

Westwood Civic Association
General Membership Meeting June 19, 2018
Minutes

Present: Shawntee Stallworth Schramm, Sara Overstake, Emily Miller Reynolds, Larry Eiser, John Bowen, Geneva Clark, Henry Frondorf, April Stephens, Abe Brandyberry, Joe Corso, Thomas Sauter

Absences: Steve Beckman, Trinette Zawadzki, Stephen Schramm, Anne Murphy

1. Call to order
2. Pledge
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes May General – no concerns, minutes are approved
6. Police & Fire Report – Officer Minella – copies of crime stats are available online at CPD website. Violent crime is down 35% for the past month and a half, and crime is down 20% overall. Search warrant for drug sales at 2554 Harrison, recovered drugs and made an arrest. Search warrant on Gamble Avenue (just inside Cheviot) for a many selling drugs in the alley behind his house, drugs found and arrest made. Two arrests in homicides. Overall the crime numbers look great. Fire – Sean – 425 runs in past month, 360 EMS, 65 Fire, which is typical. Narcan administered 11 times in 45211. This is lower than previous years. It appears there is a decrease in overdoses in general. With summer here, they are talking about grill safety. In apartments, do not have grills on balcony according to fire code. Watch for propane leaks.
7. CRC Announcements – Jincey – Trailers are on the grounds of Westwood Town Hall, so construction will begin soon. On Thursday 6/28 at 2:00 there will be a celebration for groundbreaking. There will be access to entry doors, and programs will continue. There will be some parking at Urwiler and at the school until school starts. Some 15 minute parking spaces will be available. Construction should be completed by April 2019. No Zumba for the summer. All types of dance classes will begin Wed/Thurs, 4:30-8:30. Successful picnic for youth council last Friday night, and fun lock-in overnight for teens to plan homelessness project.
8. Youth Council (Emily Reynolds and April Stephens) – Sleepover a few weeks ago with planning for the homelessness service project. A lot of work was accomplished during the overnight. Leadership team meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of month.
9. School Enhancements: Sara
 - a) Wayne Brinkmann Student Awards – Gamble Montessori Student – Congratulations, Sarah Bilz!
10. Properties, Infrastructure, Beautification, Zoning (Joe Corso)
 - a) Townhall Grounds Improvements – See CRC report, Second Saturday events are pushed further up Harrison due to the construction.
 - b) Old Firehouse: Larry Eiser – Nation Bar and Grill agreed to purchase the building for a burger restaurant. They are looking to offer brunch, lunch, and dinner.
 - c) Madcap Education Center: Larry Eiser – They have new windows, and construction continues. They are hoping to open in November.

- d) Subdivision of Land - Review Process – Henry – in Hyde Park and Mt. Lookout, people are buying properties on large lots, tearing down homes, and building multiple houses on the lots, which is causing people to feel they are losing their character. In Westwood, we do not want to see this happen. They are trying to have a policy for this to have to go through approval process through the city. We should gather more information about how Westwood can be a support.
 - e) Adopt a Pot – We may want to get more pots. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful is replacing some from downtown, and we asked for 10 of them for Westwood. We have lost quite a few pots over the past few years by car collisions. There are currently about 30-40 pots. Email info@westwoodcivic.org if interested in adopting a pot.
 - f) 2911 Harrison Avenue - Auto Dealership - Cars on Sidewalk – Henry – Cars are always parked on sidewalk. There are several other violations - they should have wheel stops, and there are too many cars on the lot, including parked cars on the street, which obstructs the view from Ratterman. Henry is asking Officer Minella to address this with the owner. Someone from WCA Board could approach them about it. Abe agreed to go to the dealership to address it and invite them to a meeting.
 - g) Mayor's proposal for \$500,000 for Mercy Hospital Grounds Improvements – Where Midway School was, along with Mercy Hospital grounds purchased by the city, with some additional dollars to improve the grounds. **Thomas motions that WCA supports the 500,000 in improvements for the Mercy Hospital grounds, seconded by Emily. There are no details for the plans. Motion passes, one abstention.**
 - h) Yard of the Month: John Bowen and Joe Corso – This has not been a strong program yet this year, but John is asking for community help in nominating yards. Email can be sent to info@westwoodcivic.org for nominations. Joe mentioned that the signs are getting beat up and weathered, and it may be good to replace with gator board signs. Joe proposes that we buy about 20 new signs. John mentioned the difficult part is nominations. John said we have about \$1400 in NSP finding for beautification. Emily will put together a new design for the signs.
 - i) Westwood Community Gardens – Joel announced that Payton, the Boy Scout working on his eagle award to build a gazebo found out that there is a restriction for how far a building can be from the property line. In order for the gazebo to be in the center of the lot, it must be a maximum of 50 feet from the back or side of the lot. A variance is needed for zoning to approve the location of the gazebo. **Emily motions that WCA write a letter to support the zoning variance for the gazebo to be in the center of the lot. Abe seconded. Shawntee will write the letter. Motion passes unanimously.**
11. Membership and Outreach (Emily Reynolds) – the next meeting is planned for Monday July 9 at West Side Brewing at 6:30pm to discuss increasing membership size.
- a) Westwords: Trinette (not in attendance) – Trinette does a great job with Westwords. If anyone has anything to add, email Trinette by June 24.
 - b) Membership Update: Stephen and Thomas

12. Public Safety (Shawntee)

- a) WUTSTV: Shawntee – Meetings at 7:00 on the 4th Tuesday of each month at District 3. McHenry/Harrison, Harrison/Boudinot, Montana/Glenmore are hot spots in focus for this group. Clean up on June 2 was small but successful. There will be other projects through the summer.
- b) Block Watch: Anne (not in attendance) – Anne runs a block watch on Epworth. Shawntee is asked to send Facebook info to Anne. Shawntee explained that this is a great way to get neighbors to talk and form a plan, have a way to communicate with each other, support each other by calling in suspicious activity (which helps build a case for crime). Is there a map of which streets have a block watch? Karen Strasser may have that information. To be an official block watch, you need 50% of neighbors involved, and you have a meeting with Officer Minella.
- c) Citizens on Patrol – They are looking for new, younger members to join by contacting CPD on the website. Trainings are once or twice a year. COP go to areas that are considered hot spots by District 3 and create a presence in the community. They report problem properties or dangerous areas. They take down signs from poles. Does “good guy loitering” still exist? This is not a formal group, but sometimes takes place. They meet on Thursday evenings at Westwood Presbyterian. You must attend one meeting a month and one patrol a month. Usually patrols are 2-3 hours.

13. Finance (Steve)

- a) NSP: John Bowen – We have \$6,800 for the year from the city to use on projects, and this ends on September 30. Multiculturalfest is on September 1, and we budgeted \$400 for that event. Westwood Art show has \$200, Youth Council has \$200, Westwood Community Gardens has \$500 allocated to Payton for the gazebo. WUTSTV, \$3,000 to newsletter, \$1,500 for beautification – neighborhood banners (\$1,000) and flowerpots (\$500). Shawntee can ask Trinette for more information about this. **Thomas motions that WCA Board reallocate \$200 of NSP Beautification toward purchasing Yard of the month signs. Emily seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**
- b) Fundraising: Thomas Sauter – Successful fundraiser in May with the Westwood Gala. About 86 people attended, and we made about \$5,000. The mayor attended, as well as Aftab Pureval. The auction was successful. This will be an annual event. Great job to Shawntee for planning and thanks to Joel for the original idea. Thank you letters should be sent to those who donated. John will write the letter. Joel has a receipt for \$45 from Hobby Lobby for the baskets. **Emily motions to reimburse Joel for the purchase of baskets, Thomas seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**
- c) 501c3 status – Thomas Sauter – application was rejected because we are already a 501c4, so Thomas will complete the paperwork (1023) to complete a different application to get this approved. Thank you to Thomas for putting in the time to do this.

14. Westwood Coalition Update (Shawntee) – CPS is purchasing Mercy High School.

Coalition is discussing the processing of involving the community. **Shawntee motions that WCA allows the Coalition to handle facilitations of discussions about the Mercy High School switch to CPS. Larry seconded. Motion passes**

unanimously. Part of the discussion at Coalition is the concern about what CPS will do, and there is a desire for Westwood to have a high functioning high school. Joe went to the school board meeting, and said there was no opposition to purchasing the property. Some parents from Gamble Montessori spoke asking for Gamble Montessori to move to this building. Both Joe and Greg Kissel spoke with a school board member and facility manager about what a good deal they got on the building, reminding them to put a lot of investment into it. As a community, we need to remind CPS that we want them to be good custodians of the building. To clarify, Shawntee said we do not know exactly what this looks like (rumors about Walnut Hills of west side). We need to push to ensure it is a high performing high school. Westwood-o-poly boards are available for purchase. Second Saturday is July 14.

15. Cincinnati Neighborhood Games and Flags (Henry) – There will be community input to design flags (no text), need symbolism. Cincinnati Neighborhood Games Cup is new and held by Westwood. Qualifier games are Saturday June 23 at 5:00pm at Gamble-Nippert YMCA, open to kids and adults. There are 16 events with many spaces to qualify. Finals are July 20 and 21 with a bicycle relay. Opening ceremony is July 21. You can walk with Westwood in a short parade. The main event is July 28. Volunteers are needed and we encourage participants.

16. Other Business

- a) **Motion for Joel to be reimbursed for \$75 for the community gardens, and \$25 for mulch for the signs in order to reimburse John Sess for these purchases. Thomas seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**
- b) Abe Brandyberry – a lot of renovation is happening at Cincinnati Urban Promise, and there will be an open house on August 23 around 6:00-9:00pm. They started last Wednesday through a partnership with the city and health department and UC to have a truck from 2-5pm every Wednesday in the front parking lot for a needle exchange, as well as other services to help keep the neighborhood clean.
- c) Ty – Held an event - French fry - to benefit autism. The Multicultural Festival will be September 1, from 1:00-7:00pm (instead of 11-4). They are looking for sponsors for that event. On the corner of McHenry and Harrison, there is a thrift store, but not a market. There is concern that Save-a-lot is not always serving quality produce, so they were hoping there would be a market with produce in that space. Larry will follow up with Thomas about this. There was a meeting around race relations, and we are possibly having a parade on the multicultural day.
- d) Emily – reminder for National Night Out Tuesday August 7, 5-8pm at Oskamp. At the July meeting, we can plan our booth.
- e) Banners – have we talked to historical about the sesquicentennial design? We can talk to Liz Kissell about that.

Henry adjourned the meeting.

Announcements:

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

CRC Teen Night: Is for youth 12-18 - Is every Friday from 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm at Westwood Town Hall with the **Youth Council** every Friday of the month. For more information about Youth Council please go to cincyunitedyouth.org

Youth Council Leadership meets the first and third Mondays at 7 pm. 1st Monday meets at 3rd Presbyterian on McHenry and the 3rd Monday meets at Westwood Town Hall. Email Emily Miller Reynolds at emilylynwca@gmail.com for more info.