
Walnut Hills Business Association

Minutes

Minutes: March 19, 2009 - Walnut Hills Business Association Meeting

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

Attendance

Tim MacConnell, Co-Chair	Marcia Hartsock	Kathy Atkinson
Michael Rountree	Jan Cameron	Officer Wiley Ross
Tracy Flanagan	Marion Haynes	Lt. Chris Matzen
Michael Settembrini	John Haney	Kam Misleh
Yolanda Smith	Fred Orth	

Meeting called to order by Tim MacConnell. Minutes from meeting on 02/19/09 approved, Marcia Hartsock 1st, Jan Cameron 2nd.

Financial Report by Tim MacConnell, based on handout presented and previously emailed to members, was approved, Marcia Hartsock 1st, Tracy Flanagan 2nd. Michael Rountree received clarification that February outlays (\$262.24) were expenses related to the police substation.

Committee Reports:

Safety – Officer Wiley Ross

Crime stats handout was presented; WH had 500 calls for service within a 28-day period. Paw-Paw's, at 756 E. MacMillan, has been found to have minor building code and health violations, but they are not significant enough to shut the place down; it will not be a CERT project. At 951 E. MacMillan, a vendor selling burgers and hot dogs on the sidewalk was shut down, for lack of a food service license. Police believe that there is a secret after-hours bar operating here.

There were multiple car break-ins on the Melrose YMCA lot; police were able to talk to staff and get video surveillance; there were also some computers stolen from the facility. Warrants are out on Ronnie Crawford; members noted that we have tried to have him instituted before. Jan said that there are three prostitutes out again, near Park & MacMillan, and Kathy mentioned the bus stop at Lincoln and Melrose.

Lt. Matzen said that Popeye's has been robbed twice recently, and that there is an increase in robberies all around District 4, including the Dunkin Donuts / Baskin Robbins on MLK, a Paddock Hills gas station, and the Avondale Burger King. He encouraged business owners to do your best to get a good description, and call the police right away. Lack of jail space is still a problem, and the police are focusing on problem-solving, not just arresting.

Kam asked about the signs one should look for, and when to determine to make the call. They might appear to be ready to place an order, and in the colder months it isn't odd to see them wearing jackets and even hoods. Lt. Matzen said to trust your instincts, and err on the safe side.

Kam commented that he would like to see something done about Ronnie Crawford, as he seems to do anything he can to disrupt business. Kam claimed to have witnessed him once beat himself up in order to later claim police brutality. Kathy said that we should find out who his case management group is and have direct conversations with them.

Tim presented a handout of an invitation he received to attend a police "Cross-Communication Meeting" for Districts 1, 4, & 5. This was to be held on March 30, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Membership – Tracy Flanagan

Tracy has been contacting past-due members to get current with dues, and got membership forms to Yolanda Smith and MacDonald's.

CNBDU – Kathy Atkinson

The annual operating budget available has been changed to \$8,000 for 2009, and there are new directions from the City that require sign off from the community council (WHAC) for the budget, rather than from WHBA. We would have to advertise 3 weeks in advance of a public forum, at which the council would vote. The

council would sign the contract with the City, and we are not allowed to bill against these operating dollars until contract is signed.

There will be an open forum at Invest In Neighborhoods, but Kathy doubts that there will be any change; this is the way it will be done this year. Some of the CNBDU personnel are now seated on the IIN board, and IIN does still control an endowment to award for special projects, though they are out of the loop for City projects. Kathy hopes to get clarification on council versus business district signoff for operating dollars.

Promotions – No Report

Other Matters:

The proposed I-71 interchange was brought up at a recent meeting with Roxanne Qualls, and Jeff Razer spoke about 2-way street(s) in WH, especially MacMillan. Roxanne Qualls said that decisions will be made in the “next few months”, but Kathy said that she is mistaken about the timetable. Now is the right time to weigh in on the issue, though only through the WHAC for now; we should send letters to every City Councilperson. Trans Systems has been selected as Engineer; what will be decided in the next 24 months or so is which of 6 options will be pursued. These options are available for review as the MLK Corridor Study on the OKI website. Marcia said that it isn’t just which option to pick, but related issues like signage and 2-way streets, that we need to commit to writing what we want out of this, and get it to decision makers. Kam commented that rather than pursue 2-way streets as a tangent to the I-71 interchange, we need to insist on it happening beforehand; he fears it simply won’t happen if we wait.

Kathy mentioned that the Form-Based Codes initiative will include discussions about transportation, and the \$10,000 that the WHAC and WHBA together have provided gives us a say. Development of the Form-Based Code overlay will be a process of 18 to 24 months, concurrent with the I-71 process, and will be an open engagement process. It will require our active involvement but has not started yet.

The Great American Cleanup is coming up, on April 25th. The Bush Rec Center has led this effort in the past, and Ken Cook from Bush will be the coordinator this year as well. It will run from 9 AM to noon on Saturday the 25th.

Kathy received a letter from the Douglass School, asking for support for up to 40 7th and 8th grade students to take a 3-day trip to Orlando, Florida and the Disney parks. The purpose is to provide an opportunity to kids who are never able to get outside the City to enjoy themselves, and possibly to serve as motivation for kids to perform better on standardized tests. Motion to sponsor one student for \$300 was approved, Marcia Hartsock 1st, Jan Cameron 2nd.

Meeting adjourned.