

Westwood Civic Association
MINUTES – Steering Meeting – November 10, 2014

1. Call to Order by President Jim McNulty at 7:05 pm. The Meeting was held in the Conference Room of the Westwood Town Hall, 3017 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45211. (Joel Kimmet, Secretary). The Meeting was held on Monday, November 10th, due to the holiday occurring on November 11, 2014.
2. Roll Call of Board Members. 14 present, 1 excused. Present were: Jim McNulty, Mary Kuhl, Michelle Conda, Joel Kimmet, Irene McNulty, Becky Weber, Mary Jenkins, Joe Corso, Melva Gweyn, Valerie Baumann, Ken Tarvin, Emily Miller Reynolds, Shawntee Stallworth, Trinetta Zawadzki. Excused was Karen Strasser.
3. President Jim McNulty announced the sad news that Cincinnati Police Officer Sgt. Eric Sierra had just passed away two days ago, on November 8, 2014. This is a big shock for our neighborhood. Sgt. Sierra was one of the neighborhood officers for Westwood, and a friend, mentor and ally to all of Westwood. President McNulty asked for a moment of silence to remember Sgt. Eric Sierra. (silence was observed)
4. **MOTION** by Becky Weber, **SECOND** by Valerie Baumann to donate \$100 from WCA funds to the Eric Sierra Children’s Fund at the Cincinnati Police Credit Union. Discussion. **MOTION Passed Unanimously.**
5. President McNulty discussed the recent repairs that are taking place at the WTH. New wall shingles (shingle-like material) was picked in a “brown color” to match the roof, for the upper level gables. Scaffolding systems are currently being set up around the building, and the replacement of the wall shingles will take a few months to complete.
6. President McNulty mentioned that WTH memberships are available for everyone. We need to publicize this. WTH Memberships cost \$25 for adults, and \$10 for Seniors (50+).
7. President McNulty discussed a meeting he recently had with a writer named Polk Lafoon, about writing a historical story about Westwood and WTH. Mr. Lafoon was very interested in the WTH history, and the replacement of the wall shingles. (Item #5 above). More to come about this at a later date.
8. WCA needs a volunteer to take over the “Holiday Yard of the Week” Program. This period goes from Thanksgiving-time thru the Christmas Season, and is different from the regular “Yard of the Month” program. After some discussion, Irene McNulty volunteered to handle this program this year!
9. Website Report. A brief discussion occurred about the WCA Website. We can now add some content about the WCA Initiatives. This new site is getting better and better! Please visit and view the new site!
10. Coalition Report. Mary Jenkins gave the Coalition Report. She repeated the October 14th wording that was approved by WCA, approving Option #4, the “Bowtie” as the design that was approved, with special emphasis given to the landscaping improvements around the WTH. The Coalition meets on November 13, 2014 to discuss making recommendations to the City. It was discussed that WTH improvements could include the area around the “landing pad” as a priority. Major Cranley made a report today (11/10/14) that the WTH grounds could be developed into a more “user friendly” facility.
11. Bylaws Committee Report. It was announced that the next Bylaws Committee Meeting was tomorrow evening (11/11/14). A brief discussion took place about a few of the proposed changes. More

details would be presented at the 11/11/14 meeting. It was stated that some of our members may want to comment on certain sections of the proposal. A discussion on the procedural issues took place, and what to do about the Amendments that were just voted on at the September 16, 2014 WCA meeting. President McNulty stated that those two Amendments would not be changed in the proposed Bylaws and would be included into the new proposed Bylaws.

12. Zoning Committee Updates. John Sess and Joe Corso gave updates on the Zoning Committee Meeting that took place with Bill Spetz last week. It was decided by the Committee that work would start on Werk Road, between Harrison and Glenmore, and their adjoining blocks. This will be done so the Committee can learn about zoning on a relatively stable street. They are focusing on the definitions of “low density” –vs- “medium density” on the new map. There will be no “high density” in the new Westwood map. The committee is looking at areas where “Single-Family” zoning can be reinstated back into our neighborhood. More to follow later, Bill Spetz wants to make a report at the January, 2015 WCA Meeting.

13. Public Safety Committee Report. John Sess reported that the Public Safety Committee will have a meeting on Wednesday, 11/12/14, at 7:00 pm at Price Hill Chili. Other West-Side community council members have been invited to speak about Public Safety Issues. The Committee would like to take a survey of the other west side neighborhoods and make a spread sheet about what works and what does not work, so all the neighborhoods can share with each other. Crime stats will be compared. Solutions will be compared. Recommendations can be made to the City following this meeting. A short discussion occurred about WCA approving all the recommendations at a WCA meeting, before they are presented to the City. John Sess reported that Magistrate Mike Bockman still has the court case involving the illegal advertising benches in Westwood. We are still awaiting a decision to come on that case.

14. President McNulty stated that at the November General Meeting, 11/18/14, WCA will pick one Nominating Committee, or two Nominating Committees, depending on whether the Constitution is still in effect, or if the new Bylaws Proposal passes.

15. WCA Christmas Party Discussion. Secretary Kimmet volunteered to organize the WCA Christmas Party. After discussion, it was recommended to pick Cancun Restaurant, 12/9/14, at 7:00 pm. **MOTION** by Joel Kimmet, **SECOND** by Irene McNulty, to have the WCA Christmas Party at Cancun Restaurant, at Glencrossing Mall, in Westwood, on December 9, 2014, at 7:00 pm. Discussion. **MOTION PASSED Unanimously.**

16. **MOTION** by Valerie Baumann, **SECOND** by Joel Kimmet, to approve up to \$100.00 of WCA funding for appetizers at Cancun Restaurant for Item #15 listed above. Discussion. **MOTION PASSED Unanimously.**

Secretary Kimmet will prepare a short announcement, and send to Becky Weber for placement in the Newsletter about the Christmas Party, address, time and location of the WCA Christmas Party.

17. Several Board Members discussed the Candidates Night, which occurred on October 28, 2014, at Westwood School, was a great success. Many people attended, and the guest speakers did a great job. Joe Corso stated that all the candidates seemed very happy at how the event was coordinated. WCA Board members agreed to get a “Thank You” card for Ms. Helen Russo, who helped organize the event.

18. WCA Insurance Policies. President Jim McNulty reported that all the WCA Insurance Policies are up-to-date, and have been renewed for the 2015 year. They were renewed in October, 2014.

19. 2015 NSP Report. Joel Kimmet reported that each neighborhood involved in the 2015 NSp program has the option to receive the entire \$4800.00 in one large “lump-sum”, at this time, rather than waiting to submit small proposals throughout the year. Most of the other Cincinnati neighborhoods are using this “lump-sum” option starting this year. If this option is chosen, the City will electronically transfer the \$4800.00 to the WCA bank account, and the accounting will be done at the end of the Program year in July, 2015. If any money remains unused by WCA, in August, 2015, it will have to be returned to the City. Vouchers are still submitted during the year, as the neighborhood uses the money on approved projects. Discussion took place on this issue for a short time.

MOTION by Irene McNulty, **SECOND** by Ken Tarvin, that WCA apply for receiving the 2015 NSP funding in a one-time “lump sum”. Discussion.

MOTION PASSES, 13-YES, 1-Abstain.

20. Discussion about 2420 Harrison Avenue. President McNulty reported that a situation exists at 2420 Harrison Avenue, a closed down building. It has been blighted and vacant for some time. The current owners wants to donate the building to a non-profit organization in Northside, who would immediately sell the building to a new owner. Does WCA want to encourage an organization to take the building? Or, should we try to steer this building sale in a direction that we want it to go?? Discussion occurred for some time on this issue. No action was taken at this time.

21. Michelle Conda reported that the Liquor License was awarded to U.S. Market, at the corner of McHenry and Harrison Avenues. WCA had opposed this license, due to problems at this location.

22. Jim McNulty reported that the American Flags along Harrison Avenue need to come down ASAP. A “Flags Committee” may be organized this weekend, weather permitting, or ASAP, whichever is sooner.

With nothing further to discuss, Meeting was **Adjourned** by President McNulty at 8:55 pm.

Submitted by Joel Kimmet
WCA Secretary