

Westwood Civic Association
February 16, 2021
General Meeting Minutes

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

1. Recording consent
2. Roll call
3. Approval of Agenda – Larry motions to accept the agenda, Steve B seconds, motion approved.
4. Approval of Minutes – Minutes approved
5. Police Report – Sergeant Hicks – Westwood 156 reported crimes year to date, 180 in 2020, continued reduction in crime year over year. Auto thefts are up in this area of town. 28 this year as opposed to 16 last year. Do not leave your car running unoccupied. Current crime trends – a few cell phone stores broken into, without many leads. Arrest made today with a suspect tied to nine robberies. Question about shooting today at Montana and Westwood Northern - no info yet. Comment on fundraiser event at PetSmart with the police and Citizens on Patrol. They collected a couple of truckloads of donations for the animal shelter. Question about people parking on sidewalk down the hill toward South Fairmount. They are giving citations for those. Concern about cars parked illegally at the corner of Harrison and Ratterman. Police have been unable to tow problem cars because they could not get rid of them through auctions due to the pandemic. Any of those concerns can be reported to Fix It Cincy.
6. Fire –April spoke to Lt Brink today about the meeting and he said he would join if they are not on a run. He joined the call, and shared info – 360 runs/month, with majority doing EMS runs, and this is the busiest in the city. Biggest tips are to remind people to take your time driving, watch for people walking in the street. Be careful with space heaters. Do not plug them into extension cords, and make sure they are UL listed with a shutoff if they tip over.
7. Update on DORA, Larry Eiser, Resident Q&A facilitated by City of Cincinnati. – Westwood would be the second DORA in the city if it works out. Larry has been investigating and gathering information, as well as visiting some DORA areas outside the city of Cincinnati. He has also spoken with many city council members and the mayor. He sees this as a good space because of the park space, additional restaurants, and DORA would basically extend what has currently been happening during the pandemic. Larry asked others about how it is going, and there are a lot of benefits. It can attract new businesses, attract more people, etc. Another benefit is having the control over the rules and regulations for this. Larry plans to talk to the churches in the area about it as

well. Sergeant Hicks spent some time looking into DORA with stats. They pulled Calls for Service data for 2020 while there has been leniency in the park area during COVID, and there are zero CFS during that time. He is hearing other places having almost no issues. For criminal purposes, it's better to have areas occupied with customers than empty. **Sara motions that WCA write a letter of support for Westwood becoming a DORA district in the city of Cincinnati. Emily seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

8. *Derek Bauman, Candidate for Cincinnati City Council, Vision Zero – He is passionate about pedestrian safety and transportation infrastructure. Total crashes are down, but severities are up. Harrison Avenue is a dangerous route often with high speeds and wrecks. There is an ongoing “road diet” project for Harrison Avenue. Vision Zero is to reduce pedestrian and bike accidents to zero. The Devou Good Foundation is a partner with this initiative. They provided some seed funding for bike/pedestrian lane in Price Hill, and he had a conversation with this foundation about Westwood. Derek also discussed raised crosswalks – first one was installed in Evanston near a school. This is something we could look at for Westwood. Question about involvement with rail connecting Cincinnati with other cities. They are looking for all federal funding for adding infrastructure between cities with additional Amtrak routes. Question about cleaning up Cincinnati. Focus on basic services to keep trash off streets, connecting with Sheriff McGuffey. His website is www.derekbauman.com for more info.
9. *K.A. Heard Jr. Cincinnati City Council Candidate for 2021 – Wants to build the city back, focus on great public safety, education, wants to grow as a city post-COVID. He wants communities to work together. Website is <https://stayheardcommittee.weebly.com/> for more information.
10. Upcoming Election – Candidate Introductions – 8 candidates running for two three year terms beginning in April. Their bios will be in Westwords. The online voting will open as soon as March Westwords is released and run through March 13. People can also vote in person during the meeting at the Muse tent. Anyone voting must be a WCA member and can register online. Two of the original candidates withdrew. Quick introductions:
 - a. Wendy Clark – resident of Westwood for 17 years. Raised a daughter in this community. She believes it is important for the community to be welcoming, diverse, and engaged. She has volunteered at community events and wants to be an active participant.
 - b. Katie Frazier – Moved to Westwood 2 years ago, bought her first home here because of the array of great neighborhood organizations. She became involved with Westwood Works and Westwood Civic. She is excited to be more involved and build more into the neighborhood she's chosen as home.

- c. Kelsey Harlow – not on the conference call, Alexa shared a statement from her - she cares about making this a community to live long-term.
 - d. Lindsey Huhn – moved to Westwood 6 years ago, but grew up in Westwood. Her family's business was located in Westwood. She was active with Westwood Uniting, Youth Council. Is active with Impact 100.
 - e. Nicholas Jackson – works for Great American Insurance. Bought first home in August. Lived all over the city, but chose Westwood because of the growth and community. He wants to give back to the community, and this is a good opportunity.
 - f. John Kerr – incumbent, not on the call, Larry shared that he has lived in Westwood for 5 years. Has served on properties infrastructure committee for WCA. He still wants to continue this involvement on the board. He wants to continue to serve on PIBS and in zoning for WCA.
 - g. Katie Query nee Striver – Moved to Westwood in 2019. Loves the diversity, history, and development happening in Westwood. They feel totally embraced by the community. She has been involved with non-profit organizations, including Girl Scouts – civic engagement program. She sits on other community committees. She loves event planning and being involved in activities.
 - h. Jon Thompson – Moved to Westwood in 2018, from North Carolina. Lived in New York and LA as well. His wife is from Cincinnati, so they moved here. He has a three year old and a baby on the way. He is happy to call this home. He worked in Marketing for most of his career. Currently works for an advertising agency out of Chicago called Ogilvie.
- 11. Civic Meeting Announcement Signs – Emily Lyn – Wanting to make 5-10 signs sharing when meetings are taking place virtually. **Sara motions to fund up to \$250 for signs about the upcoming meetings. Larry seconded. Motion passes unanimously.****
12. Liquor Permit Meeting April 13th, 9 am. – Letter from the city that every year there is a hearing for all liquor permits. If there is a particular liquor permit that is problematic, this is the opportunity to do that. We don't have to do anything as well.
13. Other business
- a. Larry shared that for DORA, there may be some financial needs that we could consider covering by the large donation coming from Otis Flinchpaugh, and consider having some type of memorial for him.
14. Motion to adjourn.

*WCA does not endorse candidates for office.