

Westwood Civic Association
General Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2021

Present: Abe Brandyberry, Wendy Clark, Katie Frazier, Nick Jackson, Alexa Justice, John Kerr, Scott LeCates, Anne Murphy, Thomas Sauter, Stephen Schramm, Shawntee Stallworth-Schramm, April Stephens, Karen Strasser

Absent: Andrea Boettcher, Jon Thompson

Recording Consent

1. Roll call-
2. Additions and Approval of Agenda-motion Alexa, seconded by John K.
3. Approval of Minutes-motion to approve May general meeting minutes by April; seconded by Wendy. May minutes approved.
4. Police Report-PO Minella and Sgt. Hicks in attendance;
 - Discussion of recent shooting at McHenry and Cavanaugh. Darius Harris Jr, arrested and charged with 4 counts of felonious assault for incident that injured two children and two teens. Ongoing investigation.
 - 3 juveniles were recently arrested for breaking into Westwood School and Westwood Presbyterian Church.
 - Taking questions and comments from the audience.
5. Fire Report-no representatives in attendance
6. Westwood Student of the Year Awards

Wayne Brinkman Student of the Year Awards presented to students nominated by each Westwood school. The awards were presented previously to individual students due to COVID concerns. Three of the students were in attendance at today's meeting to be recognized publicly and receive their plaques.

7. NSP Funds-the deadline to spend NSP funds is the end of September.
Board members and committee members tasked with the responsibility of certain expenditures are advised that this is less time than we normally have to expend the funds.
8. DORA Update-Larry Eiser-DORA for Westwood is moving forward. The city manager is in favor of the proposal.
9. Westwood Hero Award-Presented to Frank Eversole and Rick Pouliot for their longstanding commitment and investment in the revitalization of Westwood, including over \$5 million invested into Westwood housing stock, and newly opened Ivory House restaurant.
10. Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services-Doug Nienaber in attendance to inform the community of the services they provide to residents of Hamilton County.
11. City Council Candidate –Galen Gordon--no show
12. WCA Committee Updates-
 - Emily Reynolds Outreach Committee. Requests board approval to request funding for stickers and \$5 gift card per award from Muse and other neighborhood businesses (up to \$100) for WW neighbor of the month, for the year. Tom Sauter motions to approve this request; seconded by Alexa. Motion approved.
 - Seeking volunteers to help with outreach to apartment residents in Westwood to inform them about WCA.
 - Neighbor of the Month for June is Lindsey Kraeling!
13. Treasurer's Report: Alexa Justice
 - Reporting on current WCA account balance is (~\$13,700) which includes recent deposit of NSP funds and gift from the estate of Otis Flinchpaugh. This balance also includes Westwood Community Garden's balance of ~\$2000, and Youth Council funds, ~\$500.
 - Request to reimburse Emily Reynolds for \$17.25 for frame purchased for Westwood Hero award. Motion approved.

- Fundraising Committee-Katie Frazier, chair of the fundraising committee is seeking more volunteers to help with fundraising committee and ideas for fundraising events and projects.
- Properties, Infrastructure, Beautification, and Zoning (PIBZ)- John Kerr-This group is organizing and planning their next committee meeting. John Kerr is also working with neighbors on Junietta regarding parking issues around Town Hall.
- Communications Committee-Nick Jackson. They are focused on making meetings and WCA more transparent and accessible, including streaming meetings to allow continued remote access; also improving e-mail communications among board members and among committees and with community.
- Westwood Uniting-meet the 4th Tuesday each month; have been meeting via zoom but may return to in-person meetings soon. Always looking for more community involvement. They will be starting a campaign to recruit more residents from the McHenry/Harrison corridor to become involved in this initiative and address public safety concerns in that area.

14. Response to recent shooting at McHenry and Cavanaugh-Abe Brandyberry and Rodney Christian. 4 people, including two young children were shot outside a corner store this past week. Abe and Rodney who both live and work in the area, and other members of the community will address city council at 2 pm Wednesday to push for more involvement from city leaders in this part of Westwood. They ask the community to join them in support and come together to connect and address violence in all parts of our neighborhood. Ongoing effort from the broader community is needed.

Tom motions, to schedule a meeting between WCA board and East Westwood Community Council; second by Stephen Schramm. Motion approved. Alexa and April will work on organizing meeting.

**Anne will look through prior minutes to see if the liquor license for the convenience store at site of shooting was recently renewed/discussed. It may have been up for approval recently. E-mail board with findings.

15. Liquor license application—The Family Dollar store on Harrison Ave. has applied for a liquor license again. They have applied in the past which has been opposed by the community and the police. Abe Brandyberry, representing Cincinnati Urban Promise is requesting a letter from WCA opposing the liquor license. Shawntee motions that the WCA sends a letter to the city opposing the Family Dollar liquor license for the location at 2435 Harrison Ave.; Seconded by Katie Frazier. Motion passes.
16. John Sess and John Ernst-Convention of States Initiative. These men are presenting to gain support for the Convention of States initiative to grant more power to states to make constitutional amendments and have fiscal and authority control. COS initiative is a grass roots initiative with a national website www.conventionofstates.com where individuals can petition Ohio legislators to support the COS resolution that will be before the state house. No discussion.
17. Other business-
 - Tom Sauter: Andrea Boetcher has resigned her board position for personal reasons. The board nominating committee will need to identify a nominee to replace her position on the board.
 - Sarah Overstake: The Gamble Nippert YMCA is hosting a Health Fair July 7 4-7. They will have COVID vaccines, testing, and other free events and information for the community.
18. Meeting adjourned.