

Westwood Civic Association  
July General Meeting Minutes  
July 21, 2020  
Location: [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)

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

Excused Absences: Karen Strasser, Alexa Justice, April Stephens

1. Meeting Recording Consent
2. Call to order
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes – Steve B motioned to approve the June General Minutes, Larry seconded. Motion passes.
6. Police and Fire – Thomas shared updates from the fire department – Masks required in public. There is an uptick in COVID cases, hospitalizations, and ICU admissions. If having trouble breathing, call 911. Tell dispatch you may have COVID. Fire inspections are suspended temporarily. There is a record number of runs per day because of COVID. Firehouse 35 is in the top 17 busiest in the country.
7. Lee and Associates Presentation, Mercy Site – Jose Castrejon and George Flynn – Interest in developing a portion of the Mercy hospital site. They want to share their plans with the community. Recreational improvements include a recreation facility as a possibility. Attached residential homes, dog park, walking trail, community garden. Commercially, they'd like to place retail on the corner and a parking lot for the medical office building. Concept is a public/private partnership. CRC would need to be involved. Concerns about maintenance of park. Question about the retail space listed as gas station, drive through, etc. Question about residential housing. They would be done in a condensed mode and attached, probably with an HOA. The size is about 1.5 acres. Comment that there are already gas stations in this area of the street. George and Jose could come back to the next general meeting for more discussion. Question about affordable housing options. Currently, this is a placeholder for the plan. Nothing is decided for now.

8. City of Cincinnati Census – Chandra – Greater Cincinnati Counts – an effort by the Mayor and Commissioner Driehaus to encourage participation. Committee has about 200 organizations throughout the county. Everyone should have received the census form in the mail by May 2020. The census is important - in 2010, the census reporting rate was about 70% in Cincinnati. Federal spending is decided based on census, so there is a lot at stake. Data informs funding for hospitals, transportation, resources for PPE in a pandemic, economic investments, Westwood – 55% response so far. Beginning August 11, there will be door-to-door visits. The deadline for the census has been pushed back due to the pandemic. The week of August 17, there will be a rapid response blitz with two pieces of mail, digital ads, robocalls, staff kiosks in the neighborhood to remind people to register. Neighborhood groups can help by getting posters up into the business district, yard signs, consider other initiatives. Website [www.greatercincycounts.com](http://www.greatercincycounts.com). Larry is willing to be a liaison for the community. Emily will post it to Facebook.

8. Membership and Outreach – By-Law Revisions - Larry shared information about proposed changes to the by-laws in regards to voting, with adding an online voting option for new members. The vote would take place two months after the proposed changes (September meeting). By-law proposed changes would be shared on Westwords. Other changes include when new board members take office. Larry will also add wording about who decides which online voting platform is used. We have not had a true election in several years, and this may allow us to have an election with a lower cost. Question about logistics for having members vote. Vote would take place over Zoom, but there is a concern that there is not enough participation on Zoom. We could ask for input from the membership through Westwords prior to the vote. Thomas suggests we consider a vote in person safely distanced, as well as over zoom. Larry will make proposed changes and send them out to the board. Then the vote will take place in September.

9. CRC announcements – none, Town Hall is still distributing food to the community, and they passed out activity packs yesterday.

10. School enhancements – Scott sent info to Tommy about community representatives on the LSDMCs at the 5 local schools. Scott will also serve on an LSDMC for Gamble Elementary. He also connected with the Resource Coordinators for the schools.

11. Public safety – Shawntee – no updates, hoping in August or September to get a business association meeting and WUTSTV meeting as well.

12. Finance – Steve shared the financial statement. NSP meeting needs to be spent by October. We need to make sure all of the money is spent where allocated.

a. 250 dollar donation! From the Argus Club to help with expenses. **Thomas motioned to send them a thank you. Steve B seconded. Motion passes.**

13. Hanna Avenue Cell Tower update – Thomas has not heard back from any of the four people with the city. John has not heard anything from his contacts. Thomas will follow up.

14. Town Hall Upkeep – Larry – Henry did not connect with the rep from the city yet. Larry will follow up with him. John Kerr mentioned the landscaping beds look pretty bad. Marie Jones reported that Karen Strasser is working to gather volunteers. Mary Fichter is interested in helping too. Anne will communicate with the group about updates.

15. Jubilee Market Sale – Abe – no updates, Abe has heard that there are a couple of restaurants interested in buying it. The grass is overgrown.

16. Draft Anti-Racism Statement – WCA is working on a statement from the board, and Emily sent out a statement. The board will review and discuss in August.

17. Gamble Estate Sale – Thomas shared that the Gamble Estate was put up for RFP, and submissions are due August 1. Thomas spoke briefly with Green Acres, but did not share any specific information from the community. WCA does not need to make a statement. Thomas will share updates as he gets them. He will also reach out to Green Acres with the statement from the Steering meeting.

18. Bylaw Revision for Online Elections – See #8

19. Civic Quartermaster Inventory – tabled

20. Other Business

a. Shawntee – letter from Rick and Frank about parking in the business district about Ivory House asking that WCA to support the same parking restrictions on the westbound side as they are on the eastbound side for parking and to reduce vehicle speed. **Emily motions that WCA supports the request by Ivory House for changing the parking restrictions. Steve B. seconded. This is supported by CPD. Motion passes.**

Meeting adjourned.

### **Announcements:**

**Westwood Civic** meets every third Tuesday of the month 7p, currently online only. Tell your neighbor about our efforts in the community!

