

Westwood Civic Association  
July 2020 Steering Meeting Minutes  
July 14, 2020

Attendance: Thomas Sauter, Sara Overstake, Alexa Justice, Emily Miller Reynolds, April Stephens, Larry Eiser, Shawntee Stallworth Schramm, John Kerr, Stephen Schramm

1. Police and Fire: From the June minutes: “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.” Does someone from the board want to reach out to try to get police and fire on the zoom call? April offered to call the fire department and Shawntee will email Officer Minella and Sergeant Hicks.

2. Town hall grounds – Larry discussed this with Henry, and Henry is working on making contact with the city regarding the upkeep of the grounds. Larry Parker is willing to dump mulch if people from the community will spread it, but this is not consistent with park grounds in other parts of the city. It appears there is an inequity between the east side and the west side of Cincinnati. Henry will give an update once he gets in touch with the city.

3. Letter on Cell Phone Tower – Tom, reached out to Charles Graves, legal, city planning, and Landsman. Will hopefully have an update next week. Thank you to John for writing the letter.

4. Bylaws Amendment / Elections – Larry – We have not had an election for the past 3 or so years. There is a cost involved. Some other community councils do in-person elections instead of mail-in. Could we incorporate voting online? It needs to be a secure format to ensure integrity of the voting. Alexa found electionbuddy.com. In order to change the by-laws, we have to share the wording a month in advance, have 5 board members in favor of the change, and bring it to the general meeting for a vote. There is a 2 month time period before a vote, there needs to be 2/3 vote of the members present. The changes proposed would take out the wording around mailing in votes. Larry will send out the proposed changes. There should be wording about who is choosing the online platform. Suggestion about keeping the observer role to keep integrity of the election. Larry will make revisions based on the conversation tonight and share it with the board. We will present it at the August general meeting for a vote in October.

5. Gamble House – Tom – There is an RFP for the Gamble Estate. There is a coalition group of people trying to get a firm community position on the future of the property. We as a board may want to decide to put some support behind this group. They want to make sure the property benefits Westwood in a positive way. It seems the Greenacres Foundation is interested in preserving the land. The RFP is due very soon. Suggestion to send a letter directly to the Greenacres Foundation from WCA. It is zoned for single family housing. There may need to be a variance to have it used for another purpose. Emily will start a new email with the board to have some discussion about this topic before the general meeting. **Emily motioned that Tommy contact Carter/Green Acres to express WCA's desire to see the Gamble property remain a positive asset — such as educational, conservation, or housing that**

**preserves the essence of the property. If possible, we'd love to see the existing structures retained. Larry seconded. Motion passes with one abstention.**

6. Board Book - Not edited since 2016- Emily – Important for all board members to read. All are encouraged to edit it as well. Emily sent the link for the google doc in an email.

7. Statement Supporting Black Lives Matter – Alexa – The outreach committee had a discussion about racism in our world and in Westwood. Alexa began putting together a statement for the board with the goal of having actionable items for what we can do better. We could collaborate with One Westwood in the future. Before a vote from the board, we are looking for more input from others. Sara shared an update on One Westwood initiatives. Alexa and Emily can share what they've put together and we can all contribute before the August general meeting.

8. Redevelopment Plan, Lee and Associates – WestCURC received a presentation from Lee and Associates with a mock-up of development on the Mercy Hospital site. They would like to attend our next meeting to get community feedback on the plan. It would be great for the board to get copies of plans before the meeting next week. Tom will request that before the meeting.

9. Flags to post in Westwood – We have flags and brackets that are in storage and should be up. We would need to talk to the city about putting up flags. There is a sidewalk project that may delay getting these up.

10. Civic Quartermaster - Alexa is taking an inventory of items that belong to WCA.

11. Yard of the Month – Sydney is handling these, and you can contact her about it. We could put information in Westwords about who is receiving the signs and asking for nominations. Her email is [report2mom@aol.com](mailto:report2mom@aol.com).

Emily motioned to adjourn. Larry seconded.