
Walnut Hills Business Association

Minutes

Minutes: July 16, 2009 - Walnut Hills Business Association Meeting

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

Attendance

Tim MacConnell, Co-Chair	Michael Settembrini	Steve Shipp
Michael Rountree	Ken Furrier	Marcia Hartsock
Officer Wiley Ross	Jim King	Tracy Flanagan
Kathy Atkinson	Fred Orth	
Cindy Fischer	Lt. Chris Matzen	

Meeting called to order by Tim MacConnell. Minutes from meeting on 06/18/09 corrected to show a savings of \$4,000 for the WH Festival; minutes approved as amended, Ken Furrier 1st, Cindy Fischer 2nd.

Financial Report by Steve Shipp was emailed to members earlier in the week and presented as handout, without comments.

Committee Reports:

Safety – Officer Wiley Ross

Crime stats were handed out to members. From July 3rd, there was an incident in which 2 people were killed, and the suspects have been arrested and await trial. There was an attempted shoplifting at Kroger, and Norman Holmes was caught in the act by Michael Settembrini, but had not been arrested yet. There have been complaints from T-M-Cadillac regarding loitering or other activity near Chapel. A store owner at 751 E. McMillan discovered that local drug dealers had changed his store locks and then left him a key; he changed those locks again himself.

Marcia said that there was confusing reporting in the paper, regarding the 2 persons killed. Officer Ross stated that it happened at 1202 Lincoln, near MLK. There was discussion about the large apartment building nearby; one can often hear loud music from a block away, and people have gone to the building owner but he hasn't done much. Officer Ross said that there may be some valid concerns about that building.

Tim stated that he still hears random gunfire near Oak and Stanton occasionally. Officer Ross said that the nearby building seems abandoned, and he is trying to get it shut down; its condition is deteriorating and bills are going unpaid. Steve said that he is still trying to get control of the blue building near HGC, waiting for it to come up on the Sheriff's Sale.

Planning / Development – Jim King

The WHRF requested a letter of support for the Firehouse Row project, addressed to Michael Cervay at the City. This project reallocates some NRSA funds to acquire, demolish, and/or renovate certain properties on McMillan between Gilbert and Concord. The WHRF already has control of 3 buildings, including the Firehouse, but awaits an appraisal before making offers on remaining properties. There will be some money budgeted for maintenance and taxes after renovations take place. Motion to draft letter of support was approved, Steve Shipp 1st, Marcia Hartsock 2nd.

CNBDU – Kathy Atkinson

The request for minor project funding, which was to be for a Market Study on grocery store impact in the area, was not submitted in time and is thus denied. This study was projected to cost approx. \$17,000. Kathy said that the \$10,000 which WHAC and WHBA together fronted to participate in Form-Based Code discussions, will not be needed in 2009 after all, and thus these funds could be diverted to pay for a reduced-scope marketing study. Michael Settembrini asked whether we would have to provide the \$10k again next year, if we use up this year's funds, and was answered that we will have to. Motion to redirect the WHBA funds originally set aside for Form-Based Codes towards a Market Study to be funded jointly with WHAC was approved, Steve Shipp 1st, Tracy Flanagan 2nd.

Cindy Fischer recently attended her first meeting as CNBDU rep.

Promotions – No Report

Other Matters:

Walnut Hills Festival is scheduled for Sept. 12 from 11 to 6 PM. In the past few weeks, all Police Visibility Overtime (PVO) funding has been eliminated from the City. If the planning committee does not get money in their account by Aug. 1, to cover the cost of security, then the event might have to be canceled. Street closure would be only on Saturday, and Special Events are entitled to request one officer from each of 4 other districts, to give 5 assigned officers. Lt. Matzen said that he would discuss with the Captain whether to use regular on-duty officers from Dist. 4, or else make a Special Events request.

Proposed WHAC Bylaws / Constitution were not voted on, as there are still some details to clarify.

The letter drafted by WHBA in favor of the completion of sale to Neusole of the former school building was helpful, and they did get the building.

Tim commented favorably on Ed Horgan's efforts to get planter pots planted and trash picked up in the area around his properties. Tracy said that it might be time to do another Walnut Awards ceremony, like the event a couple of years ago; the Promotions Committee can be assigned to look into doing this. Ongoing maintenance of planters and trash pickup is an issue that perhaps future NBD money can fund; Tim said that he has seen City trucks watering planters, but only some places are done by the Park Board.

Meeting adjourned.