

Westwood Civic Association September 8, 2015 Steering Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Karen Strasser, Recording Secretary

Present:

Mary Jenkins, Joel Kimmet, Karen Strasser, Joe Corso, Emily Miller-Reynolds, Henry Frondorf, Valerie Baumann, Melva Gweyn, Trinetta Zawadzki, Larry Eiser, Steve Beckman

Absent:

Sara Overstake, Irene McNulty, Stephen Schramm, Shawntee Stallworth-Schramm

President Mary Jenkins called the meeting to order and asked for the proposed agenda to be approved with the modification of adding Elizabeth Bartley the old Firehouse building.

Motion by J. Kimmet to approve the modified agenda, seconded by E. Miller-Reynolds.

All in favor, motion approved.

Clean the Green

WCA will continue to work with public services to keep our neighborhood clean. The Beautification Committee will work on keeping the Business District looking nice for Deck the Halls and other upcoming events.

Westwood Art Show/At Home in Westwood – Mary Jenkins

Realtors will showcase properties currently on the market at the “At Home in Westwood” information booth at the Westwood Art Show. A list of properties will be provided for this self guided tour. Help is needed at this booth and an email calling for volunteers will be sent out.

J. Kimmet – The Westwood Works Board has proposed a WCA/Works partnership for the beer booth at the Westwood Art Show. WCA will help with setup, tear down and booth operations, split the expenses of buying the beer and split the booth profits. .

Motion by Joel Kimmet to join in a beer booth partnership with Westwood Work at the upcoming Westwood Art Show, sharing the \$1,140.00 total cost of the beer, split 50/50 with Works and purchased from Cavalier Distributing. Profits will be split 50/50 with Westwood Works. Seconded by Emily Miller-Reynolds.

Discussion followed.

All in favor, motion passed.

Advertising Benches Update – Mary Jenkins

Mary Jenkins and John Sess met with Michael Moore from Traffic and Engineering. Ten benches have now been removed by Bench Billboard. The city has stated that by mid September they will start the process of removing benches themselves if Bench Billboard does not do so. The intent is to concentrate these efforts with public services. More details on this as they come.

Old Firehouse – Elizabeth Bartley, Executive Director of WestCURC

WestCURC has won the bid to purchase the old firehouse and is close to closing. WestCURC would like to use the \$62,000 that is in the TIF fund to close on the firehouse. They have worked with many professionals to get to the “white

box” estimate of needing \$98,000 to make the building tenant ready which includes some basic electrical upgrades. WestCURC will be opening this up for bids from anyone interested in a family style restaurant.

3197 and 2911 Harrison Avenue, property and zoning concerns – Mary Jenkins and Henry Frondorf

3197 Harrison Avenue is the VIP Smoke Shop. Owners have requested a variance to allow for the lights in the store windows. A hearing date has not yet been set.

2911 Harrison Avenue is the Old Heartbeat Motors, now called Trends. We have no new information at this time. Mary Jenkins and Henry Frondorf are working on this and they have more questions than answers at this time. There have been complaints about the number of cars and where the cars are parked, overhanging the grass and sidewalk on the property. There is still more work to be done.

US Market at McHenry and Harrison –

There is much loitering on and around this property. Mary Jenkins will write a letter to US Market asking them to support a commitment to running a reputable business.

Director’s and Officer’s Insurance – Joel Kimmet

Motion by Joel Kimmet to renew the General Liability and Director’s & Officer’s insurance not to exceed 10% above the previously paid amount last year. Seconded by Emily Miller-Reynolds.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Digital Westwords – Trinette Zawadzki

The intent is to print Westwoods in hard copy but promote the digital version of the newsletter.

322 newsletters mailed each month before the electronic version was available. Now 60 newsletters are being mailed electronically.

Illegal signs, report and any action – Catherine Ross

Illegal signs have been a long term issue in Westwood. We are plagued by a large volume of illegal signs. Citizen volunteers have been very involved. A report was submitted to the Board from Catherine Ross with input from Helen Russo, Ron Rothhaas and several WCA Board members.

WCA Mugslide

The WCA Mugslide is presently stored at St. Antoninus Church. The Clifton Community Council would like to use this game on 9/26 at Clifton Fest. Mother of Mercy High School would like to use this game at an event on 10/24 as well.

Motion by Emily Miller-Reynolds, seconded by Trinette Zawadzki that WCA request a \$50.00 refundable deposit from all groups outside of Westwood, subject to Board approval, with all users signing an agreement as to the terms of the agreement and with no fee for any organizations within Westwood.

All in favor, motion passed.

WCA Board was advised that as long as it is mutually beneficial for St. Antoninus to store the Mugslide, there will be no charge to store it.

Town Hall Foundation Study by Cole Engineering –

The Cole Engineering Town Hall Foundation Study was sent to the CRC engineer. There are some problems and needs with the Town Hall foundation. Greg Kissel suggested that WCA should advocate for the City to put money in the line item budget for Dan Jones and the CRC to be able to fix the problems.

Motion by Emily Miller-Reynolds, seconded by Henry Frondorf , that Mary Jenkins write a letter requesting that the CRC take action based on the Cole Engineering Study.

All in favor, motion passed.

Membership Survey will be discussed at a later meeting due to time constraints.

Meeting adjourned by President Mary Jenkins.