty saying CMHA won't rehab the property. CMHA owns this building. At the end of the conversation, it was clear that Lamont Taylor didn't know any details about this situation. Pete Witte says CMHA will vote 8/19 on the property. Pete Witte won't be at the meeting and that is not good for our cause. Jim McNulty will call Dan Horn, of Cincinnati Enquirer, who is doing a CMHA story right now.

Jerry Hildebrand reports that things are very quiet on his street – Hannah Ave. Things are also quiet at the drug dealing apartment building on Hannah that has been such a huge problem.

Treasure Qwest, put on by Westwood Works, is on 9/24. This event is just like the Amazing Race. Westwood Works offering WCA a free entry. This is an \$80.00 value. Move by Jerry Hildebrand to accept the free entry. Seconded by Melva Gweyn. No discussion. Valerie Baumann, Mary Kuhl and Becky Weber abstained. 4 in favor, nobody against, 3 abstentions. Team of four competitors entered as the WCA team will be Joel Kimmet, Lilly Bramasco , Tom and Jill Minor.

This Thursday, joint meeting of CWCA (Cheviot Westwood Community Association) and Westwood Works. WCA will have membership in attendance. We are paying members of CWCA.

Motion to adjourn by Mary Kuhl. Seconded by Joel Kimmet. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Karen Strasser