

Westwood Civic Association
MINUTES – January 20, 2015 – General Meeting

1. Call to Order by President Jim McNulty at 7:00 pm. The Meeting was held in the Conference Room at the Westwood Town Hall, 3017 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45211. (Joel Kimmet – Secretary).

2. Roll Call of Board Members. 14 Present, 0 Excused, 1 seat vacant. Present were: Jim McNulty, Mary Kuhl, Michelle Conda, Joel Kimmet, Irene McNulty, Mary Jenkins, Karen Strasser, Joe Corso, Melva Gweyn, Valerie Baumann, Emily Miller-Reynolds, Shawntee Stallworth, Trinette Zawadzki and Ken Tarvin.

3. Police Report was given by Officer Rich Minella. The monthly crime stats were distributed, and significant monthly issues were discussed. Discussion and a few questions from the audience.

4. Fire Department Report given by Lt. Friel. The monthly number of fire runs was discussed, and Lt. Friel discussed certain issues regarding space heaters. Also, he mentioned the “Citizen’s Early Warning System”, and discussed how this system works.

5. Westwood COPPS report. Ralph spoke to the group and stated that COPPS is accepting applications for new COPPS members. The training is relatively simple and easy to do. Please join COPPS!

6. Guest: Ms. Brenda Shelton, of FMS Consultants, spoke to the group, and stated that 11% of the people who work for Amazon come from Westwood and Cheviot!

7. Tall Grass Report, by Catherine Ross. A paper report including stats was passed out. There are 10 outstanding tall grass/ weeds complaints still active in Westwood from 2014. The City is trying to make the process more productive and effective for 2015. More to come in next month’s report.

8. Nominating Committee Reports:

According to the WCA Constitution, Nominating Committees give their reports at the January Meeting.

MOTION by Joel Kimmet, SECOND by Karen Strasser to appoint WCA member Stephen Schramm to the 2-year vacant Board position vacated by former Board Member Becky Weber, ending 2017. Discussion.

MOTION tabled by President McNulty until later on in the Meeting.

President’s Nominating Committee consisted of: Karen Strasser, Shawntee Stallworth, and Brent Hodge. Member’s Nominating Committee consisted of: Joel Kimmet, Jim Strader, and Mary Fichter.

The President’s Nominating Committee made the following nominations: 1. Emily Miller-Reynolds, 2. Joe Corso, 3. Sara Overstake.

The Member’s Nominating Committee made the following nominations: 1. Larry Eiser, 2. Steve Beckman, 3. Sara Overstake.

President McNulty then asked if there were any Nominations “From the Floor”. No Nominations from the Floor were stated or given. President McNulty then declared that the Nominations were closed. President McNulty reported that since there were only 5 candidates nominated for 5 open Board positions, that there was no need for an Election this year. Nominations process was declared closed.

The 2015-2018 WCA Board Members-Elect: 1) Emily Miller-Reynolds, 2) Joe Corso, 3) Larry Eiser, 4) Steve Beckman, 5) Sara Overstake, will take office at the April General Meeting.

9. Vice-Mayor David Mann Presentation. President McNulty introduced Vice-Mayor David Mann. Mr. Mann introduced his wife of 37 years Mrs. Betsy Mann. Applause.

Mr. Mann went on to describe and discuss the following topics and items of interest:
During the discussion of each item, there was time for resident questions and comments-

- a. Westwood History and the legacy of Mr. Steven Brodbeck
- b. The History of Westwood Town Hall
- c. The City's Land Development Code, and the new Zoning Project now taking place.
- d. As the author of City Ordinance 1989, what that Ordinance did for Community Councils:
 1. any residents over 18 years of age can vote annually to include or exclude voting rights to persons who are not residents of the neighborhood. This can be done annually.
- e. Discussion of trash pickup, and introduction of Green Barrels.
- f. Recent traffic studies: Montana Avenue Road-Diet, and Harrison Avenue study.
- g. Discussion on the new Hopple Street Exit on I-75, and placement of a new sign that says, "Westwood" and to take Exit #3 for Westwood.
- h. Trash and Litter issues and problems at several Westwood entrances and gateways.

There was a discussion for several minutes on the Cincinnati Street Car Project.

10. Tall Grass Report by Catherine Ross. Discussion on tall grass and weeds, and what the Cincinnati Law says about tall grass and weeds. Westwood is down to 10 open cases, which is down from 66 open cases during 2014. This report will be updated each month as Spring approaches.

11. Westwood Coalition Report by Mary Jenkins. Michelle Conda was recently appointed as the new WCA representative on the Coalition. The Coalition is gearing up for several new meetings and information sessions this Spring. Stay tuned for upcoming meeting announcements.

12. WestCURC report by Larry Eiser. Discussion on how WestCURC has received the contract to proceed with the old Westwood Firehouse. WestCURC is waiting to receive the keys to the building, so the group can officially inspect the inside of the building. WestCURC will be issuing an "RFP" (Request For Proposals) whereby any business who is interested can make an application to be a new tenant in the building. WestCURC will list several requirements within the RFP that each applicant will have to meet.

13. 2458 Harrison Avenue "Conditional Use Variance Request"
President McNulty explained the issue with the owner of 2458 Harrison requesting a zoning variance from the City to open a Used Car Lot and Business at this address. Many resident spoke out against this variance request. Discussion on this issue for some time.

MOTION by Mary Jenkins, SECOND by Mary Kuhl, that WCA officially OPPOSES the Conditional Use Request Variance Permit for 2458 Harrison Avenue. Discussion. **MOTION PASSED – Unanimously.**

President McNulty will write a letter to be taken to the Hearing Examiner by Michelle Conda.

14. Board Member Joel Kimmet was allowed to re-state his previous Motion that was tabled: MOTION by Joel Kimmet, SECOND by Karen Strasser to appoint WCA member Stephen Schramm to the 2-year vacant Board position vacated by former Board Member Becky Weber, ending 2017. Discussion. **YES-9, NO-4. MOTION PASSED.**

15. Trinette Zawadzki asked about the U.S. Market store located at the corner of Harrison and McHenry. A restaurant inside the store just opened. We do not know if they are licensed or received permission from the City to open a restaurant there. Sharon Lewis stated that she used to contact three different City departments to inquire about food service businesses, but has not done this lately. Mary Jenkins volunteered to look into this-

16. With no further business, Meeting was Adjourned by President McNulty at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by Joel Kimmet
WCA Secretary