

**Westwood Civic Association**  
**MINUTES – General Meeting – September 16, 2014**

1. Call to order by President Jim McNulty at 7:01 pm. Meeting was held in the basement meeting room of the Westwood Town Hall, 3017 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, OH. (Joel Kimmet – Acting Secretary)
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Helen Russo.
3. Roll Call of Officers: 14 Present, 1 Excused. Present were: Jim McNulty, Irene McNulty, Mary Kuhl, Mary Jenkins, Michelle Conda, Joel Kimmet, Karen Strasser, Becky Weber, Melva Gweyn, Joe Corso, Emily Miller, Shawntee Stallworth-Schramm, Leslie Rich and Valerie Baumann. Excused was: Ken Tarvin.
4. Fire Department Report by Lt. Nieman from CFD. Lt. Nieman gave the monthly stats from August '14, which included 434 total calls for service. Most of these are medical related calls. Lt. Nieman spoke about making an "Escape Plan" for your home, which includes routes to escape from a fire or other emergency from each room and from each floor. There were a few brief questions from the floor.
5. Police Department Report by Officer Rich Minella from CPD. Officer Minella discussed the monthly stats from August '14, and discussed a shooting that took place this date (9/16/14) at the corner of Harrison Avenue and Woodrow. The victim was shot in the leg, and the suspect got away in a purple Buick. The police are still searching for the suspect. There were a few brief questions from the floor.
6. A Town Hall Report was given by Ms. Andrea McCarthy from WTH. Andrea gave a short report about upcoming events and training programs occurring at WTH this Fall. All are invited to attend.
7. President McNulty explained that there was a "sign-in" sheet for Candidates who wished to address the WCA for a few minutes each. Three Candidates signed-in on the sheet, and were called up in order:
  - a. Chris Monzel – Candidate for Hamilton County Commissioner – spoke to the group for a few minutes about his qualifications and goals as a candidate for re-election for a County Commissioner position. Mr. Monzel stated that he began his volunteer career as a board member on a community council, and expressed his appreciation for what community councils do. A few questions followed from the floor.
  - b. Ms. Tracy Wells – Proponent of Issue #6 – spoke to the group for a few minutes about Issue #6, which is a proposed continuation of the Family Services Levy. Ms. Wells described the Levy, why it should be continued, and what services are provided by it. She then answered a few questions from the floor.
  - c. Mr. David Troop - Proponent of "Picking Up The Pieces" initiative was introduced. President McNulty stated that Mr. Troop will speak later in the Meeting, under the "Presentations" section of the Agenda.
8. Presentation on Illegal Signs, by Ms. Helen Russo (Westwood resident) and Mr. Jerry Wilkerson (Superintendent of Public Services/ Neighborhood Operations). Ms. Russo explained that she had been in contact with City officials, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, and Mr. John Sess (former WCA President and volunteer) to ask for help, and to try to come up with a plan on dealing with the illegal sign problem. A brief discussion followed describing the Illegal Sign problem in Westwood, and how it has gotten worse in recent months. Mr. Wilkerson added that the Mayor's Office is now getting involved, and a meeting will be occurring to explore possible solutions for this problem. Some solutions include stiffer fines, police actions, and higher penalties for law breakers. There were many questions from the floor,

and this discussion continued for about 15 minutes. Ms. Russo and Mr. Wilkerson will report back to WCA with their progress and possible solutions to the issue at a later date. If anyone wants to volunteer to assist in this effort, please contact Ms. Helen Russo.

9. Presentation by President Jim McNulty on the creation of a small grey card, which lists several important contact phone numbers, emergency phone numbers, and community resources on it. Several of the cards were passed around to all the attendees at the meeting. President McNulty explained how to use the card, and when to use the phone numbers that are listed on it.

10. Presentation by Mr. David Troop on the “Picking Up The Pieces Project”. There is a Facebook Page called, “Picking Up The Pieces Project” that citizens can sign up and join. The project encourages citizens nationwide to join in with this project, which involves each person picking up at least 3 pieces of litter each day, in their neighborhood, city, or area. Mr. Troop is trying to get the word out about this effort, and many hundreds of people have already signed up to participate in the project. Mr. Troop said that groups can also sign up to participate, and encouraged WCA to sign up as a “supporting group”.

11. President McNulty announced that voting would take place this evening on two proposed amendments to the WCA Constitution. Both amendments were publicized in previous issues of the WCA Newsletter, and were read at prior meetings, as required by the current Constitution. Each member of WCA in good standing who is present will be able to vote. Membership Secretary Irene McNulty will check off the name of each member, on the current Membership List, as the ballots are being handed out. President McNulty read the language of each proposed Amendment, which are as follows:

Proposal #1 – **Physical Boundaries of Westwood**. “Westwood, the largest neighborhood in the City of Cincinnati, is located in the Northwest portion of the city and is bounded as follows: Traveling northwest on Harrison Avenue, Westwood begins at Hansford Place and extends south through the wooded area to Queen City Avenue. Westwood includes the streets of Carnes, Champlaign, High and Tille which run north off Queen City. The boundary includes the north side of Queen City Avenue and extends west on Queen City Avenue to Sunset Avenue. The border then runs south on Sunset Avenue, including the west side of the B & O Railway (since removed) and extends south and west to include the Dunham Recreation Complex. As the B & O Railway crosses Boudinot, the Westwood boundary extends south on Crookshank Avenue, and includes the west side of Crookshank Avenue to the city limit boundary with Green Township. Westwood borders Green Township and the city of Cheviot on its western extremity. Westwood’s northern border continues from the city limit, through Mt. Airy Forest, to the west fork of the Mill Creek, where it is separated from the neighborhoods of Mount Airy, and Northside, on the “north side” of the creek. From the intersection of Montana and the west fork of the Mill Creek, Westwood encompasses the west side of Montana Avenue then extends due south through the wooded area toward the intersection of Westwood Northern Boulevard and McHenry Avenue. The eastern border of Westwood extends from McHenry and Westwood Northern Boulevard in a southern direction to include the streets of Cavanaugh, Atlin, Costello, Ruberg, Baker, Robert, Pickmeyer, St. Leo Place, and North & South Teralta. From Baker and Harrison, the boundary then joins Harrison and Hansford to complete the border. “ (end of proposal)

Proposal #2 – **Title VIII: Term Limits**. “Any member of the Board of Directors, including Officers, who has served on the Board for two consecutive terms or more, i.e. six years or more, is not eligible to run for reelection or to be reappointed to the board for a period of at least three years. This provision shall apply immediately and retroactively.” (end of proposal)

11. (Continued) President McNulty then explained how the voting process was going to take place. Members would be called to vote in groups, alphabetically, according to their last names. Discussion was allowed for several minutes, by President McNulty, with representatives from both sides (“for” the proposals and “against” the proposals) being allowed to speak for one minute each. Spirited discussion followed for several minutes by many members. President McNulty then stated that discussion that was negative or accusatory in nature would not be allowed at this time. A later count revealed that 83 eligible WCA members were present and were allowed to vote.

The meeting continued, while voting took place at the rear of the meeting room. Groups of voters were called by President McNulty, alphabetically, according to their last names. All voters signed in on a “sign-in” sheet located in the middle of the room, and Membership Secretary Irene McNulty verified the name of each voter, by checking their name on the current WCA membership list.

President McNulty picked four “observers” to assist Secretary Irene McNulty with the counting of the votes. The counting of the votes took place in a private, closed room.

(Final Tally of the voting is listed at the end of these Minutes)

12. Presentation – by Mr. Bill Spetz, engineer, and WCA member, on the new WCA Zoning/ Land Use Committee. Mr. Spetz introduced himself and his committee, and explained his background in engineering. Mr. Spetz discussed beginning a “design review” of the new Cincinnati proposed Zoning Code changes, so that WCA could make logical suggestions and be actively involved in the process. Mr. Spetz explained that the committee will be using the Westwood Strategic Plan in its meetings, and will apply the plan to the new proposed Zoning Code, with guidance from WCA during this process.

13. Mary Jenkins gave a brief Community Gardens report, and a report on upcoming activities and events happening at the Westwood Community Gardens.

14. Emily Miller gave a brief NSP Report, followed by Joel Kimmet. Board Members Kimmet, Miller and Stallworth have attended meetings and training in regards to the new 2015 NSP Contracts. More NSP news will be reported at next month’s meeting.

15. President McNulty stated that the Board needed to vote on renewing the 2 WCA Insurance Policies, which both expire on October 1, 2014. WCA has two insurance policies: 1) General Liability Insurance, which is required by the City of Cincinnati for all community councils, and 2) Directors & Officers Insurance which covers the Board Members. The renewals are approximately \$500 for the General Liability Insurance renewal and \$700 for the Directors & Officers Insurance renewal. WCA will continue to use Agent Mark Kneflin of the Kneflin-Dillhoff-Hils & Kruse Agency of Cincinnati, OH.

**MOTION** by Joel Kimmet, **SECOND** by Leslie Rich, to renew both insurance policies. Short discussion, followed by the vote. **MOTION PASSES** by a unanimous vote of the Board.

16. Shawntee Stallworth gave a brief report of the WCA Yard of the Month and Fall Yard of the Month events, and a short discussion ensued about both events. These events will be combined into one event.

17. Leslie Rich and Jessica Thayer gave a brief Westwood Art Show report. The Art Show occurred on September 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Westwood Town Hall, with approximately 70 artists, and hundreds of attendees. The Art Show was a huge success, and included blocking off part of Harrison Avenue this year.

18. President McNulty discussed the stone “Westwood” sign at the corners of Harrison and Boudinot in the business district. For years, Kiwanis and WestCURC have paid the electric bill for the lights on the sign at night. President McNulty stated that he feels that WCA should now take over this responsibility for the care and maintenance of the stone Westwood sign. President McNulty has already paid \$17.73 for last month’s electric bill, and he expects each monthly bill to be approximately \$17 to \$18.

**MOTION** by Joel Kimmet, **SECOND** by Joe Corso to reimburse President McNulty \$17.73, and for WCA to take over paying for the monthly electric bill for the stone Westwood sign at Harrison and Boudinot. Short discussion, followed by the vote. **MOTION PASSES** by a unanimous vote of the Board.

19. The business portion of the meeting was concluded, and members waited for the results of the Constitution Proposals, as listed above in item #11. Membership Secretary Irene McNulty gave the results to President Jim McNulty, who then announced the results of the voting:

Proposal #1 (Westwood Boundaries) **PASSED** by unanimous vote: 83-for, 0-against.

Proposal #2 (Term Limits) **PASSED** by a 2/3 vote of members present: 67-for, 16-against.

A total of 83 WCA members voted.

The Meeting was adjourned at: 9:15 pm, by President McNulty.