

Westwood Civic Association  
August 16, 2016 General Meeting Minutes  
Submitted by Sara Overstake

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

**Welcome, call to order by Mary Jenkins.**

**Motion by Joel to approve agenda with amendments – #9 on agenda canceled (City on a Hill, Hope over Heroin report), replace with agenda item concerning closing Urwiler in place of this item, addition of membership recruitment following Urwiler item, seconded by Emily. Motion passes unanimously.**

**Minutes: May, June, and July, review and vote - Joel motioned to approve May, June, and July minutes, Emily seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

**Fire, Engine 35 report – Captain Cash** – First visit to WCA meeting. Westwood is the busiest neighborhood in the city, having 430 runs last month with the majority being EMS related. There were 11 narcan runs in the 45211 zip code and 6 in 45238, highest numbers are in downtown. Safety topic tonight is about clothing dryers. About 15,000 fires nationwide per year are caused by dryers. Things to notice – is the room hot, are the clothes coming out too hot, or are the clothes not getting dry. Recommendation is to clean the ductwork once a year. Captain Cash demonstrated how a lint brush works to clean ducts. Another reminder he shared is to have the proper cover on the outside vent. Questions about fentanyl – it is difficult to determine what substance was used in the overdose, but it seems that often they need to use more narcan in some instances.

**Police, District 3 report** – Officer Rich Minella is the neighborhood officer for East Westwood and Westwood. Compared to July last year, we are down in all crime categories except robbery. Theft from autos is down by 50%. Homicide is up by 1 instance from last year. There is a fundraiser Wed. 8/17 at F&N Goode Chicken. Question about an incident on Hanna with an overdose and the car left parked on the street and why were they permitted to get the car back and it was not towed. Officer Minella will check into the situation. Comment about a pizza deliverer who was allegedly held up at gunpoint, but Officer Minella did not have information on that incident. Panhandling has been the project for Sgt. Chatman this week.

**NEP proposal, vote** – Ethel Cogen presented to the group about the Neighborhood Enhancement Program. This is the first time there is a joint neighborhood project, and it will include East Westwood and Westwood. This will take place March 1-May 31, 2017. Examples of programs from other neighborhoods include a skate park, playground, and others. In November, the NEP process begins with planning. The signature project does not receive funding from the city. This program builds on the

work in this community with PIVOT. Ethel and leaders in the community are responsible for raising funds for the project. **Shawntee motioned to support Westwood's participation in a joint NEP with East Westwood, seconded by Emily.** Question for clarification - stakeholders in the community are assigned to a committee to represent the community through the process of selecting project(s). Ethel made reference to the map which shows the area involved in the program. Concern shared that this program focuses on the same areas that have been targeted in the past and comment that other areas such as Glenmore should get some focus as well. This area is selected because of the crime in the area and the effort to make an improvement in this area. A person in attendance called the question - the board voted 2 in favor, 9 opposed, one abstention. Discussion continued. Question about the area included and the need for benches - there is other community funding set aside to replace benches. In 2008, the area targeted was McHenry and Harrison, but the concern is that sustainability is not enough of a focus. Ethel explained that this program has changed over the years to hopefully make more of an impact. Advantage of the NEP - the community will be able to meet with representatives with the city and put a face with a name in order to get more accomplished. Move to vote (by show of hands) - **26 in favor, 3 opposed, one abstention.**

**Mercy properties land swap** - David Laing from the Mayor office, Marion Haynes from the City Law Department. David described the land swap opportunity with Woodland Golf Course (owned by the city, located in Green Township) and the property at Mercy Hospital in Westwood. This will go before City Council, Planning Commission, and the Recreation Commission. The project is complicated and will involve public meetings for input. The Land and Water Conservation funds used to purchase the property have restrictions. The property purchased must not currently be used for recreation. The property identified includes both the Midway school parcel and the property at the corner of Boudinot and Queen City. The mayor spoke with Mercy's broker who reported that a long-term storage company and fast food restaurants are the only businesses who have expressed interest in the property. Concerns shared about losing a golf course in this area, especially one that is good for seniors and young golfers. An important question is which option the community wants more. Woodland has 45 acres of space, approximately valued at \$32,000 per acre according to David. The city must obtain a yellow book appraisal for both pieces of land, from external appraisals acting independently and following federal guidelines. Woodland is a Municipal Golf Course, but is not currently losing money - last year had a positive net of about \$37,000. The land for sale is only a portion of the Mercy hospital lot, 6-7 acres. The remaining area will continue to be owned and operated by Mercy Hospital. If this is not supported by the community, it is uncertain what will happen with Woodland. Mary Jenkins expressed her hesitancy to support this with so many unknowns. During the original discussion with Mr. Hilsinger at a previous meeting, there were comments that the golf course was operating at a loss. Marion clarified that may have been based on real estate tax issues in the past. The board is looking for more information before exploring this further, including appraisals on the land. The city may be able to get the city employees to do appraisals. They would not be yellow book appraisals, which are expensive. **Steve motioned that WCA tables the discussion until more**

**concrete information is available, seconded by Steve Beckman.** David Laing would like a list of what additional information the board would like. Comments and requests can be sent to [info@westwoodcivic.org](mailto:info@westwoodcivic.org) in the next few days. **12 vote in favor, one opposed, no abstentions.**

**Closure of Urwiler at Gaines Triangle** – This closure has been part of the plan for the updates at the Gaines Triangle. Westwood Coalition will be hosting a meeting on August 30 at Westwood Town Hall. DOTE was closely involved with the process with the Coalition. Gene Marker is expressing his concern of the hazard he sees this causing at Harrison Avenue. Another resident of Urwiler expressed concerns to Mary Jenkins on a different occasion. All are welcome to attend the August 30 Coalition meeting to express concerns.

**Membership Recruitment** – Shawntee explained that WCA is looking to expand membership and all are welcome to be part of the committee to explore ways to grow membership.

**Youth Council proposal** – Emily represented a committee working on putting together a proposal to add a youth council to WCA. She distributed a handout with notes (attached). The mission is to develop engaged youth leaders in Westwood and to empower our youth to succeed in the community. Target is 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. **Emily motioned to establish a Youth Council in Westwood associated with Westwood Civic Association. Seconded by Steven Schramm.** Comment from Joel to consider adding to NSP funding request. **Motion passes unanimously.**

**Community Budget Requests review of proposed items** – Input needs to be sent to Mary about items requested. Benches are included in the proposed items.

**2016 Neighborhood Support Program, update and Welcome to Westwood sign proposal** – Joel Kimmet presented. For 2016, \$6,800 was allocated for various projects. \$319.84 still needs to be spent. This will be spent on another Welcome to Westwood sign to replace a sign that may be damaged, the cost of the sign is over \$500. **Motion by Joel to allocate up to \$200 to supplement NSP fund for the purchase of a Welcome to Westwood sign. Emily seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

**2017 Neighborhood Support Program, announcement of process** – Begins September 1, 2016. WCA received \$6,800 again for this upcoming year. The community needs to decide where the funding will be distributed. All Westwood residents may vote in September on the upcoming funds.

**Westwood Uniting to Stop the Violence update** – Mary Jenkins delayed this item to next month.

**Clean the Green, around Town Hall, August 27th, announcement, help wanted** – Shawntee, 9am-noon. Volunteers are needed and encouraged to bring

gloves and other supplies for cleaning up.

**US Market, September 8th hearing, attendees welcome** – SWAT raided US Market last month. The hearing is at 11:00am in Judge Shanahan's room. Mary will speak on behalf of WCA at the hearing on September 8. Any Westwood citizens are welcome to attend.

**At Home in Westwood, help wanted for WCA booth, September 10th** – In the past, WCA hosted a booth at the Westwood Art Show and will do the same this year to promote At Home in Westwood. Volunteers may contact Mary at [info@westwoodcivic.org](mailto:info@westwoodcivic.org).

**Nicholson Ave. repairs update** – Henry Frondorf reported that Nicholson Avenue is a private road in need of repair. A meeting with residents is scheduled for next Monday to gather information and report back to the city. Residents pay city taxes.

**Leadership transition** – Sara Overstake offered to take over as recording secretary for WCA. **Emily motioned to appoint Sara as the recording secretary, seconded by Henry. Motion passes. Sara abstains.** Mary is moving to New Hampshire in a couple of months. Mary will step down from the board following the September meeting. **Joel motioned that first VP Shawntee will take over as president. Emily seconded. Motion passes, Shawntee abstains. Steven Schramm motioned that Thomas Sauter becomes VP after Shawntee becomes President. Joel seconded.** Mary clarified that the president will choose first and second Vice President roles. **Motion passes unanimously.**

**There was no time for other business.**

**CRC** - Andrea reported that Fall info is available at the front desk. Youth memberships are only \$2 per year.

**Henry motioned to adjourned. Seconded by Emily. Meeting adjourned.**