

Westwood Civic Association October 20, 2015 General Meeting minutes

Submitted by Karen Strasser, Recording Secretary

**Present:**

Mary Jenkins, Joel Kimmet, Karen Strasser, Joe Corso, Emily Miller-Reynolds, Henry Frondorf, Irene McNulty, Valerie Baumann, Melva Gweyn, Sara Overstake, Trinetta Zawadzki

**Excused:**

Stephen Schramm, Shawntee Stallworth-Schramm, Larry Eiser, Steve Beckman

Meeting called to order by President Mary Jenkins.

General Announcements –

- Special thanks to Shawntee Stallworth – Schramm on her great Yard of the Month job.
- Signup digitally for Westwords on the WCA website.
- Westwood Uniting to Stop the Violence, 11/14, 8:30a.m. – noon, Westwood United Methodist
- 10/26 Open House at Madcap Puppets – inviting residents to hear plans for the Bell building.
- At Home in Westwood on Facebook – showcases Westwood homes for sale.
- Westwood Blockwatch on Facebook too.
- New City app called “Fix It Cincinnati” where one can report issues and concerns.
- WCA insurance policies were renewed 10/1/15.
- NSP proposal is pre-approved. There is a meeting on 10/21/15 before the NSP Review Board for final approval.

**Cincinnati Police Report – Officer Rich Minella**

Most parts of Westwood are status quo, but thefts from auto are almost double for September. Don't leave cars running and don't leave items in your cars. Crime stats were provided for everyone wanting a copy. Please be careful on Halloween when kids will be trick or treating from 6 – 8p.m. 75 additional undercover police have been added in the City of Cincinnati.

- 3167 Goebel – Joel Kimmet  
This property is condemned and the doors are kicked in. Officer Minella will call Buildings and Inspections on our behalf.
- Residents voiced concerns about speeding on Cheviot Avenue at Montana. Officer Minella will put the speed wagon out at this location sometime very soon.
- Resident voiced concerns about drug dealing at Hannah and Roosevelt. Officer Minella will try to spend some time sitting there.

Sunshine Avenue – Valerie Baumann

Junk cars, garbage, etc. abound. COPPS says this street is in bad condition.

**Motion by Valerie Baumann that WCA write a letter to Ed Cunningham, Public Services concerning the evidence of blight with certain properties on Sunshine Avenue, seconded by Henry Frondorf.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Fire Report – Lt. Nieman**

There is a new mandate from the City of Cincinnati that all multifamily properties have photo electric smoke detectors outside each bedroom.

Other tips discussed –

- No smoke detector should be older than ten years.
- The tenants is responsible for changing the batteries.

#### **Cincinnati Public Schools M.O.R.E. Program – Mr. James Hill and WHHS students**

Men, Organized, Respectful and Educated

This is a program designed to change the public's negative perceptions with regard to young black males. Mentors teach participants how to monitor their time, learning that knowledge is power and operating with the premise that it is easier to build strong children than repair broken men.

#### **O.D.O.T. – Mr. Jim Coppock**

This was our first introduction to the Westwood Trail concept and plans and photos were shared with us regarding the Westwood Trail. This is a ten foot wide trail in the public right of way near Ferguson Krogers and the surrounding area. There will be three pieces to this trail with public meetings to be planned in the future and funding still being pursued. More information will be available in the future regarding this. There may be a public meeting on 11/18 at the D3 Community Room but it is not for certain at this time.

#### **Money making ideas for WCA –**

This question was posed to the membership for a quick, 5 minute small group brainstorming session:

- T shirts/new design/design contest
- National Night Out back to Business District
- Food trucks at Yard Sale, Art Show, etc.
- WCA 5K race
- Get an Art Show Finance Report
- Music event
- Madcap event
- Taste of Westwood
- Trail Run in Mt Airy
- Dog event/dog walk
- Tour de Westwood
- Community dinner
- Big Wheel Race

- Pinewood Derby
- flower sale
- Bike Share program
- Grow membership

### **Holiday Yard of the Week –**

Irene McNulty has volunteered to take the lead.

Program will run Thanksgiving to end of December.

Send nominations directly to Irene McNulty. See Westwords for her contact information.

### **Werk Steps**

In 2010 the WCA Board voted to approve the closure of these steps. The steps were never closed.

There is now a proposal from the City to vacate the right of way to abutting property owners. This means that the walkway will be removed.

Much discussed continued with the following suggestions including inviting property owners abutting to attend a WCA meeting to discuss. Board members and WCA members had many questions. The hearing will be in early November.

**Motion by Irene McNulty to support closing the Werk steps as previously approved by WCA, seconded by Valerie Baumann.**

**Discussion followed.**

**Yes –6**

**Jenkins, Miller-Reynolds, McNulty, Baumann, Gweyn, Overstake**

**No – 5**

**Kimmet, Strasser, Corso, Frondorf, Zawadski**

**Motion passed 6 – 5**

**Motion by Emily Miller-Reynolds, seconded by Valerie Baumann to support City Law Department's proposal to vacate right away to abutting property owners at the Werk steps.**

**Discussion followed.**

**Motion failed**

**Yes – 1**

**No – 9**

New head of zoning will be invited to attend the November Steering meeting.

**2911 Harrison Avenue – Triends**

Zoning is determining if Automotive Repair and Auto Sales are the same code under the Form Based Code.

**New Business –**

Proposal to change the printer for Westwords. To be discussed at November steering meeting.

Meeting adjourned by Mary Jenkins.