

Westwood Civic Association
General Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2021

Present: Wendy Clark, Katie Frazier, Lindsey Huhn, Nick Jackson, John Kerr
Scott LeCates, Anne Murphy, Thomas Sauter, April Stephens, Karen Strasser
Jon Thompson

Absent: Abe Brandyberry, Stephen Schramm, Shawntee Stallworth-
Schramm, Alexa Justice

1. Recording Consent
2. Call to Order
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll call
5. Approval of Agenda-motion Nick motions to approve agenda; Tom
seconds. Minutes approved.
6. Police and Fire Report
 - No representatives from the Fire Dept. in attendance
 - Police: Officer Minella thanks everyone who participated in the
successful National Night Out event held at Westwood Town Hall
in September. Sgt. Hicks praises Westwood's Citizens on Patrol
as the best in the city and invites interested residents to get
involved. They meet every Thursday at District 3.
 - Ty Gray shares concerns about loiterers, litter, and other
problems near Shell station and neighboring abandoned building.
Issue will be discussed further with police outside of meeting.
7. Approval of Minutes-Katie motios to approve minutes as distributed;
seconded by Nick; Minutes approved.
8. Kurt Grossman introduction-not present
9. Petition for Speed Bumps on Epworth Ave.
 - Epworth resident Andy Folz has communicated with DOTE about
the process for requesting speed bumps on Epworth Ave.

between Montana Ave. and Werk Rd. He was informed that the city has some budget for this in the current budget. He has obtained signatures from more than 50% of the residents on this section of Epworth and requests a letter of support from the WCA to submit to the the DOTE along with the petition.

- Nick motions to request that the board write a letter of support for the speed bump request; Scott seconds; motion passes.

10. Metro Routes Meeting-Scott LeCates

- Meeting held in August to discuss changes to Metro bus routes particularly the elimination of Xtra Routes; meeting included several Westwood parents; several board members and others (see Scott's email notes on issue); Unsure how WCA Board should proceed at this time representing the city's largest neighborhood. Fair pay for drivers seems to be a major issue See meeting minutes (attached)

11. School enhancement committee-Scott LeCates-

- NSP funds used to purchase supplies for Westwood schools (including masks, sanitizers, and other classroom needs) and those supplies are in process of being distributed to schools in need

12. Governance Committee Update-Scott LeCates

- Peasley Neighborhood Center shared a rubric they developed to guide equitable development. Scott attended the training and discussion and shared the rubric with the WCA Board. Board will review and discuss how this may be utilized for evaluation of future development projects presented for board consideration
- Board expenditures. The steering committee discussed providing the board president and treasurer with the ability to spend up to \$25 without first seeking board approval in order to provide greater flexibility and expediency for minor/discretionary funds. Expenses would still be recorded and transparent as all expenses are. This change would require minor amendment to WCA bylaws. The

proposed change would be published and distributed to board members for consideration and vote. A 2/3 vote of members present is required for passage. If there was an objection to any reimbursement of minor expenses the reimbursement could be objected and denied.

13. NSP Updates-

- Most funds were expended before the NSP deadline. Looking forward it's advised that the WCA Board is more proactive and distribute the management NSP expenditures throughout the year
- NSP Review Board meetings held by the city need to be attended by several WCA Board members to learn more about the NSP process
- NSP Proposals for 2022 budget will be due soon-start planning for 2022 in coming months

14. Boudinot Ave. speed issues-Larry Eiser

- WCA identified 5 priority traffic concerns with DOTE in past year where signals and crosswalks are requested. The request also includes Boudinot without specific site locations. Larry and Greg Kissel are talking with SORTA, DOTE, and CPS schools to identify potential solutions for safer bus stops for students with the new routes implemented this year.

15. Treasurer's Report-Tom Sauter reporting on behalf of Alexa Justice

- Account balances reflect the spending and reconciliation of 2021 NSP funds.

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

	Deposits	Payments	Balance
10/1/21 Checking Balance			\$8,294.47
Gardens		\$547.06	
Beautification		\$133.14	
Outreach		\$150.00	
Membership	\$20.00		
Unused NSP		\$1,150.91	
10/31/21 Checking Balance			\$6,333.36
Uncommitted Funds			\$3,870.84
Community Gardens Balance			\$1,957.18
Youth Council Balance			\$505.34
SAVINGS			
10/1/21 Savings Balance			\$58,633.80
Interest	TBA		
10/31/21 Savings Balance			\$58,633.80

John motions to approve the treasurer's report; Nick seconds. Motion passes.

16. Membership and Outreach-Katie Frazier

- The Westwood Howl at the Hall fundraising event will be held 10/23 to benefit WCA and Westwood Works.
- There was no neighbor of the month nominated for October.

17. Properties, Infrastructure, Beautification, and Zoning (PIBZ)-John Kerr

- October will be last yard of the month until spring. Thanks to Terry Baily for managing Yard of the month.
- Asked DOTE to study alternatives options to alleviate traffic and parking concerns on Junietta Ave. related to Nation and Town Hall activity traffic.
- Discussion and consideration about drafting a formal letter on behalf of WCA that PIBZ committee could send to commercial properties that need a nudge to clean up or maintain properties

when there are litter and other blight issues. John has sent the draft letter to the board for review, discussion, and approval at next meeting.

- Kelly Hibbetts and John Kerr met with Kroger management regarding Ferguson Kroger conditions in store and parking lot. They have been cooperative and amenable are already working on a strategy for improvements.
- Barb Mattie-The empty lot behind smoke shop on Boudinot and Harrison has become a major dump site (3514 Boudinot Ave.). Shawntee suggests as many people as possible report the dumping on city's public services app (Fix It Cincy) or website 591600.com to get city's attention to remedy the issue.

18. Communications Update-Nick Jackson

- Communications equipment has been ordered for use by WCA board including a WCA laptop, microphone, camera, and stands to conduct accessible meetings
- Facebook streams have been very successful in expanding reach. Each meeting has 500-600 views.
- Nick is organizing a Google Workspace to facilitate WCA internal communications and document storage and document sharing;

19. Westwood Uniting to Stop the Violence-Shawntee Stallworth Schramm

- Meet every 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at Cincinnati Urban promise; always looking for more resident involvement
- Current concerns are the food desert at McHenry/Harrison following the closure of Sav-a-Lot; Deteriorating conditions and litter surrounding Shell station and abandoned properties (former Tax business), and the new Plasma Center in former Sav-a-Lot property
- Last meeting discussed Cavanaugh/McHenry market where shooting occurred several months ago; open drug activity at Iroll Ave. (East westwood) The Market owner has met with city and

D3 to discuss possible improvements to property to help alleviate problems.

- Calls for service. The Police request that residents report non-emergency issues to 765-1212. Even if police cannot respond in person, the data is helpful for police analytics and identifying hot spots and emerging problems.

20. Nominating Committees-Tom Sauter/Board

- Board elections take place in February 2022; In advance of the elections two separate nominating committees-president's committee and board committee to present candidates to fill vacant seats; Six board members are term-limited so there will be at least 6 open seats in 2022.
- Members' nominating committee can be comprised of board or non-board members-any resident can participate. Nick, Katie, and April will participate in nominating committees.
- Committees must be formed officially in November.

21. Other Business

- CRC Jincey Yemaya-The city planning dept. asked to have a meeting 11/17 from 7-8:30 as a community engagement event for Westside. More information will be upcoming. Jincey is looking to fill additional positions at CRC town hall. Teen activities are back in the building with events and activities for Westwood youth.
- Ellen McGrath and Kelly Hibbett are leading neighborhood clean-up from 8:30-11:30 am on 10/23; Meeting at Wal-Mart parking lot. Volunteers can still sign-up through the Keep Cincinnati Beautiful website.

22. John motions to adjourn John Kerr; seconded by Shawntee. Meeting adjourned.

Attachment: Minutes from 8/31/21 Westwood Civic SORTA/Metro EXTRA
routes ad hoc Committee Meeting

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