

WCA Steering Meeting

May 10, 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, J. Kimmet, J. Henke, S. Lewis, I. McNulty L. Bramasco

Excused:

Absent: A. R. McConn, M. Kuhl, M. Neeld

Recording Secretary: Mary Jenkins

Cincinnati Traffic & Engineering

Representatives Andrea Henderson and Jeff Stein of City of Cincinnati Traffic and Engineering updated the board on several issues:

Harrison Avenue survey regarding bike lanes

A postcard survey of residents of Westwood and South Fairmount along Harrison Avenue resulted in a strong sentiment against bike lanes along Harrison, which led Traffic and Engineering to choose four travel lanes with no bike lane as Harrison is reengineered.

Montana Avenue construction

Some utility work is required before construction on Montana Avenue (Boudinot to Farrell) will begin. Work is expected to be finished not later than spring 2012.

Harrison Avenue construction

After the Montana Avenue project is completed, work will begin on Harrison Avenue (Queen City Avenue to the corporation line) to improve safety. The S curve near Fairmount Avenue will be shut down sometime during summer 2012 with a detour, to be determined. The intersection of Harrison and Fairmount will be first, to make it a full four-way. Other highlights include a turn lane at McHenry with four lanes and a straightening of the curve, as well as a left turn lane at LaFeuille.

WPA wall on Harrison Avenue

Jeff Stein reviewed detailed plans for the straightening of Harrison and the reconstruction of the WPA wall. The lower curve will be straightened south of Fairmount with the wall moved back and a retaining wall added. There will be a sidewalk on the hill side and a tree lawn and sidewalk on the other side. A 30' wall with piers and pilings into the bedrock will be constructed and the WPA wall will be rebuilt with the same look and height. The high wall will look natural.

School Awards

Karen Strasser and Irene McNulty worked with Westwood schools to identify award winners. Midway did not participate. Karen will present the awards during the May 17, 2011 WCA general meeting, including plaques to each student. Jim McNulty will confirm details with the principals. A group photo will be taken during the award ceremony.

MOTION by John Sess to purchase a \$25 gift card from Target for each award recipient.
SECONDED by Joel Kimmet.
PASSED unanimously with no abstentions.

64 Bus Route

Jim McNulty noted that the WCA already took a position on the 64 bus route. He noted that empty buses are regularly seen on LaFeuille. He suggested that the WCA recommend rerouting to the SORTA board. This issue will be discussed at a future meeting.

Volunteer Projects

Mary Jenkins and Jill Minor offered to coordinate one-time and ongoing volunteer clean-up projects around Westwood. They have begun to solicit suggestions for projects. Mary will provide announcements for the WCA website and for several Westwood organizations' newsletters. The projects are intended to involve volunteer labor and no expense to WCA.

3454 McHenry Zoning Issue

A seven acre development project has been proposed at 3454 McHenry in East Westwood to build a 40+ unit assisted living senior housing facility on property zoned as single family. Jim McNulty led a discussion of the issue. East Westwood's civic association approves of the project. Jim McNulty and Melva Gweyn noted that Cincinnati's Statistical Neighborhood Areas show Westwood and East Westwood together. Further, WCA's strategic plan demonstrates WCA's commitment to reducing the number of multi-family units in the area. Several board members commented on the plethora of empty units on the Westside currently. Karen Strasser commented on the long-term goal of working cooperatively with East Westwood. Jim McNulty will discuss the zoning matter with Joe Morgan of East Westwood.

MOTION by Becky Weber to oppose the rezoning of that property because it would conflict with Westwood's commitment to reduce multi-family units.

SECONDED by Mary Jenkins.

PASSED unanimously with no abstentions.

WestFest

WCA typically has a booth at WestFest, scheduled this year for June 25 and 26. Becky Weber offered to coordinate the booth and volunteer scheduling. A decision to move forward or not with a booth will depend on potential location and cost and will be made at the WCA general meeting on May 17, 2011.

Yard Sale at Westwood Town Hall

WCA intends to participate in the summertime yard sale at the Westwood Town Hall. Mary Kuhl and Valerie Baumann will coordinate it.

Reimbursement

Jill Minor presented a receipt for \$21.30 for expenses related to the East Westwood bus layover clean up.

MOTION by John Sess to approve the reimbursement.

SECOND by Joel Kimmet.

PASSED unanimously with no abstentions.

NSP Funds

Joel Kimmet announced that WCA was awarded \$2,500 in NSP funding for expenses from May 6-December 31, 2011. WCA already committed \$1,000 to the Westwood Historical Society for the restoration of the school bell.

Welcome to Westwood Signs

Joel Kimmet requested an increase to \$75.00 in the amount approved for hardware for the Welcome to Westwood signs. \$50 was previously approved.

MOTION by John Sess to approve up to \$75.00 total for the hardware for this purpose.

SECONDED by Jerry Hildebrand.

PASSED unanimously with no abstentions.

Westwood Community Gardens

Joel Kimmet showed the "future site of WCG" sign that was donated by Peter Huttinger of the Civic Garden Center and lettered by Jerry Hildebrand. Joel also commented that the WCG Facebook page serves as its website and includes announcements of work days.

MOTION by Joel Kimmet to reimburse Jerry Hildebrand \$34.04 for paint and supplies for the WCG sign.

SECONDED by John Sess.

PASSED unanimously with no abstentions.

Further, Joel reported on the submission of a WCG application for \$10,000 in Safe and Clean Grant funding from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful. Joel noted that Mike Rece has volunteered many hours of skilled labor and heavy equipment to level the WCG site.

MOTION by John Sess to give Mr. Rece an I Love Westwood t-shirt and a \$100 gift certificate to Henke Winery, contributed by Joe Henke, and to reimburse Joe \$50 of the expense.

SECONDED by Jerry Hildebrand.

PASSED unanimously with no abstentions.

Joel Kimmet announced that WCG has applied for an Urban Gardens Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. He and Mary Jenkins will make a presentation about the WCG to the Kiwanis on May 17, 2011, hoping to secure its support as well.

Joel Kimmet suggested that the WCA develop and approve a modest budget for the Gardens Committee to allow for occasional expenses related to the WCG. Becky Weber commented that WCA is not bringing in significant revenue and advises caution regarding expenses. Joel noted that several of the expenses for the WCG have been met by revenue previously committed to the WCG. Valerie Baumann remarked that WCA needs more opportunities for revenue.

Benches

John Sess commented that Cincinnati Traffic and Engineering and Legal and Public Works departments are working together on the removal of illegal benches along Westwood streets.

501(c)(3) Status

Becky Weber announced that she, Valerie Baumann and Mary Jenkins would be attending an Invest in Neighborhoods-sponsored meeting on 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status for community councils on May 12. Becky will offer a report at the next meeting.

Yard of the Month

Jill Minor has confirmed that Joan and Gil McLean have offered to continue to coordinate Yard of the Month awards. More information will appear in the May 2011 *Westwords*.

Minutes

MOTION by Joel Kimmet to approve the minutes as written of the April steering and general meetings.

SECONDED by Jim McNulty.

PASSED unanimously with no abstentions.

District 3 Resource Committee

Sharon Lewis reminded the board that WCA needs a board member to represent Westwood at meetings of the District 3 Resource Committee. Sharon announced that the National Night Out is the first Tuesday in August. After some discussion of the activities of the committee, Jill Minor offered to serve as the board representative.

Zoning Map

Jim McNulty suggested a board meeting devoted to reviewing the zoning and boundaries map. He will send out a meeting announcement.

Committees

The board will review the membership of its committees at the next meeting.

ADJOURNED 8:53 p.m.