

Westwood Civic Association

December 20, 2011
General Meeting

Present: J. McNulty, M. Gweyn, M. Jenkins (recording secretary), V. Baumann, J. Hildebrand,
J. Kimmet, M. Kuhl, Sr. Ann Rene McConn, J. Minor, J. Sess
Absent: B. Weber (excused), J. Henke, K. Strasser

The minutes of the November 15, 2011 general meeting were approved with a correction on the second to the motion to adjourn.

Police Report

Officer Rich Minella offered a report on behalf of District 3. A seventeen year old male is expected to survive a shooting from the previous week, in which no arrests have yet been made. There are leads and the perpetrator will be charged with felonious assault. Fires set using gasoline in apartment buildings on Boudinot and in Cheviot in the past few weeks are possibly linked and are under arson investigation. Officer Minella urged awareness about one's surroundings and asked attendees to ensure that doors are locked. In response to a question from M. Gweyn about personal information gathered from complainants, Officer Minella explained that information is tracked but not given out. S. Lewis inquired about Cincinnati police cruisers along 74 west of the city. Officer Minella said the city and county participate in the regional narcotics enforcement unit to catch interstate drug runners. V. Baumann noted a disagreement between comparative crime statistics and remarks made by Captain Neville about crime being down. Officer Minella pointed to the reports as the official record.

Annual Elections

J. McNulty appointed M. Kuhl and J. Kimmet to serve as the nominating committee for board elections, there being a general willingness to have a single committee. Board members whose terms are expiring include J. Hildebrand, Sr. Ann Rene McConn, J. McNulty, and M. Kuhl. The nominating committee will solicit nominations from the membership and will present a slate in February.

Accomplishments and Plans

J. Sess invites a list of 2011 WCA accomplishments and 2012 plans for inclusion in the next *Westwords*. J. McNulty commented that membership and meeting attendance should be the chief goals for 2012. He will put this on the January steering meeting agenda.

Mt. Airy Center, Diehl Road

J. McNulty reported that the Talbot House is moving out of the historic CCC camp on Diehl Road. The property is owned by the city.

MOTION by J. Sess to encourage local scouting organizations to consider acquisition or lease of the property.

SECONDED by J. Kimmet.

PASSED unanimously.

Fire Report

Randy Freel reported on behalf of Co. 35 that the fire investigation unit is reviewing the recent fires in unsecured apartment buildings. A suspicious incident occurred on Daytona Av. on December 14 in addition to the aforementioned events. V. Baumann asked about enforcement of the law regarding dispensing gasoline in unapproved containers. Officer Minella said that it is not easy to enforce.

Maple Knoll Lodge

The Park Board applied for a liquor license for Maple Knoll Lodge on Westwood Northern Blvd. WCA board members voiced no objections and, in any case, the deadline has passed.

YMCA Sign

The Gamble Nippert YMCA has applied for a variance for an 8'6" high sign. Several board members spoke in favor of compliance with zoning laws.

MOTION by J. Sess to oppose the sign variance based on the information received thus far and to invite a YMCA representative to the next WCA meeting to describe plans in more detail.

SECONDED by M. Kuhl

PASSED unanimously.

Form-Based Codes

Sr. Ann Rene McConn described a movement in the city to move to form-based codes to enhance neighborhood quality. A program beginning in January and running through April will engage Westwood, among other communities, in a pilot planning process to identify neighborhood values and general planning principles without losing the protections of zoning.

Reimbursement Request

J. Sess presented a receipt for \$13.83 for supplies for Westwood sign mounting. V. Baumann noted that up to \$50 was approved last March which will cover these expenses. V. Baumann requested an additional \$22.24 in funds for appetizers for the WCA holiday party. Additionally, she requested \$17.60 for stamps.

MOTION by M. Jenkins to approve an additional \$22.24 for appetizer expenses.

SECONDED by J. Sess.

APPROVED unanimously.

MOTION by J. Sess to approve \$17.60 for V. Baumann for stamps.

SECONDED by M. Gweyn.

APPROVED unanimously.

Ohio Civil Rights Commission Case

M. Jenkins made a motion for WCA to issue a statement of condemnation and affirming Westwood as a welcoming community in response to an Ohio Civil Rights Commission case in which a Westwood resident posted a "White Only" sign at her pool. While all speakers individually condemned the action, the motion was not seconded because a statement was not seen as necessary.

Crime Tracking

J. Sess reported that Police Chief Craig has accepted an invitation to a meeting to discuss the crime tracking and reporting system discussed by B. Weber and C. Kearney at a recent meeting.

NSP Vote

J. Kimmet provided a summary of NSP funds use over the past few years and presented a motion for the expenditure of \$5,000 in NSP funds for 2012. In discussion, it was noted that amendments up to \$1,000 could be made if needs change.

MOTION by J. Kimmet to spend \$3,000 on the newsletter and \$2,000 on neighborhood improvement projects.

SECONDED by J. Sess.

PASSED unanimously.

CD

V. Baumann reported that the certificate of deposits has been closed. It totaled \$5,414.

MOTION by J. Sess to deposit \$5,000 into savings and the remainder into the checking account.

SECONDED by S. Ann Rene McConn.

PASSED unanimously.

Adjournment

M. Kuhl made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. which passed unanimously.