

Westwood Civic Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Called to order at 7:00

Present: Mary Kuhl, Shawntee Schramm, Emily Miller, Mary Jenkins, Jim McNulty, Becky Weber, Michelle Conda, Valerie Baumann, Joe Corso, Leslie Rich, Irene McNulty

Excused: Karen Strasser, Melva Gweyn, Joel Kimmet, Ken Tarvin,

Agenda #1a: Westwood resident Helen Russo has been noticing and tearing down signs on Glenway Avenue utility poles. She solicited the help of neighbors, who collected signs and dropped them at her house. She called the people on the signs and told them they were illegal. The response was everything from people reacting profanely to people not knowing it was an ordinance. Contacted Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Linda Holterhoff. She was told about a new position/person, Jerry Wilkerson, whose job is to supervise neighborhood problems, such as illegal signs, litter. He wants to work on this problem with the people of the neighborhood. Discussion ensued, including public awareness and stiff fines that are collected.

Outcome:

- Jim McNulty is calling both representatives to invite them to talk about this at our September Membership Meeting
- Helen Russo will write something for the next Westwords

Agenda Item #1: Coalition Report. Given by Becky Weber. Talked about good conduct options in order to keep moving in a positive direction. Talked about getting input from businesses about what would make the center of Westwood something they would invest in. Reported that John Eby left the Coalition, and Mary Jenkins will take his spot on behalf of Westwood Works. Talked about the presentation they will give at next week's general meeting about the 6 preliminary Westwood Business District Center. Discussion around whether this was repeat information, but decided there was enough new information and input possibilities that it would not be redundant. 15 minutes: Talk about 6 drawings, with pros and cons. 15 minutes: questions in the form of a question. 15 minutes: look at drawings and write on paper (or post its) ideas.

Outcome:

- **Jim McNulty will make sure we have big room and sound equipment**
- **Mary Jenkins will Constant Contact groups about the meeting**
- **Becky Weber will Constant Contact Westwood Civic members about meeting**

Agenda Item #2: Becky Weber asked if we would approve money for renewing this service. **Motion** made for renewal. Unanimously approved. Discussion: perhaps someone would be willing to sponsor this.

Outcome:

- **All will ask people if they are willing to sponsor this**
- **Becky Weber will renew Constant Contact**

Agenda Item #3: Website redesign. Mary Jenkins presented a powerpoint presentation about what we looked for in a design and how we came up with the template. Overview: ease of use, calendar, news feed/Facebook feed, stable, clean looking, not an overabundance of pictures, but some. Discussed content on first page, and what would be done on subsequent pages.

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Emily Miller offered three examples that we could look at to help us see slight changes between the choices. Chose a design called “2012” by Word Press. Discussion followed, with questions about populating the site and how long it would take to get up (one month, hopefully). Joe Corso **motioned** that we move ahead. Seconded by Irene McNulty. Unanimously agreed.

Agenda Item #3: New logo/branding of Westwood Civic Association. Presently we are using the logo of Town Hall and the “bird-like” logo concurrently. In order to brand the association, we need to either rethink the current logo or do a new logo that brands our association. Shawntee Schramm drew two beautiful designs. Emily Miller “cleaned” the old logo to make it more web-friendly. Pros and cons were discussed. Everyone loved the inclusion of Town Hall, but several missed the leaf on the previous design. McNulty feared the community would get upset if we changed the logo.

Outcome: The current logo will be used on the website for now. We will “market” whatever design we come up with via the newsletter with explanations on how it was devised.

- Shawntee Schramm will work on the logo and bring it back to the next Steering Committee

Agenda Item #4: Real Estate Showcase. Mary Jenkins reports that there were 21 open houses, which drew more traffic than usual. All were enthusiastic and want to do it again. Jim McNulty reported he wants to drive realtors around the area before the next event like this to get them excited about our housing stock.

Agenda Item #5: Constitution amendment with new boundaries. Notice was given to membership via the newsletter about the boundaries of Westwood as described and approved by Westwood Civic approximately five years ago. Unfortunately, not everyone got the newsletter yet.

Outcome: If everyone gets their letter tomorrow, they have met the deadline for voting next week. If the letter does not come out tomorrow, Becky Weber will send out a Constant Contact to tell people that the vote will be taken next month instead.

Agenda Item #6: Sign in sheets at meetings. Need to start doing this in order to keep accurate records, recruit new members, get volunteers for committees, as well as other reasons.

Outcome: McNulty will bring a sheet for people to put their names and optional email.

Agenda Item #7: NSP funds. Through some misinformation from the City, we did not get our \$5000 last year. Jim McNulty is working on it, and hopes to get both last years and this years reinstated.

Agenda Item #8: NBD request. Neighborhood Business District. \$4800 but with rolling application deadlines.

Agenda Item #9: CPR—Community Priority Request. We did this two years in the past but didn’t get funded. Need to apply for this now.

Agenda Item #10: Need for grant writing czar or committee. Long discussion about the need yet the time commitment and dedication this person would need to give. Lack of volunteers proved this, although Mary Jenkins offered to help someone with the procedure. Mary Jenkins

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suggested we have a “wish list” of things we need, including their prices, vendors, etc. This was met with approval by everyone. There was also a wish to have on a Google Calendar due dates for requests. Again met with approval.

Outcome: Emily Miller is making a Google Doc for us to post prices, etc. Emily will also put important dates on a Google calendar so we are aware of them coming up.

Agenda Item #11: 2668 Shaffer. Someone worked on this, but it is abandoned again.

Outcome: Jim McNulty will contact the city that this is still a nuisance property

Agenda Item #12: Flags on Harrison.

Outcome: Will go on the wish lists. Michelle Conda will put information about flags on Google Docs. Others (Melva Gwynn) add information.³

Agenda Item #13: Flower pots on McHenry/Harrison and Boudinot/Harrison are beyond repair.

Outcome: Joe Corso will try to break up the pots. Mary Kuhl will try to find a place to haul them away.

Agenda Item #14: Zoning Process. Discussing zoning at meeting next week. Our desire is to let the city know Westwood’s desires. Need to be sensitive to resident’s needs and expectations. Need to be sensitive to those who have invested in Westwood.

Outcome: McNulty will pick four spots to discuss and talk with people about. We will ask people to populate committees about Westwood zoning. We will show maps.

Mary Kuhl will work on blowing up the maps for people to see and to send to the city.

Agenda Item #15: Westwood Town Square ideas. Already talked about in Agenda #1.

Suggestion: Call it Westwood Business District Center so people don’t think it is a square. Start new press with the five pictures and this new name.

Agenda Item #16: Town Hall Repairs. McNulty reports Mayor Cranley is aware that Westwood Town Hall is to be kept in repair in perpetuity, per our annexation to the city.

Outcome: McNulty will send a letter to Mayor Cranley to start the repairs on Town Hall, as it needs upkeep that hasn’t been done.

Agenda Item #17. Mary Kuhl reports the next meeting about the Westwood Civic Constitution will be August 12th at Panera Bread at 7:00 PM.

Next Steering Committee: Discuss Land banking, new logo.

Membership issue: Illegal Shaved Ice Place on Glenmore by the UDF. Wants us aware that the city keeps closing this although it hasn’t been examined by inspectors.

Adjourned 9:05

Submitted by Michelle Conda

Wednesday, August 13, 2014