

**Westwood Civic Association**  
**MINUTES – June 10, 2014 – Steering Meeting**

1. Call to Order by President McNulty at 7:04 pm. The Meeting was held in the Conference Room, at the Westwood Town Hall, 3017 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45211. (Joel Kimmet – Acting Secretary)

2. Roll Call of Board Members. 14 members present, 1 excused. Present were Jim McNulty, Mary Kuhl, Irene McNulty, Mary Jenkins, Joel Kimmet, Karen Strasser, Valerie Baumann, Joe Corso, Melva Gweyn, Leslie Rich, Michelle Conda, Becky Weber, Emily Miller, Shawntee Stallworth. Excused was Ken Tarvin.

3. Coalition Report. Mary Jenkins reported that there is a meeting of the Coalition this week, on Thursday, 6/12/14, at 7:00 pm, in the Westwood Elementary School Auditorium. The focus of this meeting will be the alternatives coming out of the “Westwood Square” feasibility study. DOTE has conducted the feasibility study, and has findings to report on. There will be six (6) options presented to the group. The time has come for Community Review. All community comments will be taken down and tabulated. A report will be made from the tabulations, and presented to the 4 Westwood groups later. A discussion took place for 15 minutes with many comments from the floor. The six options will be placed on the Coalition website after Thursday, 6/12/14. Mary Jenkins stated that one of the options is “To do nothing with the proposed area”. Mary encouraged everyone to come to the meeting on 6/12/14 and to bring all there questions and comments to that meeting.

4. Westwood Community Gardens Report. Mary Jenkins reported that plots are still available at the WCG for the Summer, 2014 season. All plots are \$25 rental for the season. The WCG Core Team has designed a new WCG flyer to use for publicity for the Gardens. (Flyers were passed out to the group). Ongoing projects include the toolshed construction, and the Arbor Gates Construction. Both projects should be completed by the Fall of 2014. The toolshed is taking shape!

Joel Kimmet reported that since WCA is the main sponsor of WCG, that WCA should be financially supporting the projects of the WCG. WCG needs approximately \$500.00 to finish the 2014 projects.

**MOTION** by Joel Kimmet, **SECOND** by Leslie Rich, that WCA provide \$500.00 to the WCG to finish the 2014 construction projects at the Westwood Community Gardens. Discussion.

At this time, Mr. David Pickerel, Owner/Manager of Westwood Subway store, stood up, and stated that he would make a personal donation to the WCG for \$500.00. Mr. Pickerel was applauded for his efforts!

**MOTION was WITHDRAWN** by Joel Kimmet at 7:30 pm.

5. Westwood Subway Presentation. Owner/ Manager David Pickerel, from Westwood Subway Store, gave a Power-Point Presentation and talk on improvements he is making to the Westwood Subway Store. He would like to install a new lighted sign on the property, at the corner of Harrison Avenue and Mt. Clair Avenue, along with two new raised flower beds, which would surround the new sign. Drawings and pictures of the new sign and flower beds were shown as part of the Power-Point Presentation.

A second raised flower bed would be placed along the east side of the building.

A zoning variance is required for the new sign, which now falls under the new Form Based Codes.

**Option 1:** A Landscape Sign, which would be a maximum of 24 square feet, a total of 4 feet high, with the bottom 1 foot off the ground.

**Option 2:** A Pole Sign, which would be a maximum of 12 square feet, and cannot exceed 8 feet from the ground to the top of the sign. Mr. Pickerel prefers Option 2: the Pole Sign.

Discussion for 15 minutes. No action taken at this time. Mr. Pickerel will come back to WCA at a later date to finalize discussions and to show revisions and some more options.

6. Guest: Mr. Greg Kissel. Mr. Greg Kissel gave a report from Westwood Historical Society. On May 8, 2014, WHS was given a grant to erect an official State of Ohio Historical Marker at the Westwood Town Hall to commemorate James M. Gamble. The marker is being created at this time, and WHS is planning a ceremony to take place on Saturday, August 9, 2014 at the Westwood Town Hall, for the unveiling of the new historical marker. The marker will be placed near the front walkway of the building on the north side of the building. This date is also the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Westwood Town Hall. The ceremony will begin at Noon on August 9<sup>th</sup>, with several activities occurring afterwards, including cake and ice cream, an ivory soap carving contest, live music, and singers. Volunteers are needed to help set up for this event. Please contact Ms. Liz Kissel if anyone is interested in helping out.

7. Guest: Ms. Peg Rhein. Ms. Peg Rhein gave a report on the WTH grounds. She recently received a donation from the Cincinnati Park Board for the addition of several flowers and plants to be placed in the landscaping beds. Ms. Rhein plans to speak to the Park Board about acquiring 2 or 3 new park benches for the grounds as well. The current benches are in disrepair, and need to be replaced.

8. Buddy LaRosa Event Planning. The Buddy LaRosa Event is planned for the June 17, 2014 General Meeting. Several items still need to be addressed and taken care of.

**MOTION** by Irene McNulty, **SECOND** by Michelle Conda to spend up to \$200.00 on the “Westwood Key” and Presentation Box awards for Mr. Buddy LaRosa. Discussion. **MOTION PASSED Unanimously.**

More planning discussions continued. Mary Kuhl will be responsible for getting the cake, and some bottled water for the event. Irene McNulty will help with decorations, plates, napkins, etc. President McNulty stated that we need to make sure the microphone is set up and working in the auditorium. Mary Jenkins is getting the official Proclamation done, with Ken & Marlene Tarvin, and Michelle Conda helping with the wording that will be placed on the Proclamation. President McNulty discussed how the agenda will proceed for the award and presentation, and the rest of the agenda for the meeting. The LaRosa Presentation will be first, followed by the Zoning Presentation, followed by the Police Report, in that order.

9. Giant Yard Sale Event Report. The Giant Yard Sale is set for July 19, 2014, at the WTH, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Irene McNulty reported that she will help to set up this event for WCA.

**MOTION** by Irene McNulty, **SECOND** by Mary Jenkins to spend \$30.00 on the rental of two booths for WCA for the Giant Yard Sale. Discussion. **MOTION PASSED Unanimously.**

WCA needs all types of donated items for the Giant Yard Sale. Please drop off all items at the McNulty's house after July 12<sup>th</sup>. The McNulty's will store the items, and take them to the event on the July 19<sup>th</sup>.

10. Michelle Conda agreed to take the Meeting Minutes for the July 17<sup>th</sup> WCA General Meeting.

11. President McNulty gave a report on the physical condition of WTH. Recently a study was done, by the City, on WTH, and several issues and needed repairs were noted and highlighted. Copies of the repairs report was distributed to the Board. Priorities will be set, and WCA will monitor the repairs. Valerie Bauman reported that at the WTH Clean-Up Event last weekend, it was noted that several gutters on the rear side of WTH were split and falling apart. It was reported to WTH staff at the time.

12. Chronic Nuisance Report. Becky Weber reported that the recent Chronic Nuisance Meeting the Committee had with the City went very well, and she received phone calls after the meeting which was a positive sign. 2400 Harrison Avenue proposed a "Peace Walk" on Harrison Avenue, on Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, but the request was not authorized by the City. Becky reported that she has not seen any increase in patrols, officers, or segways in the neighborhood, as was reported by the City. No nuisance has been abated in the neighborhood, according to the Chronic Nuisance Committee.

13. Westwood Gateways Discussion. Peg Rhein reported that several trees and shrubs along Westwood Northern Boulevard are overgrown, and are not being cut by the City. It is so bad that pedestrians cannot walk along the street from Baltimore Avenue up to McHenry Avenue. Also, on Beekman Street, all the way up to Westwood, is also a very bad area. In fact, all the gateways coming into Westwood need cleaning, trimming, and are badly overgrown.

A suggestion was made to call the Sheriff's Department and ask for a trash pickup detail for Westwood. **MOTION** by Joe Corso, **SECOND** by Michelle Conda, for WCA to write a letter to the City, asking them to mow, clean up, trim, and remove trash from the Westwood gateway streets. Discussion.

**MOTION PASSED – Unanimously.**

14. Agenda Item: Westwood Open House – Real Estate Showcase – was tabled until next meeting.

15. Bylaws Revision Committee: will hold a meeting tomorrow, 6/11/14, 7:00 pm at Panera Bread.

16. 501c3 Discussion. Marlene Tarvin reported that she recently spoke to Bill Seitz about this issue, and he suggested that WCA hire a consultant to help WCA out with the 501c3 application process.

**MOTION** by Mary Kuhl, **SECOND** by Joel Kimmets, to approve up to \$325.00 for a 501c3 consulting fee, so WCA could start the application process. Discussion. WCA has been talking about this for some time. Mary Kuhl stated that we need to get the consultation finished, so we can move on to the application.

**MOTION PASSED – 12-YES, 2-NO.**

17. Yard-Of-The-Month Discussion. President McNulty reported that all Yard-Of-The-Month Awards need to be placed onto the front page of the WCA website. Mary Jenkins agreed to fix this on the website. Jim asked if there could be a place added where people can make nominations of yards to win the award. Mary Jenkins agreed to also fix this. Mary Kuhl reported that this area needs to be updated on the website, because many items listed on there right now are outdated. Shawntee Stallworth reported that 10 new Yard-Of-The-Month signs were just placed out in the neighborhood this week.

18. Bracken Woods Lane Project. Joel Kimmets gave an updated report on the WestCURC Bracken Woods Lane Project. A map and report was handed out to the Board Members. Kimmets will try to update the report monthly, and send it out by email to the Board. To date, 7 properties have been purchased by WestCURC, 11 demolitions have taken place, with 16 buildings still standing that need to be acquired. A total of 28 parcels in total make up this project, for a total of 6 acres. WestCURC members continue to negotiate with the remaining property owners, and are slowly moving forward with the project.

19. School LSDMC Discussion. Karen Strasser reported that Gamble Montessori School needs a new LSDMC representative from WCA. She received a phone call making that request. Strasser reported that Mr. Mike Brestel, former President of WCA, has volunteered to be the LSDMC for Gamble School.

**MOTION** by Karen Strasser, **SECOND** by Mary Jenkins, that WCA member Mike Brestel be appointed the new LSDMC for Gamble Montessori School. Discussion.

**MOTION PASSED - 9-YES, 3-NO, 2-Abstain.**

20. Newsletter Deadline. Becky Weber reported that the July Newsletter Deadline will be moved up one week, due to the fact that a new printing vendor has just been hired. Discussion.

21. Art Show Reimbursement/ Insurance Discussion.

Leslie Rich reported that the Westwood Art Show account still needs to be reimbursed by WCA. The revised reimbursement request is now \$579.81. This includes the amount for insurance, plus amounts paid up front by several artists, who wrote checks directly to WCA for entry fees.

Joel Kimmet contacted Mr. Mark Kneflin, our WCA Insurance Agent, who sent a report of what WCA paid for our insurance policies in 2013. The Report is scanned and attached to these Minutes.

-General Liability Policy: \$542.00

-Officers and Directors Liability Policy: \$832.00

- Liquor Liability Policy for 9/14/13 Art Show Event: \$382.50

A discussion on this topic was held until 9:05 pm, with no action taken at this time.

22. Reimbursement for Flower Pots.

Melva Gweyn asked for reimbursement for \$334.95 that was spent on flowers and landscaping for the Harrison Avenue flower pots during May/ June, 2014.

**MOTION** by Mary Jenkins, **SECOND** by Michelle Conda, to reimburse Melva Gweyn \$334.95 for flowers and landscaping supplies for the Harrison Avenue flower pots. Discussion.

**MOTION PASSED – Unanimously.**

23. Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 pm, by President McNulty.