

Westwood Civic Association
General Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2021

Present: Abe Brandyberry, Katie Frazier, Nick Jackson, Alexa Justice, John Kerr, Scott LeCates, Anne Murphy, Thomas Sauter, April Stephens, Jon Thompson

Absent: Wendy Clark, Lindsey Huhn, Stephen Schramm, Shawntee Stallworth-Schramm, Karen Strasser

1. Recording Consent
2. Roll Call
3. Approve or Amend Agenda

Alexa motions to approve changes to agenda Alexa; seconded by Katie. Revised agenda approved.

4. Approval of meeting minutes

Clarify in minutes—Regarding Family Dollar liquor license request-WCA had already sent a letter of opposition; other license-no action taken

Update-Sauter reimbursement motion by Katie; seconded by Nick-approved

Alexa's request that WCA purchase folding table for WCA events. Nick motions that the WCA board expends the funds to purchase a folding table, seconded by Katie.

July meeting notes will be updated with additional notes above and sent for approval at September general meeting. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Police Report—Sgt. Hick

8.5% reduction in overall crime in Westwood from last month. Auto thefts still up/increasing, aggravated assaults up 16%. Asking for community to report any incidents witnessed.

CDP D3 worked with city and residents to respond to complaints and serve vacate order to 3127 Harrison Ave after multiple complaints from residents.

6. Fire Report

No representatives present

7. Ty Gray Recognition – Elizabeth Bartley

Elizabeth Bartley: 2020 Neighborhood Summit was not held due to COVID, but Community Awards were selected. Elizabeth Bartley is bringing the awards to community award winners.

Pastor Tyrone Gray of Westwood was selected Community Award Winner-Community Catalyst of the Year specifically for his work with One Westwood initiative which seeks to bridge racial divide in the community.

8. DORA Signage Request – Larry Eiser

DORA boundaries requires clear signage. Requesting funding to support 25 vinyl 'sidewalk tattoos' to mark DORA boundaries @ \$16 apiece and about \$16-\$17 to install. Estimated total cost of ~\$900. DORA area will encompass space between Wondercade to Ivory House along Harrison Avenue. Businesses will pay for signage in their own windows/property. Will support continued activation of Westwood business district.

A couple of residents have concerns about having a DORA district, request more transparency and notification to residents in neighborhood about proposed implementation of a DORA in Westwood. Tom Sauter proposes that a separate discussion or forum is held on DORA to allow for more information and community feedback.

Funding request will be postponed until further discussion and potential DORA approval.

9. NSP Critical Deadline – Alexa Justice (Treasurer)

NSP deadline for expenditures is the end of September. Designated funds remain in our NSP account that still need to be spent.

10. Treasurer's Report – Alexa Justice

Checking account balance includes NSP funds

Savings: ~\$58,000 due to generous bequest from Flinchpaugh estate.

**WESTWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 2021 TREASURER'S REPORT**

	Deposits	Payments	Balance
August 11, 2021 Checking Balance			\$14,889.22
Gardens		\$69.83	
Neighborhood Enhancement		\$203.38	
Flags	\$140.00		
Miscellaneous		\$173.43	
9/16/21 Checking Balance			\$14,582.58
Uncommitted Funds			\$3,550.22
Community Gardens Balance			\$2,540.02
Youth Council Balance			\$505.34
Committed / Unspent NSP Funds			\$7,987.00
SAVINGS			
8/11/2021 Balance			\$58,633.52
Interest			
9/16/2021 Balance			\$58,633.52

11. Communications Update – Nick Jackson

WCA will move to Google Workspace for WCA board member e-mail server and communications infrastructure.

The cost will be \$18-\$24/mo compared to ~\$30/mo currently paid but also fact

Planning to purchase communications equipment discussed at July meeting. There is also a team working with outreach committee to update WCA website.

Anne motions to approve funding to set up Google Workspace (\$initially \$12/mo + \$6.99/mo for one e-mail account); April seconds.

Motion approved.

12. PIBZ Update – John Kerr

No formal PIBZ meeting last month. Committee is working on updating blighted property list to communicate to city. Many properties on prior list have been improved.

There may be some zoning code changes affecting Westwood. John will attend public meeting on Friday or seek a transcript from the meeting to identify zoning issues.

Ty Gray-Bracken Woods and Gobel Ave. has persistent trash and litter problem. Many vacant and neglected buildings, and overgrown grass. Ty will communicate with PIBZ committee to make a plan to communicate with city and community to address needs.

13. Outreach Update – Katie Frazier

Committee aims to reach out to more residents, specifically renters to welcome them to be involved. They have targeted three apartment buildings along Montana for initial outreach and working with managers at those buildings.

Neighbor of the Month for August 2021 is Karen Pitz

14. Fundraising Update – Katie Frazier

Looking into planning a Halloween fundraiser event in Westwood.

15. Public Safety – Shawntee Stallworth-Schramm

WUTSTV has been meeting at 2420 Harrison Ave. (Cincinnati Urban Promise); continues to seek more neighbor involvement to help identify concerns and hot spots and strategize community-led solutions.

Next meeting is 8/31 @ 7 pm

16. Other Committees –Tom Sauter

Governance and Compliance committee meeting next week (Scott LeCates)

School committee has meeting scheduled (Scott LeCates & Sara Overstake)

17. Concerns about Nation traffic – Danell Wright

Danell Wright lives on Junietta Ave (24 yr resident). Many problems with parking, loitering, traffic, drunk drivers since Nation opened. Her primary concern is parking. Cars continually turn around in resident driveways and block driveways. She counted 50-70 times a weekend. She has tried repeatedly to discuss issue with Nation management and they've been unresponsive.

CPD has a dedicated parking enforcement group-Abe suggests calling parking enforcement specifically when;

Suggestion to have street parking designated for residents only.

Tom motions for WCA Board to investigate unlawful activities related to patronizing Nation; seconded by Nick.

Asking residents to provide documentation and evidence;

Amend motion to include investigation of new parking enforcement measures on Junietta. Seconded by Nick.

Motion passes.

WCA board will obtain contact information and communicate the concerned neighbors.

18. Candidates for Public Office

- a. Donte Johnson for Municipal Court Judge District 2

19. Other Business

Scott LeCates: Regarding WCA Resolution to support the 3 asks from the Devou Foundation discussed at July general meeting; WestCURC has read and provided edits to the resolution. Scott and John Kerr will send the revised, draft resolutions to the board for review and take a vote to approve it at the September general meeting.

Resolutions will be added to the September meeting minutes for the public record.

Scott LeCates: SORTA board (Metro) voted to eliminate extra routes that provide student transportation to CPS schools which many CPS students rely on.

Scott motions to form an ad hoc committee to address the elimination of SORTA Xtra routes by Metro; seconded by Tom Sauter.

(Minutes from the SORTA meeting are attached to the end of this document)

Motion passes.

Peasely Neighborhood Center-social justice organization in Over-the-Rhine has developed an equitable economic development rubric and online training opportunity that they are offering to community leaders and community council members on 9/1 6-7:30; encouraging WCA members to participate.

Update on WCA 501c3 status-IRS is sending a new EIN number that once issued will be establish WCA as a 501c3 non-profit.

Tom motions to adjourn; seconded by Nick. Meeting adjourned.

Westwood Civic SORTA/Metro EXTRA routes ad hoc Committee Meeting

Westwood Town Hall, August 31 2001 7PM

Westwood Civic Association Board Member Scott LeCates facilitated a discussion about the recent elimination of METRO special routes for grades 7-12 transportation to CPS schools. Two City Council Candidates, WCA Board Member April Stevens, and two CPS parents (including Mr. LeCates) attended.

Issues Identified:

- Low Metro Operator pay
- Low Crossing Guard pay
- Metro Operators shortage
- Metro Operators Union (ATU) in Contract dispute with SORTA Board: various issues related to inequity and poor working conditions for Operators
- No commitment to resolution timelines from City Council
- Long commute times for children
- CPS is not receiving full services according to the funds allocated to METRO
- Higher percentage of car rider child transports causing traffic issues
- Increase in auto accidents near Metro transfer areas
- Dangerous drop-off and pick up Metro route locations: overcrowding, dangerous street crossings, upcoming dark hours and winter weather conditions
- Disruption of traffic, pedestrian commuting, and access to businesses and churches due to crowding at the route transfer areas
- Lack of honest communication from SORTA Board, false statements
- Teachers and Parents reporting high percentage of first period tardiness

Relevant Points/Facts:

- Committee discussed key points from City Council discussion of routes issue; no timeline-oriented commitments linked to statements regarding implementation of increased police presence and infrastructure updates for Metro transfer areas
- The Cincinnati Federation of Teachers has produced research revealing a breach of contract between SORTA and CPS
- Failure to plan for any post-COVID closure/new school year regarding logistics, resources, labor relations, and finance allocation
- Key Question: Why are Operators turning down or walking away from Metro Operator jobs?

Conclusions derived from discussion:

- SORTA Board has not been challenged in the past and currently needs to be challenged per accountability to the community and fair labor standards
- Supporting the ATU drive for fair pay and working conditions is the key factor determining re-implementation of the EXTRA Metro school routes
- Equity is the root issue regarding the Operator shortage and routes disruption

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