

Westwood Civic Association
General Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2021

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

Agenda

Recording consent

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda – Add Nicholson property to agenda, Emily motioned to approve agenda, Tom seconded. Motion passes

Approval of minutes – Steve B. motioned to approve the minutes from January steering meeting. Shawntee seconded. Motion passes.

Police and Fire – Sergeant Jacob Hicks – Last 28 days, Westwood is down in crime. Usually there is a spike in robberies in December, but numbers are down. Year end data – District 3 has a total crime reduction at 13%. The city as a whole has a 10% reduction in crime. Westwood 19% of the time when there is a “shots fired”, someone calls to report it. This is up from the national average of 14%. Sgt Hicks attributes the reduction in crime to the community partnerships. There will be abatements on many properties in Westwood and more cameras coming to the area. No reps from Cincinnati Fire. April is working to get info from them to report back.

NSP – Steve – Each of the 52 community councils gets the same funding. We have to spend the funding by the end of August. We are proposing to split the money between two broad categories: Neighborhood Beautification and Communication/Outreach. Steve shared his screen with the breakdown of the funding allocation. The total allocation is \$7987. Money can be switched easily within the categories. Suggestion to move money to cover costs to update the website. Steve suggested to assign each subcategory to a person who can champion each to ensure there is a plan to spend the money. Suggestion to add funding for a project with Westwood Works called Our Westwood, to create Westwood as a community of anti-racism. We could take \$500 from events and beautification to put toward this project. Karen mentioned that the Westwood Neighborhood Gardens should be included in beautification. There are many raised beds that need to be replaced. Comments about having storage space and funding

for the Westwood Town Hall grounds. Emily motioned to approve the NSP budget, John Kerr seconded. Motion passes. All Westwood residents on the call were asked to submit their name, address, and vote to the chat to vote on NSP funding for approval. Budget as approved:

Category 1: Neighborhood Beautification **\$ 2641**

- Adopt-a-pot plants & supplies **\$500**
- Electricity for Harrison & Boudinot Westwood sign **\$250**
- Beautification **\$1641**
 - Plants, cleanup, and beatification in Townhall Park, business district and other Westwood locations
 - Signage and flags
 - Litter pickup days
 - Community Gardens

Category 2: Communication / outreach **Total: \$5096**

- Campaign Monitor mailing list service **\$828**
- Web domain **\$228**
- PO Box **\$140**
- Flyers / Communication tools **\$500**
- Youth Council **\$500**
- Neighborhood Events **\$1250**
 - Past examples: Art Show, Deck the Hall, movie nights, Multi-Cultural Fest
- Neighborhood School Support **\$1550**
 - Backpack drive
 - Student awards
 - Teacher recognition / support
- Our Westwood anti-racism effort **\$500**
- Westwood Uniting to Stop Violence **\$100**

Nominating Committees – Larry – There will be an election in March. April Stephens, Steve Beckman, and Larry Eiser have six candidates. Bios will be included in Westwords. Their nominees are John Kerr, Katie Frazier, Wendy Clark, Lindsey Huhn, Bill Smith, and Jon Thompson. Alexa, Emily, and Abe are nominating John Kerr, Nicholas Jackson, Kelsey Harlow, Katie Query, and Colie Kumar. There are no nominations from the floor. Stephen Schramm investigated election software options and decided on Election Buddy, which has anonymous voting and registered voting. This is \$20 for up to 300 voters. This will also handle in-person voting. The meeting will be March 16, and the online voting will end March 13. Voting will begin March 5. Larry motions for approval of the voting timing of March 5-13 and the online platform or Election Buddy. Sara seconded. Question about how to check membership status. Members must renew membership before February in order to vote. Motion passes.

Nicholson properties – Wilbur Worthen has purchased properties on Nicholson with the plan to put in a 60 unit nursing home. Some neighbors are opposed to this happening. The zoning for that part of the neighborhood is single family-6. Wilbur Worthen came to the December unofficial meeting to discuss this, but no support was given by the board. This is the same street that has uneven pavement and issues because it is a private drive. We may want to invite neighbors and Wilbur to a future meeting to share info. No action taken at this time.

DORA – Larry – Larry is exploring this opportunity. More to come later.

Sale of 2859 Fischer Place – There is a proposed sale of this property (city) to Randall Walton (end of November). This may be a lot where an apartment was torn down. No action needs to be taken.

Other business?

- What is the status on our 501c3 application? Tom submitted an application to the IRS last year, but it was rejected. He has not followed up on it. Karen mentioned that there is a property to be donated to a 501c3. Emily shared that Westwood Works is a 501c3 and may be able to help with this donation.