

Westwood Civic Association Steering Meeting

November 8, 2011

7:00 P.M.

Westwood Town Hall

Attendance

Present: B. Weber, J. Minor, J. Hildebrand, M. Jenkins, J. Kimmet, V. Baumann, M. Gweyn, and S. Lewis

Excused: J. Henke, J. McNulty, J. Sess, M. Kuhl, K. Strasser

Absent: Sr. Anne Rene McConn

Recording Secretary: Mary Jenkins

Call to Order and Minutes

B. Weber called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of the October 11 and 18, 2011 meetings were reviewed.

MOTION by J. Kimmet to approve the minutes of the October 11 and 18, 2011 meetings as written.

SECONDED by V. Baumann.

PASSED unanimously.

3031 McHenry Avenue

As discussed at the October 18, 2011 general meeting, Ron Brown, owner of 3031 McHenry Avenue, requested a 106 hearing, claiming that his house has historic value. WCA requested input from Westwood Historical Society on the property. WHS did not find any indication of historic value.

MOTION by J. Kimmet to oppose demolition of the property in light of Westwood's strategic plan and its emphasis on the demolition of blighted multi-family homes.

SECONDED by J. Hildebrand.

APPROVED unanimously.

NSP Funds

J. Kimmet reported \$236 in remaining 2011 NSP funds. Newsletter expenses will use those remaining funds. J. Kimmet will prepare a recommendation, to be published in the newsletter and voted on at the December meeting, to use 2012 NSP funds for newsletter expenses.

Holiday Dinner

WCA will hold its annual holiday dinner at Palomino's on December 16, 2011.

MOTION by V. Baumann to spend up to \$100 on hors d'oeuvres at the dinner.

SECONDED by J. Kimmet.

APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting Attendance & Membership Development

A brief discussion was held, at Jim McNulty's request, related to increasing area residents' awareness of and attendance at WCA meetings. Those present were inclined to invite speakers relevant to issues WCA is considering and to promote meetings and membership via Western Hills Press in addition to the newsletter, yard signs, social media, inviting neighbors, and announcements to Block Watch groups.

Bracken Woods

J. Kimmet provided an update on WestCURC's work with the city to demolish buildings and plan for redevelopment of a section of Bracken Woods. It was reported earlier that WCA will be refunded its TIF funding for the property to be used for the new fire station. J. Kimmet will organize a meeting with representatives from WestCURC, WCA, and the city's planning department to develop strategy.

Vicious Dog Issue

J. McNulty invited city and county representatives to come to the next steering meeting to discuss code sections and response to vicious dog attacks. To date, no one has agreed to speak with WCA. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

CMHA Board Composition

B. Weber provided an update on the matter of revisions to CMHA board composition. She noted that a meeting was held with D. Driehaus and B. Seitz. There was no interest in appointments of representatives from neighborhood councils and continued interest on their part in judicial appointments. On a related note, there is a WEC meeting on the topic of CMHA on November 18, 2011 at 7:30 a.m. Several WCA board members will be in attendance.

Problem Properties

Several Westwood properties have been considered problem properties for some time, including 3080 McHenry, several properties on Stathem, 3375 McHenry, and 2111 Harrison. J. Kimmet will request an update on the city's efforts on these properties and will urge demolition.

3454 McHenry Avenue

There will be a meeting of city planning officials and stakeholders in the 3454 McHenry property to discuss the proposed rezoning. The meeting will be held on November 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at Mercy Hospital Western Hills fitness center. Several WCA board members will be in attendance.

Crime Statistics

B. Weber distributed several crime statistics reports and asked whether the attendees find the reports useful. Several people commented that it would be useful to have additional fields including not only the address of the crime, but also the alleged perpetrator's address. This matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

Day Care Centers

S. Lewis commented on multiple day care centers along Harrison Avenue. She expressed concern about traffic, parking, signage, and possible license violations. M. Jenkins offered to check on licenses if addresses were provided.

Adjournment

There being no other business before the board, B. Weber adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.