

Westwood Civic Association
September 15th, 2020 General Meeting
Minutes

Location: www.zoom.com

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

1. Recording consent
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda - Steve motioned to approve, Emily seconded. Motion approved.
4. Approval of minutes – Larry motioned to approve August minutes, Steve B seconded. Motion approved.
5. Police and Fire – Sergeant Hicks – crime analysis is available on the city’s website. Crime numbers this month are better. They are seeing a decline from previous months. No questions.
6. Discussion about voting on the by-law changes. We are not sure if we are prepared to have a secret vote through the zoom call without having a good system in place. Suggestion to use a google form for anonymous votes, but we need to verify memberships of people voting. We need to meet outside the meeting to iron out the details of the vote. Members on the committee to organize this will be Steve, Larry, Emily, Shawntee, Stephen, Sara, and Andrea. Do we need to propose the amendment again to vote in two months? Sara motioned that we propose changes to the by-laws that were proposed previously. Shawntee seconds. It should be put into Westwords again. We need to share the wording with the membership with everyone in the meeting now. Thomas shared the text of the new amendment in the chat on Zoom. Thomas screen-shared the proposed amendment. Motion passes.
7. WCA Statement on Racism – Board members put together a statement about racism and their role in making a difference. Alexa, Emily, and April read the statement to the group. Karen shared that she has some suggestions of questions for all of us to consider with this topic. We can distribute the document on Facebook, Westwords, and our website.

Westwood Works is putting together a project on this topic, and it will be good for WCA members to participate in that as well. There may be some duplication on a couple of the items listed on the initiatives. We also want to make sure that we are not indicting all previous board members for actions of the board. The purpose was to acknowledge the past, identify the issues at present, and have intentions for the future to hold ourselves accountable. This is broader than just the board, it is about the community. Sara motioned that the WCA endorses the statement about race with the proposed changes for clarity. Karen seconded the motion. Motion passes. Is this something that could change in the future? We should revisit it on a regular basis for changes. Motion passes.

8. Judge Nicole Sanders – Magistrate in juvenile court currently. Litigation work. Grew up in Madisonville, went to UC for undergrad and for her law degree. Has a lot of legal experience. She is a candidate for the drug court. With the current court system, she does not have tools to address the drug abuse she sees every day in court. She is proposing new, progressive ideas to addressing substance abuse that include a holistic approach, instead of just punitive. She plans to be transparent and accountable.
9. Trash Dump – Walgreens property – comment made on Facebook. This property was discussed at the last Westwood Coalition meeting. The owner is in Brooklyn, NY (Cigna). Question for the board about ideas to keep this from being a blighted property. There was a dumpster in the front of the building yesterday, so they could be cleaning out the property still. Larry drove through today, and it seems that this is part of tearing out the current business. It would be great to talk to the owners about possible uses for the building – whole foods grocery type of place. How do we influence that? Those companies need to be interested. Could we do a petition for what citizens want to see there? Larry is willing to reach out to them. Thomas is sending Larry the email with the name of the owner. Larry will talk to Greg Hand before having the conversation.
10. Vote on bylaw changes related to election process – pushed to November General Meeting

11. Finance – NSP Spending – We have \$4580 total, and we have spent \$600 for the art show. Someone needs to volunteer to take the lead on making sure this money gets spent. Discussion about each line item and where the money is spent. Larry is keeping track of what people are still planning to spend. Receipts need to be sent to Steve Beckman. Shawntee had an update on putting up flags, which involves permits and a process to complete. There will need to be money allocated to this. Could we use some funding to contract with someone to take care of landscaping around Westwood (neighborhood improvement)? Larry could get an estimate.
12. Vote on any proposed NSP changes - Steve B motions that funding is moved to neighborhood improvement with Larry taking responsibility of finding ways to use the remainder of the funding of \$1500 for neighborhood beautification. Shawntee seconds. Motion passes. We will be receiving more funding in 2021. The board is encouraged to propose project ideas for upcoming year.
13. Vote on proposed Westwood crosswalk priorities – Larry discussed this – crosswalks on Harrison Montclair, Epworth, Urwiler, and Hansford (which is actually in South Fairmount). Henry has a long list of proposed crosswalks.
14. CRC Announcements – N/A
15. School enhancements – LSDMC at Gamble Elementary met, and Scott went as a community rep. Teachers need card stock, AA and AAA batteries and basic family supplies. We could post this information in Westwords. Steve Beckman motions for us to spend \$300 on critical supplies from WCA general funds for Gamble Elementary. Alexa seconded. Motion passes. Alexa will make sure it gets in Westwords.
16. Public Safety – WUTSTV meeting next week. They had a great meeting with the girl scouts last month. They are looking for a leader for the McHenry/Harrison intersection.
17. Other business
 - a. John Kerr – most of construction is completed on Harrison, so when can the flower pots be moved back? There will be street trees planted in the dirt areas of the construction.

Meeting adjourned.