
Walnut Hills Business Association

Minutes

Minutes: January 15, 2009 - Walnut Hills Business Association Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree of Childress and Cunningham Inc., Architects

Attendance

Tim MacConnell, Co-Chair	Marcia Hartsock	Officer Paul Graves
Michael Settembrini	Jim King	Lt. Chris Matzen
Cindy Fischer	Winston Folkers	Kathy Atkinson
Tracy Flanagan	Tom Carroll	Michael Rountree
Laura Davis	Kam Misleh	

Meeting called to order by Tim MacConnell. Minutes from meeting on 12/18/08 approved, vote unrecorded.

Financial Report by Tim MacConnell, based on report emailed to members, was approved, Kathy Atkinson 1st Winston Folkers 2nd.

Committee Reports:

Safety – Officer Paul Graves

Crime stats handout was presented, showing information available online at rcc.org (follow links for Police Department). On list of offenses that can be compared, “other offense” refers to quality of life calls such as noise or loitering. The establishment at 756/758 E. MacMillan (Paw-Paw’s) was cited by the health department for serving food out of an unclean environment, as well as selling individual cigarettes. They will likely be out of business soon; the operating licenses are not in the operator’s name but in a woman’s name.

Laura reported a window broken in at the corner of Kemper and E. MacMillan. 2 arrests have been made regarding suspects that were in hiding, and a gun was recovered. They were wearing ski masks – even in cold weather, the ski masks seemed suspicious, and when they hold head down and hood up it also arouses suspicion.

Kathy mentioned increased activity at Ikes, selling liquor to underage patrons. She asked whether there might be some sort of points scale that determines when the police will object to a liquor license. We dropped our objection to license renewal 2 years ago based on an agreement to have an extra police detail from Thursday to Sunday, but this detail is not happening.

CNBDU – Jackie May, Kathy Atkinson

Next round of hearings regarding renewal of Invest-In-Neighborhoods contract was later that evening (1/15/09). Previous week, the City seemed to reverse itself and now favored renewal of the contract.

Promotions – Marcia Hartsock

Based on prior understanding that we had about \$400 remaining in CNBDU operating budget for promotional materials, Marcia went ahead and ordered an additional printing of WHBA brochure shells (blank inside), 1000 count. We later determined that the funding was transferred to another line item, so this amount was paid out of regular WHBA treasury.

Membership – Tracy Flanagan

There are 40 active members, with 1 new member, Haney Custom Framing (located at Kemper and Curtis). Marcia commented that there was a small alley with a bunch of spiffy design-oriented shops, all near Kreger Printing. Tracy reminded us that Officer Elections will be held in the fall, with slates to be submitted by October.

Other Matters:

A letter was received from Kroger, stating that they have renewed their lease for 2 years, but still need to see evidence of profitability in order to extend beyond that. Tim stated that, in his opinion, the personnel at the WH store are more friendly than in Hyde Park. The major factors affecting profitability are sales volume and theft. There are points of entry at the trash chute and loading dock which must be monitored. Sales are

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hindered by the perception that there is a “gauntlet” one must walk, past panhandlers and others, in order to get in.

Winston clarified that Kroger has renewed the land lease for 5 years; the 2-year lease is for the building, which is with another entity. Laura asked if the site can be redeveloped if they leave after 2 years; Winston said that it would be up to Kroger.

Winston asked about the streetscape project; it remains on hold due to the City. This project needs an advocate.

Tim spoke about the Fiber-Optic Coop – NeighborhoodWorks.net. continues to meet. The fiber is not lit yet, there is a missing electrical connection at 660 Lincoln, for which there is a bid of about \$2,000. They will try to get a better bid, then get it lit by next month. They will focus on the free wireless access for residents in 2009. There are 8 individuals who are completing computer training and will receive computers; this program will expand after this “beta test” is finished. Jim King pointed out that the Ebi Tech Center has some unused computers available.

The proposed MLK/I-71 interchange was discussed. Roxanne Qualls and Chris Bortz are in favor of it, and they are steps 5,6, and 7 of the process. After about 24 months, the final decision on location will have been made. Probably towards the end of 2009, there will be public hearings about location options. Marcia said that we should make it a point to go on record regarding signage that directs traffic toward UC and thus bypasses WH. We need signs for access to Gilbert Avenue going north, from a southbound exit from I-71; this should be part of the process, both in writing and voiced in public forum. 2-way streets are a connected issue. Kathy also said that she would get information on the PR firm that is handling Community Engagement; Marcia suggested inviting them to our meeting. Jim King asked whether WHBA has established a committee to follow through on this; Kathy said that a joint WHBA/WHAC Traffic Committee makes sense. Other groups and interested, like the hospitals, are spending a lot of money to make sure they get what they want. Tim said that he is willing to serve on this committee, and Kam said that he might be available depending on the meeting schedule.

Meeting adjourned.