

Westwood Civic Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2021

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

Excused absence: Karen Strasser, Andrea Boettcher

1. Recording consent
2. Roll call
3. Approval of Agenda – Emily motions to approve agenda, Larry seconds, motion passes
4. Approval of Minutes – Steve B motions to approve minutes, Alexa seconds, motion passes
5. Police Report – Sgt Hicks – crimes are down in the last 30 days. Year to date part one crimes are lowest in four years. Taking suggestions to continue to reduce numbers. Shot spotter is working well, but calls are down when shots are fired. People are encouraged to contact the police department when they hear shots fired. Also use CincyFixIt app for reporting pot holes, signs down, illegal parking, etc. Comment about how well a situation was handled by the police when there was a conflict at a group home.
6. Fire Report – Sean Smith – called to a run, but he will email stats.
7. Councilmember Mann – Chair of budget and finance committee – new budget begins July 1. Both police and fire departments show retirements ahead of projections and overtime is impacting budgets. It is a challenging time financially, but the approved stimulus package granted \$209M to the city for the next four years. There is a proposed charter amendment on the ballot that mandates the city of Cincinnati spend \$50M every year on affordable housing. He also addressed DORA at the Banks and the possibility in Westwood. He is also running for mayor.
8. Councilman Landsman – no rep
9. Gavi Begtrup – Mayoral Candidate – Running because he is a small business owner in Cincinnati and a public school parent. Wants a city that is a great place to raise families and have small businesses. Is a scientist by nature and wants systems in place. Has experience with policy writing. Learn more at [voteGAVI.com](http://voteGAVI.com).

10. Rodney Christian – east WW community council – goal is to talk about having a future movement together with Westwood and East Westwood. Comments about working together with One Westwood and collaborating with other organizations in the neighborhood. Additional note – two trustees from East Westwood on the Council ballot – Tierra Powell and Robert Moore.
11. Herman Najoli – Mayoral Candidate – no rep
12. Westwood Strategic Plan – Shawntee – Westwood strategic plan is from 2010, and is outdated. In the last year, there have been discussions in various groups about how to get it started. Shawntee is working with the Coalition to gather an advisory board to start this project and see it through. She is bringing this up today because there is Haile grant funding available (about \$5,000) from Westwood Works, but needs to be spent by April 30. They are working on the RFP to get a consultant for this process. There are also some other foundations to apply for funds. Civic should be a part of this process to review the candidates and creating the RFP. Comment about getting people from all parts of the neighborhood to be represented on this committee, ensuring diversity. Shawntee will share RFP with the board to read and give feedback. WCA needs to decide how much they are willing to put toward this project. There is still not a timeline on the funding from the donor. Question about having Westwood Works give grant money to WCA instead of paying a consultant by April 30 to buy some time. RFP needs to be put together by the end of the month. We could have a special session on April 1 or 2 to approve this item. WCA will vote on consultants at the April meeting. Volunteers requested – Larry is already involved, Steve Beckman volunteered, possibly Abe. Steve B motioned to commit funding to this project to hire a consultant to put together a new strategic plan, amount to be determined at a future date. John seconded. Tom, Alexa, Anne, and Scott opposed. Motion passes.
13. Rapid Run/Dunham public engagement project = Jeff Cramerding – Initiative is regarding five parcels of land where Price Hill and Westwood converge. Community was consulted during this process. Recommendations are shared that include signage, crosswalks and traffic-calming measures, link trails and parks together, etc. This plan does not have funding yet. The two community councils need to approve the plans before proceeding. Question about which councils will be consulted. West Price Hill will definitely be included as it is in their neighborhood. The more community buy in that these groups can get would be great. Question about safety considerations with policing (on bikes) with a project this large and suggestion of emergency

telephones. Safety was not brought up during the community input part of the process. There is room for input, so Jeff will take the input about safety back. Wade Johnson from Tristate Trails was involved. Jeff is hoping to take this to council once the community councils approve it. It may be good for the steering committee to discuss and approve. Jeff will send the draft for the board to review at the April steering meeting.

14. Outreach – Emily – Want board approval on sharing a flyer with info on the meetings. Westwood Hero award – up to 2 per year. Want to highlight people working hard on a regular basis. Want to have “neighbor of the month” recognition. This may need a budget of about \$10 per month. Emily motions to institute neighbor of the month with an award up to \$10 per month and share this info online through outreach committee. Abe seconded. Motion passes. When updating membership form online, Emily noticed there is a recurring fee option. Reminder that they are looking for more people on the outreach committee, meetings are the first Monday of the month, and let Emily know if anyone is interested.
15. Food Trucks – Larry Eiser – It is not legal to have a food truck on the most streets in Westwood. The mayor got involved in working with city departments to get an ordinance to allow a food truck for the brewery in the future. The problem is that it can be dangerous to enter or exit the street and parking lot next to the brewery. They came up with eight different locations to put the food truck, but many options were not good. How does the board feel about having a food truck in the front of the brewery? Larry discussed parking food trucks on Ruehlman with residents on that street, and people did not like that idea. One option is to eliminate parking on a portion of Harrison. Suggestion to put a “no left turn” sign. Provide feedback to Larry this week.
16. Plastic Bag Recycling Project – Katie Query – next meeting
17. Committee Reports – Tom Sauter – New board members incoming, and it is time to get the board reorganized. Sara announced that Karen is willing to take care of Wayne Brinkman awards with Sara. Emily motions to approve \$175 for Wayne Brinkmann awards. Larry seconded. Motion passes.
18. Election Results – First ever online and in-person elections. 47 ballots were cast. Results:
  - \*Wendy Clark - 34
  - \*Katie Frazier - 32
  - Kelsey Harlow - 17
  - Lindsey Huhn - 19
  - Nick Jackson - 24

\*John Kerr - 38  
\*Katie Query - 36  
\*Jon Thompson - 28  
= Winner

19. Other Business

- i. Abe – applying for Impact 100, trying to upgrade the Bracken Woods area. He is working on the application due Friday, and looking for a letter of support. Larry motions that WCA write a letter of support for this application by Cincinnati Urban Promise. Stephen S. seconded. Abe abstains. Motion passes.

20. Motion to adjourn – Emily, Steve seconded.