
Walnut Hills Business Association

Minutes

Minutes: June 18, 2009 - Walnut Hills Business Association Meeting

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

Attendance

Tim MacConnell, Co-Chair	Tracy Flanagan	Cindy Fischer
Michael Rountree	Marion Haynes	Jan Cameron
Michael Settembrini	Officer Wiley Ross	Donna Wolf
Laura Davis	Ken Furrier	Lt. Chris Matzen
Fred Orth	Winston Folkers	Kathy Atkinson

Meeting called to order by Tim MacConnell, with introductions. Minutes from meeting on 05/21/09 approved, Tracy Flanagan 1st, Laura Davis 2nd.

Financial Report by Steve Shipp was emailed to members earlier in the week and presented as handout by Tim, without comments. Motion to accept financial report was approved, Laura Davis 1st, Tracy Flanagan 2nd.

Committee Reports:

Safety – Officer Wiley Ross

Crime stats were handed out to members. There was a break-in at the Dollar & More store on near Reading/McGregor, and the 4 suspects were caught, 3 of them juvenile. In Dist. 3 there are some buildings to be razed, near Wayne St. and Helen Glasmeyer; public hearings will be held. Kathy stated that typically the Area Council gets advance notice of these hearings but has had none yet.

In the 900 block of E. McMillan there have been some recent arrests, and sidewalk table vendors operating without a permit have been shut down. Laura asked about the recent shootings at the Marathon station, and Officer Ross and Lt. Matzen clarified that one incident was a man obsessed with an ex-girlfriend, who already had outstanding warrants for abduction. The police have talked to Marathon owners regarding lighting and other measures, such as cameras.

In an incident at Oak & Stanton, suspect carrying an AK-47 was caught and gun taken, but no charges stuck. His name is Travis and he seems to have a vendetta against someone who goes by the name “Tattoo”. A body was recovered on Melrose Avenue, and the investigation is ongoing; her identity is known and she was a drug abuser. Tim asked whether the gun might be the same that was used to riddle his employee’s car last year; Lt. Matzen said they are still processing the evidence.

Lt. Matzen reported that Police Visibility Overtime (PVO) has been approved for WH and Avondale, deploying based on where activity is known to occur. If local business owners have property that can be used covertly by police, please let them know. Officer Ross said that 2 PVO officers were present to make the swift arrest at Oak/Stanton. Ken requested police presence during the Farmer’s Market that takes place on Tuesday afternoons at Parkside Café’s lot.

Planning / Development – No Report

CNBDU – Tim MacConnell, Kathy Atkinson

Cindy Fischer has volunteered to take over the role vacated by Jackie May, and will serve as our CNBDU rep alongside Steve Shipp. Kathy stated that it is time to submit the first draft of major and minor project funding requests. Her recommendation for a minor project is a Market Feasibility Study regarding the community’s food needs and the impact of potential closure of Kroger store in WH. Pre-applications are due immediately (by 4 PM 6/19/09) so she has pursued this option already, with 3 persons from UC available to lend planning resources. Estimated cost is \$17,000. Kathy stated that we are not in a position to make a large project request due to our inability to spend the money; it is best to only request funds that you know you can spend within a reasonable timeframe. The approval process will involve a bus tour of proposed projects in September, then final presentations and peer voting in October; we need to participate in all stages. Winston said that there have been studies in the past, and Kroger has renewed its land lease for 5 years, but the proposed study would be a good idea.

Members asked about “stimulus” money being directed towards the Streetscape program, which is shovel-ready but stalled in the City. Kathy said that the money is targeted to 10 neighborhoods the City identified, which do not include WH; Fred said that they added another 5 but still not WH. These neighborhoods were selected based on factors such as both crime and home foreclosures; there is less home ownership in WH so we don’t match that profile. Kathy stated that she hoped the Mayor’s Institute on Community Development (MICD) last year would develop into greater City commitment, but there has been no real response or presentation to the community out of the MICD report. Winston agreed to try to contact the mayor and request a public meeting regarding the MICD report.

Promotions – No Report

Other Matters:

A proposed revision of the WHAC Bylaws & Constitution was presented, which organizes the WHBA as a standing committee of WHAC. This version was edited by Dan Hendy, based on the version prepared by Michael Rountree and Kathy Atkinson. The goal of merging is to gain 501-c-3 status and access to certain funding sources, as well as to improve efficiency of both groups by combining some functions. A vote on acceptance of this draft will be taken at the July WHBA meeting. The membership dues structure has yet to be worked out, but it will be structured such that one does not join twice, as both resident and as business. Tracy asked about the new positions defined, whether they mean more spots to be filled; Michael Rountree replied that almost all positions are just translations of current officers and chairpersons.

Kathy said that WHAC is considering going to bimonthly General meetings with bimonthly Standing Committee meetings in between. Also, they intend to do more with electronic media in the future. If we approve the revised Constitution, then WHBA will need to discontinue its separate non-profit status, and refile the updated Constitution.

Walnut Hills Festival will be held on Sept. 12 from 11 to 6 PM. They have a website, www.walnutHillsFestival.com, and we can sign up for a booth if desired; WHAC will have a booth. PVO has been agreed to, which saves \$400. Based on lessons learned in previous years, there will be no license to serve beer.

Tracy received a call from Lincoln Crawford requesting our sponsorship for the upcoming Health Fair, which was to be held on June 20. In the past, we have contributed \$150, but for \$50 we can have an insert printed to go into their programs. Michael Settembrini stated that they contacted Kroger back in January, but Kathy said that they failed to contact WHAC on time, as well as Mercy Neighborhood Ministries. Fred asked whether it was worthwhile to spend \$50 on an insert. Motion to sponsor the Health Fair for \$50 was declined, Tracy Flanagan 1st, Ken Furrier 2nd.

Tim called attention to our Farmer’s Market, operating on Tuesdays from 4 to 7 PM. It is not certified organic but it is grown chemical-free, and content changes seasonally, with lost of variety. Kathy pointed out that Findlay Market now requires its farmers to be there on Tuesdays as well; the Tuesday schedule was initially selected due to Findlay being closed that day. We are not sure what effect this will have.

Fred reported that Neusole may not be permitted to buy the old Windsor School, for which it submitted the winning bid recently. Miller-Valentine had, prior to bidding, proposed low-income HUD housing but got not support from the neighborhood. They appear to be back at the table, though it is not certain that it is them. If Neusole loses this bid, they will have to leave WH, as they have grown. Winston said that the School Board was constrained and had to bid, but a possible workaround might have been to convey the property to the City and let the City negotiate as it wishes; however it appears that the City is not involved yet, it’s just a direct CPS sale. Motion to draft a letter of support, favoring completion of sale to Neusole, was approved, Fred Orth 1st, Winston Folkers 2nd. Kathy asked that we include a listing of WHBA member businesses in the letter.

Meeting adjourned.