

Westwood Civic Association Steering Meeting

September 13, 2011

7:00 P.M.

Westwood Town Hall

Attendance

Present: J. McNulty, B. Weber, J. Hildebrand, J. Sess, V. Baumann, J. Kimmet, Sr. Anne Rene McConn, M. Jenkins, S. Lewis, M. Gweyn, M. Kuhl, J. Henke, K. Strasser, I. McNulty, J. Minor, M. Conda, S. Lewis

Absent: M. Neeld

Recording Secretary: Mary Jenkins

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

J. McNulty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and called for review and approval of the minutes of the August 9, 2011 steering meeting and the August 16, 2011 general meeting. The August 9, 2011 minutes were approved as written and the August 16, 2011 minutes were approved as modified to correct an address.

3224 Werk

A property at 3224 Werk at Mayridge was discussed, following the installation of a driveway that may be in violation of code. Renter installed the driveway without permits. S. Lewis explained that city officials intervened, telling the renters that they could not pour concrete without a permit but work proceeded. J. McNulty reported that the zoning examiner's staff are reviewing the situation.

MOTION by B. Weber to issue a letter from WCA with regard to the 3224 Werk driveway, urging the city to enforce zoning and building code without variance and, further, requesting notification of outcomes.

SECONDED by J. Sess.

PASSED unanimously.

Westwood Community Gardens

J. Kimmet reported on progress at the community gardens, noting that work is proceeding on a toolshed, with concrete for the base donated by Hilltop Concrete. Board members asked Gardens committee members to confirm that the shed is compliant with zoning code. J. Kimmet reported that eleven more raised beds have been constructed and the city delivered mulch. The fence and tool shed are the next priorities, along with additional grants and gift seeking.

MOTION by M. Jenkins to approved reimbursement of J. Sess up to \$70 out of Gardens funds upon presentation of receipts for the repair of the riding mower donated to the Gardens.

SECONDED by J. Kimmet.

PASSED unanimously.

Problem Properties

J. McNulty commented on the property at 3375 McHenry, noting its decrepit and vacant or near-vacant state. He gave an update on 3080 McHenry: The wrong holding company, with a similar name, was notified of code violations so the process had to be restarted. B. Weber will send letters, on behalf of WCA, to the owners of 3080 McHenry and 2201 Harrison regarding possible code violations. J. Kimmet reported frequent trouble at 2201-2203 Harrison. J. McNulty will write to the Livable Communities Committee about 3454 McHenry against the owners' request for a zoning variance. M. Kuhl and J. Sess commented on police detail assigned to those addresses on the weekends and on the low numbers of officers on duty throughout District 3 on Sundays and at shift changes.

Issue 2: SB 5

J. Sess introduced a proposal to have WCA host a forum on Issue 2, offering balanced perspective and audience questions. With the board's support, J. Sess will develop a plan. In a related discussion, M. Jenkins asked if WCA can limit candidate time at meetings. It was agreed that time can be limited, depending on number of speakers and the rest of the agenda, but that political candidates may distribute their materials at meetings.

Art Show

J. McNulty will provide a pop-up tent for the food booth. WestCURC is supporting the Art Show with its 501(C)(3) status. WCA will sell t-shirts and banners. \$200 was approved at a previous meeting for pizza and water to sell at \$1 for water and \$2 for pizza. The Gardens brochure will be distributed at the Art Show.
MOTION by J. Sess for up to \$200 to be expended on flyers for the Art Show.
SECONDED by M. Gweyn.
PASSED unanimously.

Ocosta

K. Strasser announced that she and others are supporting a neighborhood event on Ocosta to generate good will in the aftermath of a shooting in the area.

Website

MOTION by M. Jenkins to reimburse B. Lee \$43.95 for website hosting expenses.
SECONDED by J. Sess.
PASSED unanimously.

2329 Harrison

The CMHA board voted against rehabilitation of 2329 Harrison at Cora. The board intends to move residents back in without the rehabilitation of the property.

Bell Building and NBDIF Proposal

Sr. Anne Rene McConn reported that the NBDIF bus tour of locations will take place September 17. Locations include those sites that have applied for NBDIF funding including WestCURC and Madcap Puppets' proposal for the purchase of the Bell building. Sr. Anne asked board members and other Westwood residents to stop at the site to support the proposal on the morning of the tour. Sr. Anne also reported that WestCURC is considering a rehabilitation project on a property on Highpoint Av.

Make a Difference Day

Several Make a Difference Day projects are planned in Westwood, including an Epworth Court clean up and a project at Westwood Town Hall.

Gamble House

It was noted that a Westwood presence is encouraged at hearings related to the Gamble House.

Prison Release Plans

M. Gweyn reported on a meeting that she attended, along with J. Sess, on the prison release program. J. Sess noted that it is good to get people back to work through the employer program while M. Gweyn commented on the potential difficulty for communities that have to absorb responsibility for problem situations.

Chronic Nuisance Ordinance

B. Weber remarked on delays in hearings related to the chronic nuisance ordinance as well as differences of opinion about enforcement responsibilities. In a discussion of CMHA proposals, M. Kuhl suggested that we invite back state-level officials to discuss CMHA initiatives. J. Sess will invite representatives.

MOTION to adjourn by M. Kuhl at 8:58 p.m.
SECONDED by J. Hildebrand.
PASSED unanimously.