

Westwood Civic Association General Meeting Minutes January 21, 2014
submitted by Karen Strasser, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Joel Kimmet.

Present: Joel Kimmet, Mary Jenkins, Karen Strasser, Joe Corso, Michelle Conda, Becky Weber, Tom Minor, Leslie Rich, Tom Hodges, Mary Kuhl, Irene McNulty, Jim McNulty, Melva Gweyn, Valerie Baumann

Excused: Jill Minor

Police Report:

Given by District 3 Sergeant Eric Sierra. The new District 3 Captain, Daniel Gerard will be here next month. He has been looking at the burglary problem and has an officer re-deployment plan. The neighborhoods in District 3 will be ranked 1 thru 14 and the officers will be dispatched by priority accordingly. Sergeant Sierra handed out the STARS report. Captain Neville has taken an opportunity with the CPD and Captain Gerard is now our new Captain. Sergeant Sierra may be emailed at Eric.Sierra@cincinnati-oh.gov. Email Sergeant Sierra if you would like to be on the email list for the crime reports.

Sergeant Sierra discussed the concentration of burglaries over near Hanna Avenue and a recent incident on Mignon. Sergeant Sierra did not know if there is any connection to the burglaries over near Hanna and the incident on Mignon. He stated that the incident on Mignon was not random. Sergeant Sierra was also asked to comment on the holiday burglaries over on Epworth, but he did not have any specifics at this time.

He was also asked about the many problems with dispatch and the new Captain's willingness to address this issue. Sierra recommended sending emails to City Council on the matter because it means more coming from the public than coming from the Police Department.

(Kimmet) The citizens of Westwood need to know that WCA takes crime very seriously in Westwood. Reducing crime is one of our top priorities. John Sess is the Chairperson of our Public Safety Committee. We work with the police department to reduce crime. We can come together as a team and solve the crime problem and put a stop to crime in Westwood.

No Fire Report

An update was requested regarding the sign variance needed by Gamble Montessori. It was stated that Gamble Montessori is going through the process to request a variance.

(Kimmet) The League of Women Voters is not able to attend the meeting this evening. Hopefully we will have an opportunity as a Board to talk to them soon.

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Nominating Committee Reports –

(Hodges) Jim McNulty, Leslie Rich and Tom Hodges met on two occasions.

(Hodges) The President's Nominating Committee (Jim McNulty, Leslie Rich and Tom Hodges) slated the following candidates for the upcoming WCA election:

Larry Eiser, Shawntee Stallworth, Emily Miller, Ann Ambler, Mary Jenkins

(Corso) The Member's Nominating Committee (Rick Boyd, John Eby and Joe Corso) slated the following candidates for the upcoming WCA election

Nikki Mayhew, Karen Strasser, Joel Kimmet, Trinetgd Zidwadzki, Tyrone Miller

(member) Is it typical that you have two nominating committees?

(Corso) The Constitution clearly lays out how nominating will work. The President selects three members for the President's Nominating Committee. The membership also elects three members to form the Member's Nominating Committee.

Nominations were then taken from the floor.

(J. McNulty) I nominate Ken Tarvin, Jason Hodge, Becky Weber

**Motion to close the nominations from the floor by Michelle Conda, seconded by Mary Jenkins,
Motion passed, all in favor**

Joe Corso will be the Election Supervisor. He was picked by the two Nominating committees.

(Kimmet) Joel Kimmet read from the Constitution to clarify any misunderstanding of the process of choosing the Election Supervisor.

Jim McNulty proposed the following WCA election timeline:

- January 21, 2014 Nominations presented during regular January meeting. Nominating committees discharged.
- February 18, 2014 General membership meeting. Final rules for balloting process approved. Tellers are selected to assist and monitor election process.
- February 25, 2014 Membership Secretary certifies membership list and presents it to the Election Supervisor.

- March 4, 2014 Last day to mail ballots to membership.
- March 17, 2014 Election Supervisor and Tellers tally ballots.
- March 18, 2014 ANNUAL MEETING Board of Directors election results announced.
- April 15, 2014 Board of Directors elects officers. (or could be done at a prior special meeting)

Discussion followed regarding the date by which membership dues will need to be paid in order for a member to vote in the Board election. It was suggested that our final election rules need to be in place by 2/18/14, the date of our February general meeting. Election Supervisor, Joe Corso, stated his intent to make this a clear and transparent election.

At this time Mary Kuhl read the role of the Election Supervisor from the WCA Constitution.

**Motion by Mary Kuhl that we accept Jim McNulty's time line, seconded by Joe Corso,
Motion passed, all in favor.**

**Motion by Karen Strasser, seconded by Tom Hodges to approve the minutes of October General meeting, July General meeting and December Steering.
Motion passed, all in favor.**

(Kimmet) NSP category voting will be coming up soon. NSP is funding each neighborhood \$5,000. In the past we have used this money for landscaping, printing the newsletter, community gardens, etc. The City has a list of guidelines for about 50 things that your neighborhood can do. We need to decide and submit the proposal to the City with the list of categories with all WCA members voting at the 2/18 general meeting.

Additional comments regarding the upcoming election -
(Weber) There is a little form that we would like to see put in the Newsletter requesting the number of voters in each household. We can have the printer print them and it will cost \$25.00.

(Kimmet) the WCA application used to always say how many residents are in your household? There is a problem with the membership list – the problem is that every adult in a household gets to vote. It is a mistake that we haven't caught until recently.

(Rich) With all memberships that have come in now for 2014, I have followed up to get more information.

(Kimmet) J. McNulty had suggested that we put a post card in the February WCA newsletter to clarify number of adults in each membership household.

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(J. McNulty) We need to add the deadline for that form to be mailed to the membership.

(Conda) Can we make email an option?

(Kimmet) We want everyone to do this the same way so we should mail.

Motion to spend up to \$150.00 by Michelle Conda, seconded by Melva Gweyn, for printing and postage of the postcards to go out for membership clarification.

Discussion followed and Leslie Rich said that she would put an article in the newsletter explaining this process.

All in favor, motion passed

Committee Reports

Public Safety – John Sess

From Jan 1, 2013 – Jan 1 2014 murders and rapes are up, along with auto thefts and burglaries.

Committee projects over the year included cleaning up a lot off of Werk road and addressing a safety issue at the intersection of Schwartz and Glenmore.

Members of our committee would be more than happy to do a security scan of your house. Just email me if you are interested.

(Kuhl) Per the STARS report, crime numbers are not going down. We want to invite the new Captain and maybe the new Chief to a WCA meeting. This will be announced soon in the newsletter.

Discussion continued acknowledging the contributions of Citizens on Patrol, Block Watch and the need for more Westwood Block Watches, the usefulness of Next Door social Block Watching media and the need for City Council members to recognize the problems in Westwood.

Outreach Committee – Mary Jenkins

There will be an Outreach committee meeting tomorrow night and then again in the beginning of February. Tomorrow's meeting is a joint meeting with Membership and Promotions at 7p.m. at Town Hall.

Westwood Community Gardens – Mary Jenkins

WCG rents out raised beds to people who would like to garden.

It looks like we have plots available this upcoming season. If you are interested in gardening, I'll be glad to give you more information.

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Building and Properties – J. McNulty

I sent Ed Cunndingham a list of properties last week and he has now given us a list of properties that we need to prioritize.

Infrastructure – Melva Gweyn

I won't be able to do as many flower pots as I have done in the past. Per the City, each flower pot will cost \$200.00 to maintain.

Discussion followed and it was determined that we will discuss our flower pot options at our February meeting.

District 3 – Michelle Conda

Michelle Conda attended a meeting for the new District three headquarters on Ferguson Avenue. Very nice plans are being made for this new building.

Finance Committee – Kimmet

We have received a letter from the IRS regarding our 501 C4 application and we have been informed that they are in receipt of our application.

(J. McNulty) There is a zoning change notice and a public hearing on 2/10/14, 2p.m. at City Hall, amending the zoning map of the City.

**Motion to adjourn by Hodges, seconded by Rich.
Meeting adjourned.**