

Westwood Civic Association
General Membership Meeting March 20, 2018
Minutes

Present: Shawntee Stallworth Schramm, Sara Overstake, Steve Beckman, Emily Miller Reynolds, Larry Eiser, Anne Murphy, Henry Frondorf, Stephen Schramm, April Stephens, Thomas Sauter, Trinette Zawadzki

Absences: Joe Corso, John Bowen, Abe Brandyberry, Geneva Clark

1. Call to Order – Shawntee
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Agenda – Emily requests to add a discussion about Westwood Hero Awards.
5. Approval of January and February minutes – Change a change to add that there was a survey done on Wardall in addition to Montclair. Minutes are approved.
- 5a. Emily motions to pay for the two plaques for Westwood Hero, totaling \$50, Stephen seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
6. **Police** – Officer Minella, crime stats are available on the table, with contact information for Officer Minella. For 2018, violent crimes are down 42% from last year. Crime that is up is theft from autos, mostly at the large apartment complexes. Suggestion to not leave anything of value in cars. Speed camera was put on Montana. A juvenile was arrested for robbing a Chinese food delivery person. Captain Paul Broxterman, District 3 commander added some comments, reiterating Officer Minella's crime report.
Fire – unable to attend
7. CRC – Jincey, Service Area Coordinator – Flyer for Westwood Moves! 5K Run/Walk and Spinning. Youth Sewing is available with openings. Memberships are available - \$25 adults, \$2 Youth. Friday night is teen night. Last Friday they went to Dunham Rec Center and played and had spaghetti dinner. River Track registrations are open for ages 12-17 in the summer. Summer camp enrollment is open.
8. Gerald Fortson – RFP for the Fire House – Property is owned by WestCURC. New RFP crafted and will be released tomorrow. All submissions will be due April 20, with the winning proposal announced on May 9. There are already groups interested.
9. Youth Council Update – Gabriel Owens and De'Angelo Prude are representatives. They are doing a project with the homeless and food. They are also raising money for their

activities. Youth Council will be active with the Second Saturday events. They are hard workers. Question about the Youth Council involvement with the Neighborhood Games, which will be discussed. They are learning about professionalism and being leaders.

10. Mark Mussman – Director of Education at the homeless coalition, which is an advocacy organization. Focus on helping people stay in homes. People are welcome to become new members. The Affordable Housing Trust Fund is going live, which means 30% of income is spent on housing. Their sister organization is Affordable Housing Advocates. In Hamilton County we are 40,000 houses short of the need, and this is for people making \$25,000 or less per year. There are many types of homelessness. This could include staying with friends or family. Change the language you use: “person first” language instead of saying “homeless person”. They received a grant to provide free speaking engagements to the community. Melissa Mosby spoke about her experience with homelessness. Her daughter has many medical problems, and she experienced that people avoided her because of her situations. She shared her story about homelessness.
11. Jeff Cramerding – Green Township Golf Course – Speaking on the proposed sale of the Woodland Golf Course. CRC owns and operates 6 golf courses, 3 are inside the city, 3 are outside the city. They are not subsidized by city dollars. Woodland is unique in that it serves youth and seniors. In the last 10 years, we lost Hillview, Deer Run, and Dunham Golf Courses on the west side. Woodland Golf Course makes money each year. It is projected to continue making money. At this point, CRC did report that there are not plans to sell the golf course. Jeff would like to have the letter of support rescinded. CRC was never aware of a plan to sell the golf course. Larry explained that the city is purchasing the Mercy land that was considered for the land swap. If the proposal is no longer an option, is there any support to rescind? There is a lot of confusion about the situation. Jeff will provide net revenue information for the golf course and information on the people using the golf course. We would like to table this discussion until we have further information. It would be a good idea to get an update from the city at a future meeting.
12. Westwood Library Branch – Travis is the manager of the Westwood Library. There is a levy in the next election. The building was built in 1931 and last renovated in 1992. 450 programs for all ages happened at this location in 2017. Nearly ½ million card holders for Cincinnati Library. Checkouts are second in the nation behind New York City. They work hard to be fiscally responsible, but state funding has been cut by 20% since 2000. Despite the growth in activity, there has not been an increase in the budget in many years. Some branches are not even handicap accessible, others need renovations. Furniture is getting worn, electricity needs to be upgraded, sidewalks need repairs. Vote is in May. For the main library, they are moving everything from the North building to the South building, but there is not a decision about plans for that.
13. Youth Council Reps (see #8)

14. WCA tax status change – 501(c)3 instead of 501(c)4 – Thomas Sauter shared the decision for him to set this up on behalf of WCA. The law requires us to change the bylaws to comply with the charitable organization requirement. Thomas has language that is from other 501(c)3 organizations that complies with the law. Question about a meeting of a 501(c)3 and whether or not they can engage in politics. There is a substantial test or less than 10% of revenues spent on lobbying. We can allow candidates to speak or people to talk about legislation. The organization cannot take a position as a formal motion in regards to legislation. One of the benefits of a 501(c)4 is we can advocate for legislation for the community. But, we can still advocate on behalf of the community as a 501(c)3. This will benefit us financially. We will be an S22 neighborhood council. A group called Invest in Neighborhoods is trying to get all community councils to convert to 501(c)3 in order to consolidate insurance fees. There will be a vote by the membership on changing the bylaws at the May general meeting. Thank you to Thomas for the work.
15. CWCA Outstanding Young Citizen Award Banquet – Last year we sponsored two kids, Emily motions we sponsor two students at this banquet for \$60, Steve B. seconds. Henry and Emily can attend again. Motion passes unanimously.
16. Westwood Uniting – meeting March 27, 7pm at District 3, Shawntee updated that work continues on the new locations, including Bracken Woods and Glenmore/Montana Avenue.
17. Outreach Update – Emily – Discussing outreach strategies to help increase membership. There is a proposed standard membership form. We would like to send postcards to members of the community for renewals. There is a plan to go door to door to ask people to join. There are 19,000 voters in Westwood, and we only have 300 members. Is there a way to notify members when their membership lapses? This mailing is for renewals, and we can do ongoing notifications.
18. Coalitions Update – Westwood Coalition/Viaduct Coalition – Henry. Westwood Town Hall Grounds rebid on March 15. There were 4 bids, with the two lowest bids under \$3.5 million. Westwood Historic Home Tour is May 12. Westwood-o-poly is getting approved now, may be available for purchase around May. Greg Hand is doing a presentation on Wild Wild Westwood on Thursday March 22 at West Side Brewing at 7:00pm. Greg is doing a presentation on a Cincinnati detective at Muse café tomorrow. Westwood Works is doing four Second Saturday events again this year. The businesses will do their own additional Second Saturday events in addition. At this point, they do not know what part of the Town Hall grounds they can use. The event may need to be moved from Epworth to Montclair. There is a trivia event at Avocados on April 14, 5-9pm to raise money. Tickets can be bought online. Next community meeting is next Wednesday at Muse at 7:30pm. There is a community calendar to post events. Next Viaduct meeting will be April 9, 7-8pm.
19. Other Business

- a) Shawntee got a call from Carolyn Duffy about a grant available for traffic safety, which is related to the bike trail going in on Ferguson. She wants stakeholders in the Ferguson area near District 3. There is a survey on www.cagis/survey for public input.
- b) Community member has documents about speed humps on Daytona that supposedly were speed humps installed, but they were not. They need to inform the community council that they will be put in. All other paperwork has been collected. Steve B. motions we write a letter in support of the speed humps, Thomas seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Henry is writing the letter.
- c) Multi-cultural Fest is on Saturday September 1 in the Save-A-Lot parking lot. They are looking for volunteers.

Announcements:

Announcements: Westwood Civic meets every third Tuesday of the month 7p, @ Townhall. Tell your neighbor about our efforts in the community!

Clean the Green Westwood - **Clean the Green April 7th, 9:30 - 12:30p!** We need your help and leadership! Meeting at Farimount @ Harrison or Queen City @ Wyoming UDF.

Reminder: Adopt-a-pot Spring is around the corner don't forget to renew your pot today! Previous adopters have first dibs.

Youth Council: Is for youth 12-18. We meet @ Townhall every third Friday of the month. For more information go to cincyunitedyouth.org

Shawntee adjourned the meeting.