

Westwood Civic Association
MINUTES – General Meeting – October 21, 2014

1. Call to Order by President Jim McNulty at 7:00 pm. Meeting was held in the Conference Room, of the Westwood Town Hall, 3017 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45211. (Joel Kimmet- Secretary)
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. John Sess.
3. Roll Call of Board Members: 14 Present, 1 Excused. Present were: Jim McNulty, Mary Kuhl, Michelle Conda, Joel Kimmet, Irene McNulty, Mary Jenkins, Karen Strasser, Joe Corso, Melva Gweyn, Valerie Baumann, Ken Tarvin, Emily Miller, Shawntee Stallworth, and Trinette Zawadzki. Excused was Becky Weber.
4. President Jim McNulty welcomed newly appointed WCA Board Member Trinette Zawadzki, who has replaced Board member Leslie Rich who recently resigned from the WCA Board.
5. Police Department Report: Officer Rich Minella gave the Police Report. Officer Minella reported on the recent robbery at the Kroger Store on Ferguson Avenue, and the robbery at the Bank of Cheviot in Cheviot. He also made a report concerning several shootings in the neighborhood which seem to be occurring during the nighttime hours, where people are shooting up into the air. Officer Minella then reported on several recent arrests. Copies of the monthly crime stats were left on the table for members to take after the meeting. Officer Minella responded to several questions from the floor.
6. Fire Department Report: Lt. Eric Horn gave the Fire Report. In September, 2014, Engine 35 responded to 349 EMS calls. So far, in October, they have responded to 225 EMS calls. There was a discussion about bad buildings reporting, smoke detectors, and which perimeter area Engine 35 covers. Lt. Horn explained the call perimeters, which are overlapping with other Engine Companies, medical protocols, and response times. He responded to several questions from the floor.
7. Zoning Committee. Report given by Mr. Bill Spetz, who reported on the first WCA Zoning Committee Meeting. He has received a copy of the “2nd Revision” of the “Cincinnati Land Development Code”, and it is now being studied by the WCA Zoning Committee. The first project the Committee will be working on is Werk Road, from Harrison Avenue to Queen City Avenue. The Committee is learning the codes, and which ones apply to each property. Several changes may be proposed to certain parts of Westwood. The Goal: to have a report to the WCA by the January Meeting. Mr. Spetz commented that anyone who is interested can google “Cincinnati Land Development Code” on their own, print out the document, and check out the Westwood Zoning, and even their own specific street or property. President McNulty stated that the new WCA Website will have a “Questions” section, if anyone has Zoning questions about their own street or their own property, and what changes are proposed, can ask for assistance.
8. Mary Jenkins gave a very brief Website Report. The new website is now available and running at the www.westwoodcivic.org website address. She invited all to look at the new website. On the main page, click on “Initiatives”, and check out the “Initiatives Subpage”. There will be a “forms page” for members to submit questions or concerns. The new website will be easier to use and more “User Friendly”.
9. Guests. Mr. Chris Monzel (candidate for Hamilton County Commissioner) spoke briefly to the group. He stated that he will attend the Westwood Candidates night next Tuesday evening (October 28th) at Westwood School, and is looking forward to the event.

10. Coalition Report. Mary Jenkins gave the Westwood Coalition Report – and stated that at the last WCA Meeting, (October 14th) WCA voted to recommend Option #4: “Bow-Tie” or “Triangle” Option as the recommendation that best fits the neighborhood. Special attention was asked to be given to landscaping and streetscapes around the Westwood Town Hall, and surrounding properties. Anyone from the public can look at the website, www.revitalizewestwood.com to review all the Options, and see which options were recommended by all the Westwood groups and business owners. The Coalition as a whole now supports and recommends Option #4: “Bow-Tie” or “triangle” Option as well, because it best fits with the cohesiveness of our Business District and supports economic vitality. The Coalition wants to continue to plan for the future, and to continue going forward positively and working together with all the Westwood groups.

11. President Jim McNulty stated that he wanted to discuss Crime Issues in Westwood, but he wanted the guests to speak first.

12. Judge Fanon Rucker (Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas Judge) spoke briefly to the group, and his running for a seat on the State of Ohio Court of Appeals. He explained the differences between the Common Pleas Court and the Court of Appeals.

13. Mary Kuhl gave a brief report on the upcoming Westwood Candidate’s Night, this coming Tuesday, October 28th, 7pm, at Westwood School. She is looking for a few volunteers to help with the set up of chairs, and meeting room preparations at 6:15pm on that evening. Please see Mary Kuhl if interested. Everyone is welcome to come and attend the Candidate’s Night. Most of the candidates are coming.

14. President McNulty reported that WCA received an anonymous donation of \$500.00 for the annual WCA Kiwanis Membership of Melva Gweyn. This is an annual anonymous gift that WCA receives for Board Member Melva Gweyn to serve in the Westwood/ Cheviot Kiwanis Club as a member. The current total dues for Kiwanis for one year is \$175.00 dues, plus certain other fees.

MOTION by Valerie Baumann, **SECOND** by Joel Kimmet, to use \$175.00 dues plus fees from the \$500.00 anonymous gift to fund a one-year Kiwanis Membership for Melva Gweyn. Short discussion followed.

MOTION PASSED – Unanimously.

15. President Jim McNulty led a discussion on crime issues in Westwood. He reported that crime is up in Westwood, regardless of the Police reports. WCA has been discussing crime issues for some time, and is having ongoing meetings with Dist. 3 Captain Gerard, and others to discuss the issues. President McNulty wants more action than just “talk”. He listed several things that citizens and residents can do:

- A. Please join Citizens on Patrol. They require 1 meeting per month, and 1 patrol per month.
- B. Attend “Good Guy Loitering” Events throughout the neighborhood.
- C. Organize more Block Watch events throughout the neighborhood.
- D. WCA supports the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance. (Becky Weber/ Chris Kearney)
- E. Contact the Police with reports (use 513-765-1212) Many people are not reporting crime.
- F. WCA needs to start a “Court Watch” Program, we have a sign-up sheet for this tonight.

A lot more needs to be done to combat crime in the neighborhood. Mr. John Sess was introduced as the WCA Public Safety Committee Chairman, and gave a short report, encouraging more residents to get involved. He passed around a sign-up sheet if anyone wants to join the Public Safety Committee. A brief discussion occurred that Dist 3 Police are not responding to calls, and are not taking crime seriously. John Sess stated that he would host a meeting at his residence later in the month, where interested residents can attend discuss Crime Issues and concerns. This will be done to save time, so issues can be brought up and not take up so much time on a WCA scheduled meeting night. Sign-up sheet is available.

16. Mr. Mike Mezher, (R) candidate for Hamilton County Auditor, was introduced and spoke briefly to the group. Mr. Mezher stated that he wants to revise and fix the Hamilton County Auditors Office, and make it run more smoothly. He responded to many questions from the floor.

17. President McNulty gave a brief report on the progress of the Bylaws Committee, and the fact that the Committee has been spending many hours preparing and debating over the new Bylaws Proposal. Mary Jenkins started a Power-Point Presentation showing the current WCA Constitution, and the new proposed Bylaws on the screen, so all the residents present could look at the Proposal, see the proposed changes, and make comments, suggestions, and propose edits.

A. A brief discussion was started on the "Purpose" Section of the new proposed Bylaws. Joel Kimmet proposed adding the words, "cooperating with the other civic organizations with similar purposes", wording to be inclusive with the other Westwood groups, like WestCURC and Westwood Historical, and to follow what the old WCA Constitution says concerning this subject. President McNulty stated that this could be done, and the wording would be added at the next Bylaws Committee meeting. Other comments from the floor included a discussion of the sentence stating that "WCA was the official representative of the Westwood neighborhood to the City of Cincinnati". Some residents were not happy with that sentence in the new proposed Bylaws, and stated that it left out the other Westwood civic groups, and their responsibilities to Westwood and to the City.

B. A brief discussion started from the floor which included what the "Purpose of a Community Council" is as compared to other civic organizations in Westwood. Mary Kuhl reported that some of the proposed text in the new Bylaws was taken from the Bylaws of other Community Councils in Cincinnati, to include Northside, CUF, Pleasant Ridge, with some of the proposed wording coming directly from a text supplied by Invest-In-Neighborhoods. Many questions and comments from the floor followed.

C. Mr. Larry Eiser was recognized and stated that he wanted the Meeting Minutes to reflect the fact that the new "Term Limits" language that was adopted by a WCA Amendment during the prior General Meeting (September, 2014) still would include the wording "immediate and retroactive", and apply immediately, even though those two words were not included in the new proposed Bylaws.

D. Other comments from the floor included brief statements concerning the section on "Ballots", "Nominating Committees", "Elections" and back again to the "Purpose Statement". However, there was not enough time to discuss these issues, due to the lateness of the evening.

9:00 pm arrived, and the meeting had to be adjourned, as stated by President McNulty.

18. A MOTION made by Karen Strasser to move the time-table of the upcoming WCA Elections back one month, from November General Meeting, to the December General Meeting was WITHDRAWN. (There was not enough time to discuss this issue)

19. A statement made by Ms. Sharon Lewis that the members and guests present needed more time to discuss this Bylaws Proposal, and that it should be placed on, and continued at the beginning of the next meeting, the November General Meeting Agenda, not at the end of the Agenda, as it was this evening. (There was not enough time to discuss this issue)

20. MOTION to Adjourn by Karen Strasser, and the meeting was Adjourned by President McNulty at 9:10 pm.

Submitted by Joel Kimmet, Secretary