

WCA General Meeting

June 21, 2011

7:00 P.M.

Westwood Town Hall

Attendance

Present: J. McNulty, B. Weber, K. Strasser, M. Jenkins, J. Hildebrand, M. Gweyn, J. Minor, J. Sess, V. Baumann, Sr. A. R. McConn, I. McNulty, M. Kuhl

Excused: J. Kimmet

Absent: M. Neeld, J. Henke

There were approximately 15 people in attendance in addition to board members.

Recording Secretary: Mary Jenkins

WCA President Jim McNulty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Police Report

Officer Rich Minella offered remarks, first introducing Christina Smith who was shadowing him. Officer Minella said that crime statistics are down in most categories. He noted that a new approach to statistics reporting makes direct comparisons difficult. He reported that there were two rapes in the Aspen Village complex on Queen City Avenue; the regional crime unit is investigating. There was also an attempted abduction in the Lisa Ridge area but the woman found and got away. The perpetrator is possibly the same person in all three cases. Officer Minella also reported on a scam by several youths at shopping centers in Westwood in which they are soliciting donations for a nonexistent baseball team. Two people were arrested and charged with theft by deception. In response to a question, Officer Minella confirmed that arrests can be made in those situations by off-duty police officers. V. Baumann commented on loud car stereo music and asked for more enforcement of the loud music ordinance. M. Kuhl noted recent break-ins in Price Hill and Westwood and asked if they seem related. Officer Minella confirmed that there have been a number of opportunity thefts recently from open or unlocked houses, sheds, and garages. He urged citizens to remove opportunities for theft to the extent possible. S. Lewis asked about recent thefts via satellite from local UDF stores. Officer Minella described the thefts that involved interception of credit card numbers used at gas pumps by manipulation of the stations' satellite dishes.

Fire Report

Officer Bepler reported statistics from Engine Co. 35 in Westwood. In the past month, there were 374 total runs, with 327 EMS, 19 fire, and other types. In response to a question about company needs, Officer Bepler said the firefighters have no complaints about the station but would like a new dishwasher and cabinets. There was general discussion about rumors involving a possible location of a new firehouse and the potential resultant changes to response times.

WestFest

B. Weber and I. McNulty reported on WCA's plans for its mugslide booth at WestFest. They asked for volunteers. There were comments on Our Lady of Lourdes' high earnings from its similar game.

Northside / Westwood Border

J. Sess reported that he visited seventeen of the twenty households on the disputed street in the Mill Creek area. All residents there consider Westwood their neighborhood. J. Sess reported his findings to the Northside Community Council which will discuss and respond.

Roadway Cleanup

J. Sess, V. Baumann, J. Minor, and T. Minor cleaned up the triangle at the intersection of Glenmore and Glenway, mowing, weeding, and adding flowers and mulch. J. Sess asked for volunteers for a cleanup at the Boudinot/Crookshank/Glenway area.

MOTION by M. Gweyn to reimburse J. Sess \$36 for mulch.

SECONDED by J. Hildebrand.

PASSED unanimously with no abstentions.

Advertising Benches

J. Sess reported recent developments to move toward removal of advertising benches throughout Westwood. He has tried to contact the bench company with no success. He spoke with the city attorney who commented on the need to address illegal newspaper racks at the same time as they fall under the same ordinance, passed in the 1990s following early removal and subsequent litigation.

National Night Out

A. Caldwell reported on plans for National Night Out, celebrated locally on Tuesday, August 2 from 5:00-8:30 p.m. at the Ferguson Rd. Kroger location. Civic organizations are asked to participate.

Citizens on Patrol

S. Smith reported that COP Westwood has four new members. Training and recruiting is going well. Total hours served are higher than last year.

Montana Avenue Project

J. McNulty offered an update on the Montana Avenue project, noting that road work is delayed while utility work is done. The road will be restriped to three lanes, one wider lane in each direction and a center turn lane, with left turn lanes at Montana and Harrison and a dedicated turn lane at Westwood Northern Boulevard.

64 Bus Route

M. Kuhl asked J. McNulty to invite a Metro representative to a WCA meeting so that WCA members can make suggestions regarding the route. J. McNulty agreed to do that.

Westwords Newsletter

B. Weber reminded attendees of the June 28 deadline for the July issue. She has requested quotes for newsletter production from several printers.

Westwood Yard Sale

The Westwood yard sale will be held on July 16. There will be a WCA booth to benefit the association.

3089 Glenmore Avenue

Numerous violations have been reported to the city which will contact the owners to discuss.

Art Show

The Westwood art show is scheduled for September 17. M. Kuhl proposed a WCA booth to sell pizza. There was discussion of Queen City Pizza and Brick Oven on Wheels, with hopes of an estimated \$250-\$350 in profit. M. Kuhl and J. Sess will explore options and report back at the July steering meeting.

Lick Run Water Shed Project

M. Kuhl reported that she attended a recent South Fairmount Community Council meeting for a presentation on the Lick Run MSD project. She asked the MSD to consider input from west side communities. An MSD representative has been invited to attend the July 12 WCA steering meeting. J. McNulty commented that properties are already being purchased in the area although the process is still in the public comment stage.

Montana at I-74

J. Sess reported that there is long grass at 2330 and 2354 Montana near the I-74 exchange due to differences of opinion about responsibility for mowing but it is private property and the owners have been advised to maintain it.

Queensgate Rezoning

M. Gweyn commented on the Queensgate rezoning plans to accommodate consolidated social services on Dalton Street. She is concerned about possible negative impact on the surrounding community. She reported that area businesses are opposed but that zoning variances were passed out of committee and are going to city council despite objections from the building department. Board members discussed concerns about variances and zoning changes in opposition to community concerns.

MOTION by J. Sess to have J. McNulty send a letter on behalf of WCA opposing the zoning variances.
SECONDED by Sr. Anne Rene McConn.
PASSED unanimously with no abstentions.

CMHA HUD Issues

M. Kuhl reported that a revised CMHA agreement with HUD regarding affordable housing states that CMHA is not responsible for problems with tenants holding Section 8 housing vouchers, suggesting that police calls be made instead (HEID 20, "recipients shall no longer investigate nuisance complaints"). Several board members commented that penalties are still needed for landlords to encourage responsible property ownership.

MOTION by M. Kuhl to instruct J. McNulty to write a letter to CMHA and HUD with copies to the Cincinnati Enquirer and Representative Steve Chabot, expressing WCA's opposition to the reductions in landlord responsibility and in favor of the reinstatement of the Housing Investment and Enforcement department.

SECONDED by B. Weber.

PASSED unanimously with no abstentions.

City Council Candidate

Catherine Mills introduced herself as a candidate for city council interested in economic development, concerned about Over The Rhine development's negative impact on neighborhoods, and interested in increasing citizen participation in council deliberations.

WCA Website

J. McNulty will ask B. Lee to add recent months' minutes and the strategic plan to the website.

Historic Homes

M. Gweyn encouraged attendees to submit photographs of Westwood's historic houses to the Cincinnati Preservation Association. J. McNulty added that there are treasures throughout Westwood, including houses he recently saw on Fenton, Faber, and Homestead. He said that WCA needs to do all it can to promote Westwood's great homes and streets.

Minutes

There was a MOTION and a SECOND to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2011 WCA steering meeting as written.

PASSED unanimously with no abstentions.

Adjournment

J. McNulty adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.