

WCA General Meeting

September 20, 2011

7:00 P.M.

Westwood Town Hall

Attendance

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

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

Recording Secretary: Mary Jenkins

At 7:00 p.m., Jim McNulty called the meeting to order and led a recitation of the Pledge of Alligience.

MOTION by John Sess to remove Mitch Neeld from the WCA board due to excessive unexcused absences from meetings.

SECONDED by Joel Kimmet.

PASSED unanimously.

District 3 Police Report

Matt Thompson reported on behalf of District 3. He provided crime statistics and Block Watch applications. Officer Thompson reported on a number of incidents including an attempted robbery of and kidnapping at the Advantage Bank on Harrison Ave. near Montana, also involving an alleged carjacking, in early September. The suspect is Edward Austin, a federal violator out on bond. The robbery at the HP at Boudinot and Harrison is still under investigation. Officer Thompson also reported on stepped up enforcement of trespassing, parking, and loitering laws at the former Kroger property on Harrison at McHenry. He noted that there is a sale pending to a smaller grocery store chain. At the Greystone nursing facility across the street, there are reports of excessive loitering. Police will keep an eye on that. When asked about the Ocosta homicide, he said that the investigation is ongoing but that it appears that Ocosta just happened to be the unfortunate location of the shooting and not an area of concern. S. Lewis asked about an alleged shooting at Werk and Queen City Aves on August 29. Officer Thompson did not have information. M. Gweyn inquired about a breaking and entering at a drive-in store with DNA evidence left. Officer Thompson explained that they're limited in what they can send for analysis. B. Weber commented on the intersection of Queen City and Harrison Avenues, particularly problems with the illegal left turn at rush hour. Several people noted that Traffic Engineering should work on the intersection and that police should enforce traffic laws there.

3224Werk: Driveway

Anna Lawson commented on her tenants' driveway, created without a zoning variance or building permit. She received the building violation notice and is working to rectify the situation. S. Lewis commented on her position, emphasizing that she hopes to see enforcement of code by the city. J. McNulty noted that the WCA board voted at its last meeting to oppose the variance and to encourage the city to uphold its zoning laws. M. Kuhl remarked on the impact of bad zoning decision on the quality of life in Westwood.

Neighborhood Study

Amanda Staight, a U.C. Ph.D. candidate in Sociology, invited residents' participation in the research she is doing for her dissertation. She is interviewing Westwood residents for her work in urban sociology.

Citizens on Patrol

Ralph Vanderman announced that the COPP is up to 27 volunteers with two new members and they've collectively logged 745 hours this year to date. COPP is following incidents with panhandlers at several locations in Westwood.

2201 Harrison

M. Kuhl and R. Vanderman commented on the frequency of police reports from and issues at 2201 Harrison. B. Weber sent the owner a letter from WCA, detailing WCA concerns with code issues.

Candidates for Office

Catherine Smith Mills, a candidate for City Council, spoke briefly, noting that her campaign's job plan is online now. She remarked that she favors evening meetings for citizen participation. She invited comments from voters. Alexander Kuhns, a candidate for School Board, remarked on his work with Northside Community Council and with mental health counseling. He hopes to advocate for underserved children. Brian Lee, a judicial candidate for Municipal Court, commented on his "boots on the ground" experience and neighborhood involvement. There is a Candidates Night at Mercy High School on October 4.

Mount Airy Forest Event

J. McNulty announced that the Parks are looking for volunteers to help with the October 8 100th anniversary event at Mt. Airy Forest.

CMHA Issue

B. Weber and J. Sess provided an update on the CMHA board election attempted revisions, noting some differences in proposals for representation.

CWCA

V. Baumann and J. McNulty commented on WCA's membership in the Cheviot Westwood Community Association, given some question as to whether the membership is current. WCA wrote a check in March 2011. V. Baumann will confirm the status.

Art Show

J. McNulty asked attendees to promote the Westwood Art Show, to be held on Saturday, September 24. Board members are scheduled to help mark artists' spots in advance and to sell food during the show.

Chronic Nuisance Issue

B. Weber commented that councilors Chris Bortz and Charlie Winburn continue to discuss the chronic nuisance ordinance issue. WCA will continue to monitor the matter to determine if it will continue to support revisions as proposed by council members.

Westwood Historical Society

Liz Kissel reported that the WHS home tour will probably be scheduled for late April 2012. On October 12, there will be a presentation on Green Township cemeteries. WHS is still raising money for the school bell restoration and will have a booth at the Art Show. She commented on the status of the Gamble House hearings.

West End

J. McNulty and J. Sess commented on the status of City Gospel Mission's plans to move to Dalton St. in West End and on the WCA's support, via an amicus brief, for the West End Community Council's

opposition to a zoning variance request. J. McNulty noted that WCA could want a variance request at some point so this should be understood as support for the WECC's position. J. Sess requested approval to represent WCA by attending court in support of WECC.

MOTION by J. Sess to allow J. Sess to provide amicus testimony in opposition of the notwithstanding ordinance and in support of WECC's opposition to the project.

SECONDED by J. Hildebrand.

PASSED unanimously.

USPS

J. McNulty noted that WCA received a letter from the postal service, commenting on possible changes to postal service facilities.

Intersection of Boudinot and Harrison

J. McNulty announced that the city plans to replace the pedestrian island at Boudinot and Harrison. There were no concerns or objections.

Westwood Deli, 2200 Harrison

MOTION by M. Kuhl to oppose the transfer of the 2200 Harrison liquor license to the new owners of Westwood Deli.

SECONDED by J. Sess.

PASSED unanimously.

Public Debate on Issue 2

J. Sess had been charged with organizing a public forum on Issue 2, S.B. 5. He noted that he lined up a speaker from the Fraternal Order of Police but hasn't has a response from tea party leadership to represent another point of view. Further, there is a similar event planned for October 15 at Joy Community Church. He asked for permission to cancel plans for a WCA forum. There was no objection.

Westwood Town Hall

P. Rhein expressed thanks for grounds clean up work at Westwood Town Hall.

Tea Party Speaker

J. Sess announced a program on September 27 at Midway School at which Mike Wilson of the Tea Party will speak on election fairness. Police Chief Craig will speak on police and safety matters.

WestCURC

Sr. Anne Rene McConn thanked the people who appeared at the NBDIF bus tour stop at the Bell building to support MadCap and WestCURC's proposal. There will be a series of meetings and decisions in October, with City Council review and decision in December. WestCURC has four houses on the market, with two in the closing process.

Westwood Community Gardens

M. Jenkins and J. Kimmert commented on several developments at the Gardens, as reported at the steering meeting last week.

Adjournment

There being no other business, J. McNulty adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.