
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: October 21, 2016 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

Attendance:

Jeff Brewster	Officer Kandice Roper-Issa	Laura Davis	Gayle Givens
Michael Rountree	Kathy Atkinson	Baba Charles Miller	Mike Cornette
Kevin Wright	Gary Dangel	Tim MacConnell	Tracy Flanagan-Ryan
Joe Sandmann	Matthew Cuff	Toni Miller	Cassandra Robinson
Fred Orth	Anteia Greer	Cindy Fischer	
Jerome Tarver	Chris Davis	Captain Martin Mack	

Opening:

Meeting called to order at 11:35 AM, with an invitation for new faces to introduce themselves. Members were reminded that dues must be current in order to participate in next month's elections of officers.

Minutes from meeting on September 15 were not approved, vote deferred until next meeting, as about half of those present indicated they had not reviewed the Minutes.

Committee Reports:

Safety – Officer Roper-Issa

Updates from Detective Bendler were relayed, as an arrest has been made regarding a recent shooting near Life Skills, which involved teenage suspect and victim. Also a recent shooting near PNC bank was a case where one man shot two others who were in his vehicle, after pulling over in the neighborhood. AN arrest has been made regarding drug traffic and illegal guns at the apartments on 911/913 Rogers.

Mr. Barry Winton is who to contact with questions about the City's policy for camera monitoring. The City's informational packet has not been updated yet, but Officer Roper-Issa hopes to have it later.

There was an aggravated robbery at a store on Gilbert, wherein 3 suspects maced or tazed the staff. This store has problems with visibility; all 3 suspects have been arrested. Officer Roper-Issa noted loiterers in 5-Points Alley and asked that we call to report such when necessary. Police recovered a pre-packed bag of marijuana from St. James pocket park, as would be used for a fast deal.

Captain Martin Mack was introduced; he spoke about targeted enforcement based on data collection and mining. Baba Charles expressed concern that this might mean reduced enforcement in other quadrants of WH, and Toni said she has heard complaints from some residents that their calls for service are not prioritized. Matthew asked what the expected results from this approach are, and Captain Mack replied that they are aiming at a long-term sustained goal, and will periodically analyze their success.

Kathy asked whether we could get a full list of all beat officers; Officer Roper-Issa will get this for us. Captain Mack also said that the City is getting away from the Substation approach, as all officers carry cell phones, and there has been some bad activity within substations in the past.

Jeff asked about the incident near Life Skills, where it seemed that notification was somewhat late, delaying the lockdown protocol, asking how communication might be improved. Captain Mack said that there are resource officers assigned (each one serving several schools) who have the duty to relay pertinent information to school staff. The Citizen Observer program (www.citizenobserver.com) was mentioned. Police do have a standing order to be present when school lets out.

Captain Mack said that the City is trying to deal with the homeless issue, but they cannot legally “evict” or displace them. They try to direct them towards programs or resources. Baba Charles noted that there was a recent case of a

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driver who overdosed or was intoxicated, and was revived by the Police; he thanked the officers and noted that WH appreciates the Police.

Toni asked whether there will be any more captain's meetings this year, and Captain Mack said intends to hold them quarterly and will hold the next one before year's end. Cassandra works with the Police and the Safety Committee of WHAC, and presented a checklist for environmental design to improve safety, both in businesses and at home.

The City is developing a program to allow citizens access to customized statistics (not just crime). Feedback and a training session will be on November 2nd at 6:00 PM at the Urban League; Gary noted that this was announced via WHAC's Facebook page already.

Planning & Physical Development – Kevin Wright

Kevin presented a handout of the Community Reinvestment Plan, asking for a vote of support for the final version. WHAC had voted in favor of it at their recent meeting, and WHRF hopes to take the plan to the Planning Commission in November. Jeff asked whether other communities have done something similar, to which Kevin replied that this plan is more specific where other plans tend to be based around a broader “vision” approach. Laura expressed gladness that the current version does not assume the removal or replacement of her buildings. Motion to support the Reinvestment Plan was approved, Chris Davis 1st, Tim MacConnell 2nd.

Jeff asked for a list of potential projects that may launch in the next two years. Kevin reported that Video Archive will be opening on Saturday, which is a “speakeasy” bar concept which appears outwardly to be a video rental shop but features a secret door to the bar.

Constitution/By-Laws – Jeff Brewster

Based on recent feedback, the Executive Committee has decided to defer any further work on By-Laws until after officer elections.

Finance – No Report

Cindy said that at the next meeting we need to consider our proposal for CNBDU operating funds, which must be announced as part of the meeting notice.

Beautification – No Report

Membership/Elections – Tracy Flanagan-Ryan

Tracy has agreed to handle the election process. A form for nominations was handed out; nominations must be submitted by October 31, then she will notify those nominated and confirm eligible standing. Toni said that nominations should have already been done, but Kathy noted that since all that needs to happen in reference to WHAC is that our election results need to be reported to the WHAC Board, the actual election can occur even if “out of sync”. Members who intend to vote at the November meeting must be current with dues by the time of the meeting.

Education / Workforce Development – No Report

Other Matters:

Kathy announced the upcoming Taste of the Neighborhood on Oct. 24th from noon to 3 PM, at Purcell-Marian H.S.

Kathy also encouraged members to vote in the upcoming national elections, noting that there are League of Women Voters guides available.

Tim said that there have been thefts of wiper blades from cars, warning of being approached at a gas station.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 12:50 PM.