

Westwood Civic August General membership meeting Tues. October 16, 2018  
Cincinnati Firehouse on Harrison - 2487 Harrison Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45211

Attendance: Henry Frondorf, Shawntee Stallworth Schramm, Anne Murphy, Abe Brandyberry, John Bowen, Larry Eiser, Joe Corso, April Stephens, Steve Beckman, Sara Overstake, Stephen Schramm

Absent: Geneva Clark, Trinette Zawadski, Thomas Sauter, Emily Miller Reynolds

## Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Pledge
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Agenda no additions
5. Approval of Minutes September General - approved
6. Police & Fire Report – Fire, Captain of Engine 35, welcomed us to the firehouse. For September, there were a total of 561 responses, 75% EMS, 10% fire, 15% nonfire/nonEMS, Just finished fire safety week, had an open house last Saturday. They also supervised fire drills in schools in October. They check fire hydrants in October to prepare for winter. They have smoke detectors available again. They do not pass them out because of the grant requirement, but they have to install them. They had a class graduate recently to help with staffing. No recruit class budgeted, but they received a grant to offer a class of 40, beginning in February. Police – Officer Minella – New 28-day crime stats (not monthly), Total violent crime down 31%, property crime down 3.7%, total crime is down 6.6%. Westwood crime numbers are at a four-year low. The city will have some PSAs about SMART911, which is a website to create a safety profile to share information with emergency responders. Sgt. Hicks shared October 27, medication disposal day – District 3, 4150 Reading Road District 4, 4777 Kenard, they will take everything but liquids. Sgt. Chapman – Stuff the Cruiser - SPCA is taking pet supplies at District 3. Question about blitz taking place across the city regarding speed violations. Question about crime rate and the target areas – they are seeing a reduction in those areas.
7. CRC Announcements – Jincey – Building is closed for park board to renovate property. Programs are moved to Dunham schoolhouse building – preschool, sewing for seniors, after school, etc. Tae Kwon Do is at Westwood School. Teen birthday parties on first Friday of every month – looking for scholarship donations for these events (at OTR recreation center). Meet at 6pm every Friday night in front of the building, and they travel to another location. This Friday will be Fall Fest at Dunham unless it rains (Sallywag tag is rainout plan). Ages 12-17
8. Youth Council (Emily Reynolds and April Stephens) Jincey – Leadership team meets on Monday night, follows Roberts Rules, and holds a meeting. Their service project is homelessness. They are taking donations for bags to distribute to the homeless. They are involved in leadership in the community. This Monday they will go to Adventure Outpost at Winton Woods for Leadership team building.
9. Candidates
  1. Pierre Bergeron – Court of Appeals – Derek Baumann – at the meeting on behalf of all judges on the ballot supported by democrats. This is a nonpartisan race, but the pamphlet he shared gives information about judges that democrats support.
  2. Ginger Bock – Court of Appeals – husband spoke on her behalf – integrity, experience, temperament – 3 most important qualities voters look for when voting for judicial candidates. At a young age, she took action to make change. Worked for 10 years for nonprofit organizations, mostly with women and children. Then she went to law school.

She started her own practice on appellate advocacy. She wants to make more change, so she is running for First District Court of Appeals.

3. Candace Crouse – Court of Appeals – N/A

#### 10. School Enhancements: (Sara Overstake)

1. Old Mercy High School – CPS - Community Engagement Sessions underway – meeting last night for community members. There were more than 100 people present, breakouts in groups to answer questions from CPS about what the community wants to see at the school. There are more meetings scheduled. Mercy Alumni at Mercy at 6:30pm 10/17 and 10/25. October 29, 6:30pm – west side community parents and students- Dater Montessori Auditorium. Oct. 30, 6:30 community-wide meeting at XU Cintas Center. They did mention last night there may be opportunity to answer surveys if people cannot attend meetings. Go to the CPS website.

#### 11. Properties, Infrastructure, Beautification, Zoning (John Bowen and Abe Brandyberry)

1. Town Hall Grounds Improvements Update – Larry Eiser – There are no changes with design or plan, but they are running into problems with storm drains and weather. They think this put them 2 months behind, but they are working to catch up. The park may not open until end of May or later.
2. Yard of the Month - John Bowen – Out of season, but we do have new signs. Send recognition to [info@westwoodcivic.org](mailto:info@westwoodcivic.org)
3. Westwood Community Gardens – Joel Kimmet – Thanks to Joel for grilling out tonight! And Happy Birthday! This Saturday 10/20 is the Howl at the Moon Annual Party at the community gardens, 6-10pm. Bluegrass band, tours, pot luck at 2163 Harrison. Parking on Talbot, possibly retirement home next door.
4. PG Sittenfeld – updates on pedestrian safety, thank you to all tonight, especially Henry, who is respected at City Council. He acknowledged the wins in the neighborhood. CPD talked about adding enforcement. We need to share the road with people walking, cyclists, people on scooters. The most opportune thing is a \$500,000 fund for pedestrian safety, which looks different in areas of the city. Every community council can submit top three problem areas. Submit them to Melissa McVey. That program paid for the crosswalk upgrades at Cheviot and Montana. If you have suggestions, it may be a good idea to call a councilmember in addition to the department. 513-352-5270 is PG's number.
5. Active Transportation Plan - Caroline Duffy – Follow up from meeting in May. ODOT is concerned about increase in pedestrian and bike crashes across the state. Westwood received grant for a state-funded study. Input was gathered from neighborhood through a meeting, surveys, etc. Final draft available now. Rep from Tool Design presentation – Ken Ray - maps with destinations, desired route, and barriers. 1281 crashes in last 3 years, 308 injuries. Speed is a major factor in fatalities of pedestrian-involved incidents. There are some trails and bikeways to utilize, as well as areas to add these. There is a toolkit with suggestions: lane reconfiguration, bike lanes, medians, bump outs at crosswalks, high-visibility crosswalks, refuge island, pedestrian signage, rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB), Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (HAWK), Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) – all lights are red for a short time for pedestrians to cross, Dynamic Speed Display Devices, School Zones and enforcement, Walking School Bus, Bike Rodeo, Yard signs to slow down for children, Bike parking, Group Rides (bikes), Tactical Urbanism, Roundabouts. Funding from the City or State can be used to implement some of these ideas. Recommendations will be available in about a month and a half.
6. Ethiopian Fusion Restaurant – Larry Eiser – Tez – restaurant concept that was successful in Baltimore. Has lived on the west side for 20 years. He is looking at opportunities in OTR as well. He is looking at the former tax service place on Harrison. Hoping to get open by the Spring, early Summer. Will speak with Abe about the building and others who may have suggestions.

12. Membership and Outreach (Emily Reynolds) – Henry – looking for board members. Send an email to WCA or Henry. Thank you to Joe Corso for his time on the board.
  1. Westwords - Trinette
  2. Membership Update - Stephen Schramm and Thomas Sauter – New members signing up with mailings and email responses. Record-keeping is improving. October 22 – membership meeting 6pm at West Side Brewing.
13. Public Safety (Shawntee)
  1. WUTSTV: Shawntee – meets monthly at District 3 at 7pm, scheduled for 10/23. Participants are needed. Abe, Karen Strasser, and Emily are “hot spot” captains.
  2. Block Watch: Anne – reduce crime in the neighborhood, there is a Westwood Block Watch Facebook page. Contact Anne for more info.
  3. Citizens on Patrol – applications are available. More people are needed.
14. Finance (Steve Beckman)
  1. NSP – VOTE: John Bowen – Neighborhood Support Program - \$6080 this year (\$6800 last year), all Westwood residents can vote. Tentative plan shared by John. Summary available:
    1. Newsletter: \$3000
    2. Neighborhood Improvement: \$1580 – Girl Scout flags \$400, Additional banner equipment \$1,180
    3. Deck the Hall: \$200
    4. Westwood Youth Council: \$200
    5. Westwood Multi-cultural fest: \$400
    6. Art Show: \$300
    7. WUTSTV: \$200
    8. Backpack Drive: \$200

For the backpacks, the plan is to support multiple churches near the McHenry/Harrison part of the neighborhood. It may be good to have some coordination and organization in order to avoid overlap. The \$200 could help cover these amounts.

We should lobby City Council to raise this amount.

Vote: John raises a vote, Abe seconds. Count of hands – 34 vote in favor, 0 opposed
15. Fundraising: Thomas Sauter – planning to have the event again this year. More info to come.
16. Cincy Flags – Westwood Flag Options – Henry – Josh Mattie – Henry and Josh won a grant from city of Cincinnati to design neighborhood flags. Principles: keep it simple, use meaningful symbolism, use two or three basic colors, no text, be relatable/descriptive. There are three options for Westwood, but not necessarily the final options. Comments: Flag one – Gray is lost in the flag, leaf does not look like a ginkgo leaf and does not fit in with neighborhood. Most visually appealing, suggestion to replace leaf with tree. Flag two is complicated, does not really look like a “W”. Flag three has straight lines, comment liking the railroad symbolism, maybe add more red. The point is for people in Westwood to be proud of their flag. Suggestion to change the blue to green in option 3. Go to Cincyflags website to share info. Josh will communicate suggestions to the designers.
17. Westwood Coalition Update (Shawntee) – discussion about CPS community sessions, Madcap will have their first opening weekend in November 2018, Deck the Hall is December 1 at Westwood Elementary school, Westwood Works Trivia Night Nov. 10 at Avocados Social Hour 5-7, fee per team with prizes (fundraiser for events in the community), donations of prizes are being collected. Westwood Civic had a clean up with UC students a couple of weeks ago.
18. Other Business – None
19. Henry adjourned meeting.

## **Announcements:**

**Westwood Civic** meets every third Tuesday of the month 7p, @ various locations. 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](http://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](mailto:emilylynwca@gmail.com) for more info.