
Walnut Hills Business Association

Minutes

Minutes: September 17, 2009 - Walnut Hills Business Association Meeting

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

Attendance

Tim MacConnell, Co-Chair
Michael Rountree
Marcia Hartsock
Kathy Atkinson
Jan Cameron

Michael Settembrini
Kam Misleh
Donna Wolf
Officer Wiley Ross
Sgt. Gil Thompson

Lt. Randy Webb
Melvin Williams
Cindy Fischer

Meeting called to order by Tim MacConnell. First order of business on the Agenda was to vote for or against the proposed WHAC By-Laws / Constitution, which establishes the WHBA as a standing committee of the WHAC. Members discussed whether this would require a name change, and pointed out that such would affect printed brochures and banners, etc. Members were reminded that the draft being voted on still refers to WHBA by its current name, and that we would vote in accordance with WHAC's vote to approve the draft as-is with the expectation that further changes will come as an amendment, when details of merger are worked out. Motion to approve the By-Laws as written, with expectation of future amendment, was approved, Kam Misleh 1st, Michael Settembrini 2nd.

Minutes from meeting on 08/20/09 approved as presented, Kam Misleh 1st, Jan Cameron 2nd.

Financial Report presented as handout by Tim MacConnell, and was emailed to members prior to the meeting. Motion to approve the Financial Report was approved, Kam Misleh 1st, Jan Cameron 2nd.

Committee Reports:

Safety – Officer Wiley Ross

Crime stats were distributed. Lt. Webb was introduced, and members were reminded to sign up for Citizen Observer; most present had already signed up. Lt. Webb said that, although the alerts from Citizen Observer can seem to become “junk mail”, he still encourages us to register. It provides useful information so that we can help to locate suspects, etc. Sgt. Thompson said that one can see positive reports there, too, such as when an arrest is made in a case.

At 740 Oak Street, things seem to be getting worse, there were shots fired recently. There is a meeting scheduled with officials from fire, health, and building departments to try to get the building closed down; there would be 15 tenants to relocate. The owner appears to have abandoned the property, and it is in receivership for unpaid bills.

There are 8 properties coming up for public hearings in WH, including 2913 Monfort, 2509 Stanton, 1227 & 1229 Chapel, one on May, and 2829 Preston. 949 E. McMillan is a new furniture store, yet unnamed, that relocated from the Clifton area. Thompson-MacConnell Cadillac had complained about loiterers on Chapel, but they seem to have moved further down the street.

Marcia mentioned that she heard the Cincinnati Police Department and U.C. Criminal Justice hailed as role models on NPR. Lt. Webb stated that we are at the forefront of technology implementation.

The police reported that \$50,000 of counterfeit merchandise was recently seized, which had some monetary ties to terrorist organizations. Members were reminded that theft from cars is the #1 crime nationwide; don't leave valuable goods visible in your car.

Planning / Development – No Report

CNBDU – Cindy Fischer

There was a meeting last Friday regarding the upcoming bus trip on the 26th; there will be information packets delivered to CNBDU reps, followed by meeting in October to vote for approval of projects that were reviewed on the bus trip and in the info packets.

Promotions – No Report

Other Matters:

Candidate's Night was changed, to be September 30th at 7 PM, at the Cintas Center, hosted by Invest In Neighborhoods. There will be no event on October 1 here, as there is no need to compete.

The WH Festival seemed to go well; Tim stated that it looked crowded to him. Mel Williams stated that it was not as well-attended this year compared to last. Michael Settembrini said that his business (Kroger) was interrupted for lack of parking during the event.

Mel brought some materials belonging to the WHBA to the meeting, which had remained in his possession, including spare window decals and a copy of our Articles of Incorporation. These were turned over to current WHBA officers.

Mel stated that he was disappointed in both the WHAC and WHBA's efforts to retain the Kroger store. Michael Rountree pointed out that the current CNBDU-funded project is a Market Study to look into our options, and determine the right level of food service for the neighborhood; this study will inform and reinforce next year's CNBDU project application. Mel said that Avondale lacks any healthy food options, and doesn't want the same to happen to WH. Kathy said that Kroger has 3 more years on its land lease with Winston Folkers. Mel suggested that some sort of promotions would be in order, to get people to shop and support the store. Michael Settembrini said that they recently remodeled the interior, but there has been no noticeable change in profits.

Meeting adjourned.