

**Westwood Civic Association General Meeting
November 15, 2011**

7:00 p.m.

Westwood Town Hall

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

Absent: J. McNulty (excused), J. Henke

MOTION by M. Jenkins to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2011 steering meeting with the correction that the discussion of speakers at meetings was requested by J. McNulty.

SECONDED by A. Rene McConn

PASSED unanimously.

Police Report

Captain Russ Neville spoke on behalf of District 3. He started by addressing the fatal dog attack on October 9. The dog's owner received citations, admitted to all charges, paid the fine, and got a letter outlining required steps for securing the dog. Officer Minella spoke with the owner who indicated that the dog has been removed from the property. Captain Neville noted that his newsletter just was distributed. It highlights the increased visibility of police from District 3 throughout the holiday season, due in part to overtime pay availability. Captain Neville noted that crime statistics are still down, including a 16-17% decrease in theft from property and a decrease in robberies. Sr. Anne Rene asked for police-generated information intended to inform prospective Westwood real estate buyers about crime. Captain Neville said he's willing to generate customized reports but that the information is publically available. V. Baumann asked if an arrest has been made in the murder on Ocosta. Captain Neville said no but there are suspects and the police believe it was a retaliatory battle between several people involving drugs. M. Kuhl asked where the alleged perpetrator was staying, commenting that people living in section 8 housing cannot harbor criminals. Captain Neville will check on available reports. There was a question about sales of scrap metal and coins. Captain Neville clarified that scrap dealers have to identify themselves. He said that heroin is striving our property crime. District 3 is recommending payment to sellers by check so they can be tracked. J. Kimmet asked if federal arrests are included on police reports. Captain Neville said yes. Officer Minella then commented on Jamel Crosty, whom he described as a menace to society. Officer Minella described Mr. Crosty's cars and mentioned some addresses, asking WCA members to report him if seen. He has a long arrest record and is connected with many problems.

Fire Report

J. Timble reported on behalf of Cincinnati Fire Department #35. He noted that the vast majority of the 3,600 runs this year have been EMS-related. Of the 371 in October, 316 were EMS, 16 fire, and 39 other (accidents, for example.) M. Kuhl asked about the fire department's involvement in multi-family home inspections. Officer Timble said they can respond to complaints at non-owner-occupied properties or any request made by an owner. She asked the fire department to inspect a possible fire hazard at 3303 Epworth. M. Gweyn asked if the fire department has seen a problem with arson lately. Officer Timble said that it has not picked up this year yet.

Treasurer's Report

V. Baumann noted that the report appears in the newsletter and she offered one correction: Under miscellaneous revenue, a reported \$1.18 should read \$1.40.

Crime Statistics

B. Weber invited Chris Kearney to present on crime statistics reports and a proposal that he developed as a private citizen. Mr. Kearney commented that police are not enforcing the law in District 3. He has been collecting data on arrests and advocates for using crime data for action, after developing measurable objectives for the coming year. He showed reports on the streets that are improving, those that are worsening, based on crime statistics for violent crime and chronic nuisance. He wants WCA to pressure police to use his data to drive policing efforts street by street. He noted that violent crime is heavy on Harrison, Montana, Queen City, and Boudinot Avenues. Chronic nuisance problems are high, above the chronic nuisance ordinance threshold, on Harrison, Boudinot, Ferncrest, McHenry, and Westbrook Avenues. For example, a multifamily building cannot have more than 3 nuisance calls in a month. Thirty eight properties in Westwood are above the chronic nuisance threshold, including 13 on Harrison Avenue and police responded to 475 nuisance calls in the last year. He commented on felony drug problems on the sites of stores with liquor licenses. He noted a conflict between CHMA regulations/federal law and local ordinance which leads to fewer arrests or sanctions for noncompliance with ordinance. M. Kuhl asked if multi-family properties are more likely to have crime problems than single family properties. C. Kearney said that one cannot assume from the statistics that the property inhabitants are involved in crime on their property but that we should look for trends involving the property. If this approach is adopted, WCA would establish a group to discuss these data with C. Kearney and representatives of the CPD. MOTION by J. Kimmet to have WCA adopt these street and address-level statistical reports and to work with Cincinnati police to focus efforts on reducing crime in neighborhoods through the use of these statistical data. SECONDED by M. Kuhl. PASSED unanimously.

Mayor's Recycling Challenge

Sharon Smith presented on the Mayor's Recycling Challenge. The Office of Environmental Quality initiative a revamped recycling program in 2010 that has resulted in a 73% participation rate in Westwood and 24% of residents using RecycleBank, which is a bit better than Cincinnati, generally. There is a new initiative to increase recycling and cart recovery, offering incentives for communities. S. Lewis commented that some neighbors are not getting credit for recycling. S. Smith offered comments on checking for the RFID tags. J. Kimmet and M. Jenkins will take the lead on Westwood's efforts to increase participation.

WCA Christmas Party

M. Kuhl announced that the annual WCA Christmas dinner will be held at Palomino's downtown on Friday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. People can gather from 5:30 on for appetizers.

NSP Vote

J. Kimmet reported that he is proposing use of 2012 NSP funds for newsletter-related expenses. The proposal will appear in the next *Westwords* and will be put to a vote at the December general meeting.

December Meetings

B. Weber asked if the December meeting dates are acceptable or if the steering meeting should be dropped. MOTION by J. Sess to eliminate the December steering meeting, keeping the general meeting as scheduled. SECONDED by J. Kimmet. PASSED with one no vote.

Citizens on Patrol

Marcel Macholda reported that COPPs has met its goal of 1,000 patrol hours this year. He invited new members. He reported that COPP will have a fundraising event on November 30 at Applebee's with a percentage of sales going to COPP.

3031 McHenry Avenue

B. Weber reported that Westwood Historical Society did not find any reason to declare R. Brown's house at 3031 McHenry a historic property but that the WCA board decided not to oppose the expected demolition, preferring to focus its efforts and city funds on demolition of blighted multi-family properties.

CMHA Board

B. Weber and J. Sess reported on recent efforts in changes to the appointments to the CMHA board. It seems unlikely that there is support for reassignment of the judicial appointments. Discussions continue.

Problem Properties

No new report except that WCA continues to monitor problems (code violations, chronic nuisance issues).

Bell Building

WestCURC was successful in its proposal for funding to purchase the Bell Building for its transfer to Madcap Puppets. A final vote by City Council is still needed. Sr. Anne Rene McConn will distribute a brief description of the project so that anyone interested in advocating its passage or sharing the good news can do so.

Gamble House

L. Kissel reported that the judge's ruling on the Gamble House is expected by November 22. There is likely to be an appeal of the ruling.

Historical Society

L. Kissel reported that the WHS will hold a fundraising at LaRosa's on November 17. A donor has offered a \$5,000 match for the bell fund. M. Kuhl suggested increased media attention and use of social media to get the word out.

Recreation Commission

It was reported that the Recreation Commission has the Westwood Town Hall location on a list of three possible site closings if a further budget cut is needed. M. Kuhl suggested that interested parties go to budget meetings and join an advocacy list to stay informed.

Reimbursement

MOTION by M. Jenkins to reimburse M. Gweyn \$60 upon presentation of receipt for pizzas for Make a Difference Day.

SECONDED by J. Kimmet.

PASSED unanimously.

Westwood Community Gardens

M. Jenkins gave a brief report on the Gardens, noting that gardeners are cleaning out their raised beds and preparing the site for winter. Major projects await additional fundraising before they can be completed. Several appeals for gifts are in the works. Additional volunteers are most welcome to get involved.

Adjournment

MOTION by M. Gweyn to adjourn, there being no further business before the membership.

SECONDED by M. Jenkins.

PASSED unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.