

Westwood Civic Association  
June General Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 2020

Attendance: Thomas Sauter, Alexa Justice, Larry Eiser, John Kerr, Anne Murphy, Andrea Boettcher, Sara Overstake, Stephen Schramm, Shawntee Stallworth Schramm, Scott LeCates, Sara Overstake, Abe Brandyberry, Emily Miller Reynolds, Steve Beckman, Karen Strasser

Absent: April Stephens

Location: Zoom meeting

1. Meeting recording consent
2. Call to order
3. Pledge
4. Roll Call
5. Approval of Agenda – Steve B motions to approve agenda, Emily seconds. Agenda approved.
6. Approval of Minutes – Stephen Schramm and Shawntee Stallworth Schramm had an excused absence in May. Motion by Emily to approve minutes with this change, seconded by Abe. Minutes approved.
7. Police and Fire Report – Karen Strasser is working with the fire department to identify and communicate community needs. No police or fire representatives were on the conference call. Mary Fichter can help communicate with the police (through COPS). No report. Andrea received a message from a friend who has information about spot shotter, which is now in place in East Westwood. She will share that information with the board. It will be implemented in Westwood in the next few months.
8. Membership and Outreach – This committee met after the last general meeting. Postcards were mailed out to members who do not have an email on file with WCA. There were 18 mailed out. Emily is requesting \$9.30 for printing and postage. John motions to reimburse Emily \$9.30, Shawntee seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Thomas is requesting membership committee to reach out about meeting at Town Hall in July. Outreach discussed always having a virtual option for

people to attend the meeting. We also would need to allow for social distancing in person – spacing and masks.

9. CRC Announcements – Larry shared that CRC is still giving out food to youth each weekday.

10. School Enhancements – Sara received 3 nominations for students for the Wayne Brinkman Award. She sent certificates, letters, and \$10 gift certificates to Putz's to the school for each recipient. Scott commented about school enhancement to get contact info for each school's community representative. Scott is able to get that information. This type of information would be good to add to a resource like a "board book". Karen Strasser is willing to take over School Enhancement when Sara leaves the board in 2021.

11. Public Safety – Shawntee – no meeting since COVID-19. Westwood Uniting has begun focusing on the Business Association. There is a temporary leader, Bill Rich, for this association. There are others interested in getting it started. Shawntee shared the list of email contacts for everyone who attended the first meeting. The business district has been operating differently since COVID-19. They may communicate via email with the goal of having quarterly meetings. Update on the bump out sidewalk project that they will be completed in a couple of months. Thomas reported that the city reached out to Thomas/WestCURC about revocable insurance on the bumpouts, which is required to be held by a community organization. This is a liability requirement on the bumpouts. Comments about speeding issues (Lischer), and question about speed bumps. The residents need to speak to DOTE with a request for a study to be completed. Thomas will reach out to the city regarding the bump outs.

12. Finance

a. NSP Reallocation – We discussed last month the need to reduce our NSP budget, and there was communication since then about not having to reduce the amount. Steve Beckman reported that we should be receiving a check for the reduced amount. Steve B recommends having board members responsible for spending the money. The time frame is extended to the end of October. We will need to find out which events will actually happen that are going to be supported by NSP funds. Shepherd's Heart is no longer located at McHenry and Harrison because the building was purchased. This may affect the Multi-cultural Fest. Neighborhood enhancement tends to be difficult to spend. We could reduce the amount in flower pots. We still have flags to post in Westwood, but that requires approval from the city and possibly Duke Energy. We can discuss this more at a steering meeting in July.

13. Westwood Coalition – no meeting in several months

14. Hanna Ave Cell Tower – Cell tower is to be installed. Susan Diballa is a resident in attendance to discuss this. Per the municipal code, the company must alert the local civic association regarding installation of a cell tower. Verizon is proposing a new pole and electrical antenna. Residents received a postcard regarding installation of equipment in the right of way. The city informed the residents it was a federal program the company is following. Verizon will be installing about 1000 of these around the city. There has been enough opposition to it for the city to send it to the legal department. They cannot verify if there are health hazards or what type of sound/noise will come from them. Steve B motions to write a neutral letter to ask for information, including co-location, in regard to the installation of cell phone towers, citing Hanna Ave as an example, to DOTE, the legal department, planning department, and city council. John seconded. Susan will forward information to WCA. Karen said the person at planning is Charles Graves. Motion passes unanimously.

15. Other Business

a. Steve Beckman – mail on Sunday - there is a public hearing on zoning for 3120 Mozart Ave. for conditional use approval to convert the building to a preschool. This location appears to be the previous City on a Hill. The hearing is June 24. According to the Hamilton County Auditor website, the Board of Education purchased the building. WCA will take no action.

b. Karen Strasser question about Town Hall grounds upkeep. Larry is meeting with Henry after the meeting to discuss this. In a coalition meeting, there was a data request from the city regarding this issue. They will request a meeting with Larry Parker, and Larry E may also request a meeting with John Cranley. We need to request information in writing.

c. There's an ability for any neighborhood in the city to do outdoor dining, and there are relaxed rules due to COVID-19. The businesses around Westwood are looking into this. West Side Brewing will add outdoor seating. Larry is working with DOTE for spaces in the Town Hall park regarding safety, especially crossing the street. Muse will have tents for outdoor seating and possibly music as well.

d. Cincinnati Urban Promise has been broken into by the same people four separate times. They have videos of them and will share that info for people to watch for. CPD has been responsive. They are mostly stealing from the pantry.

e. Hearings regarding the city budget tonight and Thursday at 6pm. They are public. Thomas will send the flyer to the board. It would be good for someone from the board to attend.

f. Update on Jubilee Property – Abe received an email from Jessica, and they are still working through the deal with Jubilee to get the property back. There is an application process in place for potential development of property. Abe will forward that info to the board.

g. Thomas suggested taking an inventory of the items that are owned by WCA. Alexa is willing to take the lead on gathering this information.

h. Karen would like to thank Kiwanis for donating \$500 to the girl scouts for flags on Harrison Ave.

i. Mary Fichter shared that COPS has not been meeting for patrols during the COVID crisis. One of the long-time members passed away this past week – Ron Stentz. The funeral is Friday at Paul Young funeral home. John motions to approve \$50-75 for flowers for Ron Stentz, Steve B. seconded. Motion passes. Emily will coordinate to get the flower ordered.

j. Is Yard of the Month still happening? We can ask John Bowen for the person in charge of the program. Emily will help communicate Sidney's contact info.

Meeting Adjourned.