

Westwood Civic Association  
August 9, 2016 Special Meeting  
Submitted by Sara Overstake

Present: Mary Jenkins, Joel Kimmet, Shawntee Stallworth Schramm, Karen Strasser, Joe Corso, Trinette Zawadzki, Henry Frondorf, Anne Murphy, Thomas Sauter, Emily Miller Reynolds, April Stevens, Stephen Schramm, Sara Overstake, Larry Eiser. Absent – Steve Beckman

**Call to order by Mary Jenkins.**

**Neighborhood Enhancement Program [NEP] – Ethyl Cogen** – This is a first ever opportunity for two neighborhoods to work together, East Westwood and Westwood, for a hybrid Neighborhood Enhancement Program. This is a 90 Day blitz March 1-May 31, 2017, where the community will put together a wish list of items the community wants to see improved. Westwood has already done a lot of work to prepare us for this process through programs such as Westwood Uniting to Stop the Violence and PIVOT. A stakeholder committee will be put together with about 5 members of the community to work on needs. Two handouts were distributed (attached) – an overview of NEP and a map of the area involved.

Capt. Jones – He experienced this program in Lower Price Hill, collaborated with Citizens on Patrol and Good Guy Loitering to get everyone involved.

Representative from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful [KCB] – Blight index will be taken three times: pre- and post- and one year later. Focus area involved is on the map. All streets are scored 1-4, and the goal is to have the score go down, showing improvement. Clean up – one large-scale clean up event will take place partnered with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful – KCB will supply volunteers, but need supplement volunteers from the community. There may be 1-2 subsequent clean ups to keep up with the need.

Scott Ryan – Cincinnati building department, will inspect every building in the area for concerns or zoning violations. There are organizations to help people abate any problems on the property if they cannot afford the repairs.

Steve Gerth – Recreation Commission, has worked on this program in OTR, where they renovated areas, got donated playground equipment and set that up. In Lower Price Hill they put in a skate park.

Floor opened for questions. Comments about properties with high grass. All of that can be considered in this program. In 2008, a different portion of Westwood under different leadership participated in this project, but in a different format. Youth council opportunity could be an option for the project. The city will not tell the community what they need to do. The community decides their needs. Funding is collaborative between the community and NEP. There are funders who support the program in general and funders who support the community specifically. The timing for this program could not be better because there is already a targeted and

coordinated effort around the topics of public safety, blight, etc. currently. The signature project is something the community can enjoy. What does it look like to coordinate with another neighborhood? There could be two signature projects, but we need to raise money for it.

Timeline - In September and October the community will select people to serve on the stakeholder group and begin work in November to put together a wish list. One rule for NEP is that the announcement for 2017 will not happen until January 2017 because the focus is currently on the projects in Mt. Auburn. The area for NEP is never an entire neighborhood. It cannot exceed 1000 units, which limits the area. The map shows a boundary for East Westwood and Westwood that meets the requirements. How much funding is required? It depends on the wish list and the needs. There is a dollar amount to completing the special project that is determined by the project. The largest project amount was \$207,000, but each project is different. One of the greatest advantages for NEP is having a contact person with the city to handle concerns or issues.

**Shawntee motioned for WCA to engage in an NEP project in collaboration with East Westwood and Westwood. Emily seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

Both community council boards have now voted in support. The next step is for the board to present this to the membership at the August general meeting and have a vote. Ethyl will be at that meeting to answer questions.

**Tommy motioned to adjourn, Emily seconded.**