

Westwood Civic Association Steering Meeting

July 12, 2011

7:00 P.M.

Westwood Town Hall

Attendance

Present: J. McNulty, B. Weber, J. Hildebrand, J. Minor, J. Sess, V. Baumann, J. Kimmet, Sr. Anne Rene McConn, M. Jenkins, S. Lewis, M. Gweyn, M. Kuhl

Absent: J. Henke, K. Strasser, I. McNulty, M. Neeld

Recording Secretary: Mary Jenkins

J. McNulty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He asked board members for their thoughts on the utility and duration of steering meetings. Board members generally agreed that the steering meetings are important for agenda preparation and for discussion of issues for clearer presentation at general meetings. The group concluded that shaving some time off the steering meetings would be desirable.

Giant Yard Sale

The Westwood Giant Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, July 16, 2011 at the Westwood Town Hall from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mary Kuhl is in charge of the WCA table. She encourages people to volunteer throughout the day and to bring donated items to the yard sale, the sale of which will benefit the WCA. M. Gweyn and B. Weber commented on counterfeit \$50 and \$100 bills and means of determining whether those bills are legitimate or not.

Intersection of Epworth and Lischer

A serious accident this evening at Epworth and Lischer illustrated the continuing need for improved traffic control at that intersection. Previously, WCA has supported a four-way stop there.

MOTION by M. Jenkins to instruct J. McNulty to send a letter to Traffic and Engineering on WCA's behalf requesting a four-way start and to encourage people in that neighborhood to petition the city.

SECONDED by J. McNulty.

PASSED unanimously.

Meeting with State Legislators Regarding CMHA

J. McNulty and M. Kuhl discussed a meeting planned for July 18, 2011 between Westwood residents and state legislators regarding Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority. The intent of the meeting is a discussion of the voucher process and the impact on the local community. WCA representatives want to know the state's role in appointments, how housing needs have changed over time, what the goals are of voucher distribution, and what more could be done regarding enforcement of policies. The meeting is to be informational with no votes to be taken.

MOTION by J. Kimmet for WCA to facilitate this meeting.

SECONDED by M. Kuhl.

PASSED unanimously.

2280 Harrison Avenue and 3031 McHenry

J. McNulty reported that 2280 Harrison has been declared not to be a nuisance and is up for Section 106 review by the city for its historical value, which may be an error. 3031 McHenry is on the city's condemned list and is slated for demolition.

Fire Station and TIF Funding

J. McNulty reported on an email exchange that he had with Markiea Gore in the city's Community Development office regarding TIF funds and a possible fire station at 2487/95 Harrison Ave. He pointed out that the property was purchased with \$150,000 in Westwood TIF funds and that he expected that WCA's TIF account would be reimbursed by the fire department for all expenses associated with these properties. Ms. Gore replied that would be reimbursed.

Bracken Woods Properties

J. Kimmet reported that a contract has been signed with WestCURC to negotiate with property owners for the purchase of some buildings on Bracken Woods, destined for demolition and redevelopment. WestCURC would redevelop the properties as single family homes which the city would manage.

Kroger Property on Harrison

J. Kimmet reported that a recent Westwood Works meeting included discussion of a possible recreation center proposal for the closed Kroger store location on Harrison. Several board members commented that the discussion is more appropriate to the civic association. M. Kuhl suggested that the county morgue move there. M. Jenkins suggested that the WCA invite city and county officials to a WCA meeting to discuss public or governmental uses of the property. M. Jenkins was asked to write an invitation to appropriate departments.

Next Week's General Meeting

J. McNulty announced that Charlie Norman, a representative of state AG's Mike DeWine's office, will attend next week's general meeting to present on issues of fraud. A representative of the MSA will also be in attendance to discuss the Lick Run project.

Reimbursements

J. McNulty reminded board members that projects and spending that are not preapproved by the WCA board may result in denial of reimbursement requests. J. Minor, recalling an earlier discussion, asked if the WCA board is inclined to approve project expenses in advance, up to a set amount. This was briefly discussed in terms of setting budgets in advance, allocating and then reallocating as needed to work within available funds. J. Sess asked if show-of-hands approval for project expenses via email would be acceptable as a means of knowing whether there is sufficient support for a possible expense. Board sentiment was that the practice is akin to voting and that would not be acceptable.

MOTION by J. Sess to approve a request by J. McNulty for reimbursement of \$17 for weed killer, contingent upon submission of receipt.

SECONDED by J. Kimmet.

PASSED unanimously.

MOTION by J. Kimmet for reimbursement of \$143.10 from NSP funds to M. Kuhl for the purchase of brackets to hang American flags along Harrison Ave.

SECONDED by J. Sess.

PASSED unanimously.

Westwood Community Gardens

J. Kimmet reported that bids have been sought for the fence materials and installation at the site. Garden beds are in progress and the gates will follow shortly, along with a retaining wall and a chain link fence for the side bordering the nursing home, as funding allows. He reminded attendees that these are, for the most part, reimbursable expenses through the Safe & Clean Grant and the Civic Garden Center.

Newsletter

B. Weber reported \$80 in advertising income for the newsletter.

NSP Funds

J. Kimmet urged the board to make its contribution, already approved, to the Westwood Historical Society for the restoration of the school bell.

WestFest

B. Weber asked that the board consider whether to continue the mugslide activity at future festivals. It will be discussed at a future meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further items for discussion, J. McNulty adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.