

## **Westwood Civic Association**

General Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2014

Present: Jim McNulty, Irene McNulty, Valerie Baumann, Joel Kimmet, Joe Corso, Emily Miller, Shawnteé Stallworth Schramm, Melva Gweyn, Karen Strasser, Becky Weber, Ken Tarvin, Leslie Rich, Michelle Conda, Mary Jenkins, Mary Kuhl, guest speaker John Lewandowski

Jim McNulty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Joel Kimmet conducted the roll call of officers.

### **Police Report**

Officer Rich Minella provided a report from District 3 police and responded to questions from attendees. He started by referring to statistics handed out at the meeting. He then encouraged attendees to start block watches and commented on the formation of new ones. He reported briefly on a prostitution issue around Harrison 3000 block, the issues involved with responding to drug deal calls, the Good Guy Loitering scheduled for the Broadwell, Dartmouth, Glenmore area, and a youth fight by the Harrison & Boudinot BP station in conjunction with WestFest. Mary Kuhl reported a booth selling bootleg CDs.

### **Infant Mortality**

Eric Hall, a representative of the Cradle Cincinnati initiative spoke about infant mortality in advance of September which is Infant Mortality Awareness Month. He distributed brochures and talked about statistics that show Cincinnati's exceptionally high rate of infant mortality. He emphasized that babies should sleep alone (not in the same bed as parents), on their backs, and in a crib.

### **Madcap Puppets**

John Lewandowski, executive director of Madcap Puppets, gave a presentation on the mission, activities, and performances of Madcap Puppets, its capital campaign, and plans for the Bell Building at Harrison, Epworth, & Urwiler, now owned by Madcap. He explained that Madcap has undertaken a \$2.2M capital campaign for the renovation of the building. It has raised 65% of the needed funds. He also addressed the baseline economic impact study and noted that, for every \$1 in ticket sales, Madcap attendees will spend \$26 in the neighborhood.

### **Westwood Square & Business District Improvements**

Mary Jenkins, facilitator of the Westwood Coalition for the revitalization of the historic business district, reported on developments in the community discussion of a Westwood square and the context for its consideration. She invited attendees to review the materials on [revitalizewestwood.com](http://revitalizewestwood.com) and presented the benefits and challenges associated with each of the six options currently under consideration, and alternatives suggested by area residents.

### **Land Development Code, Zoning**

Jim McNulty spoke about the city's process for developing the Land Development Code and the stages of proposals and review underway now. He remarked that the city has taken the earlier draft off its website as it works on a revision. Further, he commented that the neighborhoods' goals should be the foundation of zoning, which regulates development. Jim McNulty then recommended that attendees read about the code and the basics of zoning, as well as exploring the zoning of particular streets or areas, on the city's website. He urged attendees to get involved in zoning issues and to refer to the Westwood Strategic Plan for guidance, emphasizing a planned change to 40% rental, 60% owner-

occupied and a reduction in multi-family housing in Westwood. He is appointing a committee to create a zoning map and text that works for Westwood. He invited people to volunteer for the committee and urged a careful read of the text of the code, being alert to expansive multi-family and manufactured housing, for example.

**WCA Constitutional Amendment Proposal**

Jim McNulty raised the matter of the proposal for a constitutional amendment to include term limits, put forward by Larry Eiser and fifty other WCA members. He remarked on the constitutional requirement of ten days' notice to members, done via *Westwords*, noting that newsletter editor Becky Weber couldn't guarantee its receipt in time. He announced that time was insufficient for the discussion and vote and delayed it until the September general meeting, reminding attendees that a two thirds affirmative vote by members present is required for passage and that all rules would be followed. A brief discussion followed, with several attendees raising questions about the language of the proposal and one suggestion for its withdrawal.

There being no time for additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by Jim McNulty by acclamation.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Jenkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Mary" on top and "Jenkins" below it, both starting with a capital letter.

Mary Jenkins