

Westwood Civic Association
January 12, 2016 Steering Committee Minutes
Submitted by Karen Strasser, Recording Secretary

Present:

Mary Jenkins, Shawntee Stallworth-Schramm, Karen Strasser, Joe Corso, Emily Miller-Reynolds, Valerie Baumann, Melva Gweyn, Sara Overstake, Larry Eiser, Irene McNulty, Trinette Zawadzki

Absent:

Joel Kimmet, Stephen Schramm, Steve Beckman, Henry Frondorf

Guest, WestCURC Executive Director, Elizabeth Bartley

WestCURC requested 5.9 million dollars from the State of Ohio for the Westwood Town Hall grounds and associated streetscape work. We have already voiced our support for this. The Coalition is beginning to work on the neighborhood business district plan (NDB) and is forming four committees:

- Placemaking – this group will recommend a plan for the creative and strategic approaches to the use of public and private spaces in the business district.
- Infrastructure – this group will develop an infrastructure plan for the NBD.
- Positioning – this group will develop a branding and marketing strategy for the NBD.
- Networking – this group will work to develop partnerships both internal and external to benefit the NBD.

WestCURC is also in a very early stage of the Westwood Strategic Plan.

Madcap Puppets is on track with the mechanical work to be completed this year on their new site at Epworth and Harrison Avenues. Greg Kissel is the architect for the Madcap building.

With regard to activating the Bow Tie, WestCURC is partnering with Westwood Works to kick off the Pop Up Business District planned for this summer. This will help to activate and the engage the neighborhood and get them interested in the vision of the new Business District. Many programs are planned around the Pop Up event.

The cost to complete the entire Business District project is 6.5 million. Preliminarily, a state capital request has been submitted by WestCURC on behalf of the City, Coalition and WCA.

Motion by Emily Miller-Reynolds, seconded by Larry Eiser that WCA write a letter of support for the state capital request sent by WestCURC for capital improvements to the Westwood Historic Business District.

Motion passed unanimously

Western Hills Viaduct Replacement – Mary Jenkins

Structural reports state that the viaduct has about ten years of life. Our local government needs to prioritize this project.

Motion by Shawntee Stallworth-Schramm, seconded by Irene McNulty, for WCA to write a letter to the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County leadership requesting that the Western Hills viaduct replacement be a top priority.

Discussion following included design, transportation mode flexibility and the importance of fiscal responsibility with regard to this project.

Motion passed unanimously.

Holiday Yard of the Week Report – Irene McNulty

Many Westwood residents are thrilled with this program which was started by Becky Weber. Irene would like to take the lead on this program next year.

Motion by Irene McNulty, seconded by Emily Miller-Reynolds, that we send a copy of the WCA newsletter listing the Holiday Yard of the Week recipients to each of the Holiday Yard of the Week recipients.

Motion passed unanimously.

Updates on Properties and Issue – Mary Jenkins

- Werk Road steps – We are presently playing phone tag with the City. No update at this time.
- Werk Road at Dunaway Traffic Calming – Transportation and Engineering have painted a white line to help guide drivers and posted a sign. Advisory speed signs will be added and we will ask if those signs can be reflective.
- Wardall Avene Traffic Calming – ODOT examined the situation. The neighbors are being surveyed at this time.
- 3077 Bracken Woods Lane Demolition – The house has been demolished but a big mess has been left behind. The receiver is due back in court. WCA will be asking about cleanup efforts.
- Triends Automotive, 2197 Harrison Avenue – This zoning issue has been escalated but we have not heard a response as yet.
- VIP Smoke Shop, 3197 Harrison Avenue – This business has been cited and fined in excess of \$2,500.00 for not being in compliance on lighting and signage.
- Town Hall Foundation Study and Repair – Per Dan Jones, Engineer with CRC, much exterior wall work has been completed. The maintenance Department is doing additional interior work. Recently, after much rain, the building was looked at and everything was fine. The full foundation work that the study commissioned by WCA recommended has not been done. We will discuss this further at the February steering meeting.
- Puretz Properties – Found to be a nuisance. The hearing will be at the end of January. Mary Jenkins will continue to monitor the situation.

NSP Funds Issue – Larry Eiser

NSP funds allocated and approved at a previous general meeting need to be paid October – June each year per NSP rules. The Art Show does not fall between October and June.

Motion by Larry Eiser, seconded by Emily Miller-Reynolds, for WCA to shift \$700.00 of money from the Art Show to the Deck the Hall event, changing the allocation of NSP funds from the Art Show to Deck the Hall.

No – Irene McNulty, Melva Gweyn, Valerie Baumann

Yes – Larry Eiser, Karen Strasser, Mary Jenkins, Shawntee Stallworth-Schramm, Joe Corso

Abstain – Trinetta Zawadzki

Motion passed 5 – 3.

Meeting adjourned by acclamation.