

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Westwood Civic Association General Meeting  
Westwood Town Hall  
7:00-9:00

**Westwood Civic Board Attendees:** Jim McNulty (President) , Irene McNulty, Becky Weber, Karen Strasser, Michelle Conda, Joe Corso, Mary Kuhl, Mary Jenkins, Emily Miller, Shawntee Stallworth Schramm, Melva Gweyn, Valerie Baumann, Ken Tarvin, Joel Kimmet, Leslie Rich

Meeting called to order at 7:05. Jim McNulty led the attendees in Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNulty introduced Chris Monzel, president of the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Monzel noted attending elected officials including Judge John Williams, Judge Ted Winkler, Clerk of Courts Tracy Winkler, Judge Louis Dinkelacker, Judge Jerry Metz, Sheriff Jim Neal, and Green Township Trustee Tony Rosiello.

Mr. Monzel then noted the honor of recognizing Buddy LaRosa on the occasion of the sixtieth year of business for LaRosa's restaurants. Mr. Monzel commented on Mr. LaRosa's service to all of Hamilton County, his commitment to families, youth, and sport. Then Mr. Monzel read WCA's proclamation honoring Mr. LaRosa and presented him the key to Westwood, crafted by Westwood resident Matt Spetz.

Next, Mr. LaRosa offered witty and poignant remarks, speaking of his first restaurant in Westwood, thanking friends in attendance and residents, and expressing pride in the community. He spoke of the values instilled in the youth he works with through boxing, citing the sport and its discipline as critically important in his own development. Mr. LaRosa spoke of the importance of the code of conduct in his youth organization and the maintenance of good grades. He hopes to initiate a college scholarship program. Mr. LaRosa closed by thanking WCA and the community and noting that only in America could someone like him achieve these successes; thus, his sense of service and giving back.

There were repeated standing ovations for Mr. LaRosa. A short break followed, while attendees were served cake made by Diane's Cakes and Cookies of Westwood.

**Mr. McNulty** reconvened the meeting at 7:55.

**Caroline Kellan** from City Planning and Development gave a short presentation about zoning meetings that are being held throughout the city. The City of Cincinnati is updating the Zoning Code and Zoning Maps. The last time this was addressed was 2004. After community input is received, there will be revisions to the plan, with a draft completed by the end of August 2014. Ultimately, city council must approve the the new Plan Development Code. She suggested going to the interactive map at <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/zoning/>. There are also a number of community meetings at which the community could offer their ideas and feedback, as well as individual sessions being offered.

Public meetings:  
Wednesday, June 25 - 6:30 p.m.  
Elder High School Schaeper Center  
4005 Glenway Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45205

Tuesday, July 8 - 6:30 p.m.  
Hartwell Recreation Center

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8275 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45216

Thursday, July 17 - 6:30 p.m.  
Corryville Recreation Center  
2823 Eden Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45219

There were many questions from attendees concerning citizen input, concern over where the grant money came from, confusion about the revised code draft, and when the meetings are held.

**Captain Dan Girard, District Three Commander**, was introduced by Mr. McNulty. This was at the request of citizens of Westwood and the [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com) community.

Captain Gerard opened with some explanation of problems in Westwood. He says most of the problems are perceptual—in fact Westwood has lower crime and homicides than several years ago. It is a large community and has special challenges. He pointed out that most of our crime is driven by shoplifting and thefts from residences via people allowed in the house.

Recently 12 juvenile were arrested for burglary in one day. He also pointed out that many of Westwood's problems have been ongoing and cannot be solved overnight. He wants us to work together cooperatively. He is hosting a walk on June 18th, 2014 through some of Westwood's problem neighborhoods, including Bracken Woods and Candlewood Apartments on the 2400 block of Harrison Avenue.

He also pointed to a new way of dealing with chronic problems—declare their property “nuisance” properties, board them up and not allow anyone to live in them for a year. This is an experiment which they are trying with a home on Aquadale where two pit bulls attacked a young girl and seriously injured her.

Jim McNulty asked the attendees to tell the Captain how they felt in their neighborhood, citing specific incidences. There were many questions that were asked and problems the community had. Repeatedly the citizens talked about problem apartments, drug sales, and truant students who were causing problems. One of the problems the community and the police is having is that Communications is no longer manned by the police department. The police department is trying to get that back under their control.

Advice given:

1. Call 765-1212 instead of District Three if you have a crime taking place. Call 911 if it is an emergency
2. If there is a problem that you feel is not being addressed properly, contact [eric.sierra@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:eric.sierra@cincinnati-oh.gov). He is very good at addressing concern.
3. If you are reporting a problem to the Drug Unit or to another department, cc Sgt. Sierra.
4. Report neighborhood quality of life issues to 591-6000 or 591-6000.com

**In conclusion, Jim McNulty gave some final words on getting help and helping ourselves.** Westwood Civic decided to invite landlords of nuisance properties to the Civic Association and do what they could to help citizens feel safer on their streets. Westwood Citizens on Patrol was thanked for their participation in the safety of the neighborhood

**Catherine Ross, Westwood Citizen** volunteered to report trash and tall grass to the city and keep track of the outcome. Michelle Conda made a motion that she be permitted to report as a

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committee of Westwood Civic Association. Irene McNulty seconded the motion. It passed with one abstention.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Submitted by Michelle Conda