

Westwood Civic Association
August General Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2020
Zoom meeting

Attendance: Abe Brandyberry (chairing the meeting), Larry Eiser, Sara Overstake, Emily Miller Reynolds, John Kerr, April Stephens, Steven Schramm, Shawntee Stallworth Schramm, Anne Murphy, Alexa Justice, Karen Strasser

Excused Absences: Thomas Sauter, Steve Beckman, Andrea Boettcher, Scott LeCates

- 1.) Meeting recording consent - granted
- 2.) Call to order
- 3.) Roll Call
- 4.) Approval of agenda – Add conversation about courthouse and letter about purchase of funeral home to agenda. Larry motions to accept the agenda, Emily seconds, motion passes.
- 5.) Approval of minutes – July steering and general – John Kerr motions to approve, Larry seconds, motion passes.
- 6.) Police and Fire – Sgt Hicks, still looking at increases in violent crimes, specifically robberies. In the last 28 days, there have been some decreases in crime. Question about the shootings in the past week or so. In the past 40 days, Westwood felonious assaults has plateaued. Still working on shotspotter system. Question: Is there a statistic sheet available online? The police will send out a link to the database with that info. We can put that link on our website. No representative from fire. April spoke with the fire department and there are no updates since last month.
- 7.) Judge Beridon – concerns about coming down to the courthouse when there are trials for the community to observe or serve as a witness. They accommodate by doing temperature checks, wearing masks, having hand sanitizer, and people are spaced out in the courtroom with plexiglass dividers as well. He is an advocate of jury trials, and those are being set back up. If chosen for jury duty, there are many accommodations to ensure safety. No one should be afraid to come down to the courthouse.
- 8.) Newsletter editor – Emily – Trinette is looking to hand over this responsibility to someone else. Is anyone looking to volunteer? Anne Murphy is willing to give it a try. Thank you, Anne!
- 9.) Westwood Flags at Second Saturday – Emily – Need volunteers to sell Westwood flags at the next Second Saturday event on September 12 – April is willing to help. Thank you, April!
- 10.) Presentation from the City re: Townhall maintenance – Larry Eiser and Larry Parker – Park department is affected by current circumstances. Began the summer operating at 40% of staff. They are not satisfied with the grounds at Town Hall, and Larry P. put some things in place to get it up to speed – landscaping and mulching. Some shrubs were stolen from the landscaping and some did not make it and need to be replaced. More staff will be on board to help tackle the issues at Town Hall. Larry Eiser discussed the discrepancy between East side and West side. Kudos to those who stepped up to help with weeding of the gardens – thank you for all the hard work (too many to name).

Thank you to Larry as well for helping create an outdoor seating space on Town Hall Grounds as well. Larry's email address is Larry.Parker@cincinnati-oh.gov.

11.) Shawntee – Greg Hand needs a letter for CURC to support NBDIP funding for the funeral home next to Ruehlman. The parking lot is used for customers at the brewery and Muse and others. They would like a letter to apply for the NBDIP funding. We do not have information on what they are asking for the building. **Emily motions to support WestCURC's application for the funding to acquire the building with a letter (written by Larry Eiser). John seconded. Motion passes.**

12.) Updates on Gamble property – Emily found info about an RFP from Cardinal Conservancy (proposal to conserve the greenspace and buildings). Shawntee will send an email to Joe Corso to possibly get more information.

13.) Updates on Jubilee building – question from Ty Gray. Abe is aware that it is going back to the city of Cincinnati. The city may begin taking applications through a RFP process. Question about who is responsible for cleaning up the property. Abe will contact Jessica at the city about this. It may help to report it on the Fix It Cincy app. Regarding the Save-A-Lot, Abe spoke with some of the construction employees about a clinic that is going into that space leaving a small area for a grocery in the distant future. Abe reached out to Denise Driehaus about this situation leaving a food desert. Abe will try to get volunteers to take care of the high grass and overgrowth at Jubilee. Shawntee asked about getting a farmers market to the area.

14.) Complete Count Committee – Larry – census deadline is sooner than the original plan. Larry will talk to Jessica at the city and share information.

15.) Bylaw Change Vote next Month, September – Larry – the bylaw change was posted in Westwords this month. This allows for online voting and in-person voting to cut down on costs and time with elections and/or votes. Voting would take place in the meeting as well as having some board members at Town Hall for in-person voting for the bylaw change.

16.) CRC Announcements – no rep

17.) School enhancements – no announcement

18.) Public safety – Shawntee – Westwood Uniting to Stop the Violence meeting set for August 25 at 7:00pm outside on Town Hall grounds. She is trying to connect with District 3 for this meeting. Karen will help support attendance for this meeting.

19.) Finance – NSP needs to be spent by October – Shawntee left a message for Dave Barrens with the city about the banners – we may need permits. If we have excess funding due to cancellations of events, could we use funding for contractors to take care of grounds in Westwood? Suggestion that before the next meeting we get a list of what has been spent and what will be left over. We could ask Steve Beckman for that information in the next week or so. The multi-cultural fest will not be happening this year, but they are looking at needing school supplies to give out.

20.) Draft Anti-Racism Statement (board to revisit this month) – Alexa/All – There is a google doc that has been updated by members of the board. We need to decide who our audience is. Alexa will send the link out to the board for review. There will be a call to discuss next week, and Alexa will send out the zoom info for that.

21.) Other business

a.) John Kerr – in the minutes from the last meeting, there were two items about letters to be written. Sara will follow up with Tommy to make sure the letters were written.

b.) Cell tower on Hanna – any updates from Tom Sauter?

c.) Walgreens closing – There was a post on Facebook directed to Civic and CURC about it asking if we will influence what goes into the space. They are closing August 31. We will try to find out who to contact about a replacement business in its place.

Meeting adjourned.