

Westwood Civic Association March 18, 2014 General Meeting  
submitted by Karen Strasser, Recording Secretary

Present:

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

Excused:

Tom Minor

President Joel Kimmet called the meeting to order.

**Police report**

Sgt. Erich Sierra distributed copies of the neighborhood Crime stats for February and the details of the arrests, along with copies of the D3 newsletter and STARS report. With the exception of auto theft and rape, crime is slightly up.

Tire Amnesty event this coming weekend at Dunham from 10a.m. – 2p.m.

Captain Gerrard attended this meeting.

(Captain Gerrard) Westwood is the biggest of the 14 neighborhoods in Westwood. Our crime numbers are driven by theft offenses. A two block corridor of Harrison Avenue is driving crime in Westwood. There will be a concentrated police presence in this area. There are 190 people on the CERV list. My resources need to be focused on these 190 people. Perception is not necessarily reality. We need to focus on the problem areas. Sometimes a traditional approach is not the best. You will see a mix of traditional and non traditional policing. Bicycle patrols will be run at non traditional times. The police department intends to get a handle on this with the help of the community. Much of the crime is driven by drugs. The 2200 –2800 blocks of Harrison Avenue are the most concentrated areas of the criminal element in the City.

Board members and WCA members asked Captain Gerrard to speak to what we, as residents, can do.

(Garrard) Burglaries are replacing street robberies. If you see somebody riding a bike down the street with a 50” t.v., this is a crime in progress and you should call 911. If the crime already happened, call 513-765-1212.

Erich Sierra –

[Eric.sierra@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:Eric.sierra@cincinnati-oh.gov)

Email Sgt. Sierra to get on the D3 communication email list.

**Guest Speaker – Mr. Greg Johnson, CMHA Director**

Mr. Johnson discussed the CMHA’s Strategic Plan and invited us all to complete an online survey with the goal being to incorporate the public’s thoughts as CMHA moves forward on this project.

Mr. Johnson is wanting to transform CMHA’s customer service.

The survey will be put on the CMHA website tomorrow by noon.

(Johnson) We are going to look at how many vouchers we have in this area. We can evict people for truancy if they are not sending their kids to school. We are going to look at many things. The public can help by calling the “Talk to Us” line.

(Weber) A few years ago we talked to CMHA about pulling the vouchers of Chronic Nuisance properties.

(Johnson) We have to make sure that the Chronic Nuisance laws align us with the HUD laws.

(Gweyn) Many people are coming here from out of state to enjoy our programs. We are attracting a number of people.

(Johnson) There should be nobody who can say, "I'm on the program for 40 years." HUD needs to change some of the rules. I have to follow HUD rules. I am a product of public housing. We all have choices and motivations. We should help people because they can't help themselves. If we know about something, I try to work proactively together with the neighborhood. The subsidy is a privilege.

**Jim McNulty's motion carried forward from the March Steering meeting:**

We require a majority vote for the amended motion to be allowed to be amended.

This is a motion to amend the motion that was left on the table after last week's Steering.

**Vote passed unanimously to allow the amending of Jim's motion to read:**

(the word "assure" was removed from the previous motion)

The motion being carried forward from the Steering Meeting is a motion that the WCA membership be sent the following letter:

Dear Westwood Civic members,

Recently during our annual board elections, it was discovered that some of our members' personal membership contact information was used in a partisan manner for campaign purposes. We regret this improper use of your private information. Measures will be taken to restore your trust in our ability to properly manage your confidential membership information, and that it will only be used for legitimate WCA purposes.

Sincerley,

The Board of Directors of the Westwood Civic Association

Discussion followed from the membership with the membership giving their opinions with regard to whether or not to send a letter of apology.

Several board members gave their opinions with regard to whether or not an apology is necessary.

**Motion failed 7 yes – 7 no**

Yes-

J. McNulty

I. McNulty

V. Baumann

B. Weber

M. Conda

M. Kuhl

M. Gweyn

No –  
J. Corso  
M. Jenkins  
K. Strasser  
J. Kimmet  
T. Hodges  
L. Rich  
J. Minor

**Jim’s motion is amended with regard to the letter being mailed. The letter, worded as in the motion above, would be put in the Newsletter.**

**Motion passes – the letter of apology will be sent in the newsletter.**

**All in favor**

**Election Results:**

Report given by Joe Corso. Over 80% of our members voted.

Elected:

Joel Kimmet 322  
Karen Strasser 317  
Mary Jenkins 317  
Jason Hodge 316  
Becky Weber 301  
Kken Tarvin 290  
Emily Miller 249  
Shantee Stallworth Schramm 208  
Trinette Zawadzki 173

**CRC – Andrea McCarthy**

Many fun events coming up at CRC for the spring and summer  
Andrea McCarthy is the interim Director for the CRC at Town Hall.

**2294 Harrison Avenue – this property is currently in distress.**

(J. McNulty) The building has just been sold. It is a great big old house that was broken up into 6 units many years ago. It has been completely gutted inside and has major, major issues. The owner bought the proper for \$8,000.00 and now want to tear it down. The building has 19 units and 18 parking places.

Per Greg Kissel, the owner has put elements of the house on Craig’s list.

WCA should make a statement to the owner that this would be a travesty. Every indication is that this house may be pre civil war.

(Jenkins) I would like us to make a statement that we would not like to see this house demolished.

(Weber) We need to take a position and send a letter letting the City know that we are against the demolition of the property.

**Motion by Weber that Jim McNulty write a letter to the Building department of the City of Cincinnati opposing the demolition of the home at 2294 Harrison Avenue. Seconded by Mary Jenkins.**

**All in favor**

**motion passed unanimously**

(J. McNulty) A letter written by Barbara Foster to the WCA board was read.

Members of Westwood Civic and WCA Board,

I recently received a mailing for some of the candidates running for positions on the WCA Board. The use of the mailing list to promote certain candidates running for office was obtained and used without the permission of the current board of the Westwood civic Assn my permission as well.

This is unethical as it denies the other candidates the same opportunity. It is also an improper use of the mailing list. The two candidates running for re-election whose names were on the list are Mary Jenkins and Joel Kimmet. These two would have had access to the information and provided it to candidates of their choice. This is a clear violation of ethics and procedures. I ask that this be turned over to the Ohio Ethics Commission and an investigation take place. I also request this letter be reflected in the minutes of this meeting.

Respectfully,  
Barbara Foster  
Eugenie Lane

**Motion by I. McNulty, seconded by L. Rich that we hire Matthew P. Roth and Company, CPA, 4218 Bridgetown Road, Cincinnati, 574-3300 for a fee of \$400.00.**

**All in favor – motion passes unanimously**

Meeting adjourned by President Joel Kimmet