
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: November 17, 2011 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

Attendance

Tim MacConnell	Ife Bell	Kathy Atkinson
Fred Orth	Sgt. Gil Thompson	Michael Rountree
Marcia Hartsock	Officer Nick Kern	Cindy Fischer
Steve Shipp	Ken Furrier	Janice Toussaint
Traci McNeil	Tracy Flanagan	Tracey Hayes
Kevin Wright	Kate Walker	Bernard Young

Minutes from meeting on 10/20/11 were approved, motion made by Marcia Hartsock 1st, Steve Shipp 2nd

Treasurer's Report dated 11/17/11 was approved, motion made by Kathy Atkinson 1st, Marcia Hartsock 2nd.

Committee Reports:

Safety – Sgt. Thompson

Crime stats were handed out. Overall crime has been dropping, except for the specific category of robbery. A number of known offenders have been arrested, and some arrests were made at the recent Block Party. They are investigating a car break-in near the HBS House; response to this took several hours.

Sgt. Thompson said that complaints sent to City make take time before they get to Police for investigation, and suggested contacting the Captain, or Officer Hasse, or Sgt. Thompson directly. Sgt. Thompson gave his contact info as 569-8655, or gilbert.thompson@cincinnati.oh.gov. He said that sometimes multiple victims or complaints seem to only generate one police report, and encouraged us to go ahead and make the report. Doing so may drive crime stats higher, but do so anyways.

Steve said that he has not been getting any response, but wants to meet with Police to discuss safety esp. near HGC Construction. Tim said that a meeting with property owners was proposed, police are needed to help initiate. Sgt. Thompson stated that he has a dedicated "quality of life" officer who can help with that. There is a building on Oak that was closed down aprox. 2 yrs ago, and should have been demolished by now. HGC is also trying to purchase a building on Stanton but it has too many unresolved liens. Steve said that there are often guys loitering in the afternoons, but parking a patrol vehicle in the area has been effective.

Marcia asked what had happened at Nassau & St. James area the previous day; Sgt. Thompson said that it was a bad drug deal shooting. She said that this kind of stuff hasn't been happening in that area previously, which is worrisome due to proximity of a children's park.

Officer Kern is still on his own but looking for another officer to join him, and is pursuing implementation of work crews.

CNBDU –Cindy Fischer

The regular meeting was rescheduled to Nov. 18 due to Veterans Day; Cindy promised to update members via email following this meeting.

Planning Development – Kevin Wright

The WHRF has gone over the Rhodes properties near Kemper, to determine a cost for stabilization them all. They will then be able to craft a timeline.

Membership/Promotions – Tracy Flanagan and Marcia Hartsock

Tracy noted that there were a number of new faces present, and asked that they introduce themselves. Tracey Hyes, of Central Cincinnati Properties (Wallick, Inc.) said that they will be hosting an open house on Dec. 8.

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Janice Toussaint of Divine Day Care is a returning member. Ife Bell is with the Douglass School. Traci McNeil stated that she is looking to expand her child care business, hoping to hire one assistant at her rehabbed property.

Elections of officers were held. Brandon Druffel had offered previously to chair a beautification committee. Lacking any other significant nomination, the motion was made to re-elect and re-appoint all incumbent officers and committee chairs. This motion passed, Marcia Hartsock 1st, Ken Furrier 2nd, with one dissenting vote.

Marcia reported that the promotion video materials are all now in Panoptic's hands, and Promotions committee will regroup after Thanksgiving to discuss how to use and make available this video. Panoptic offered to do custom edits for \$500 each if a WHBG member wishes to have a more targeted version.

Other Matters:

Kathy said that on Dec. 8 the WHAC will host a pot luck dinner and recognize local individuals or businesses as winner of the Golden Walnut Award.

Tim passed around an email he got from Rick Hardy regarding a tax credit program ("InvestOhio"), which might be of benefit to WH businesses. There is a limited range of qualifications, however. This program offers income tax credit to those who invest in eligible small businesses.

Tim stated that he hasn't heard back from Jeff Brewster yet, so there will not be a change of meeting place yet. He intends to still pursue changing our meeting place to 791 E. McMillan.

Steve announced that HGC will host Christmas On Stanton again, on Dec. 17, for neighborhood kids. This is a 40-year tradition, for which they need to fill approx. 200 bags of goodies, although participation has been declining in recent years.

The I-71 MLK Open House was held the previous week, where 3 options were presented for the new interchange. 2-Way Streets was also presented at this public event, but it seemed to be presented as if it were tentative. We need to pressure the City to get it done in the next year, as part of 2012 budget. The web site was accepting public comment until Dec. 2. It was suggested that Kathy create a template for emailing City officials, which should include Roxanne Qualls, Chris Seelbach, and Martha Kelly, perhaps others. It appeared that only one of the three I-71 options works with assumed 2-way traffic on McMillan as far as Highland (other two options are to keep existing Taft/McMillan partial ramps, or to close them entirely).

Traci McNeil stated that she has been collecting signatures in support of her proposed child care center, and asked if WHBG would consider offering its support. Members asked that she clarify the purpose of such support, and that she provide details in advance of the next meeting for consideration then.

Ife Bell said that Douglass School is still looking for tutors, and mentioned that they are collecting box tops as a fund raiser.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:15 AM.