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## Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

### Minutes

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Minutes: January 19, 2017 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

#### Attendance:

Kathy Atkinson	Andrew Decker	Sara Leah Miller	Steve Smith
Matthew Cuff	Anne Decker	Kam Misleh	Greg Warner
Adam Curry	Cindy Fischer	Officer Kandice Roper-Issa	Kevin Wright
Gary Dangel	Kathryne Gardette	Michael Rountree	
Chris Davis	Andrew Gomez	Joe Sandmann	
Laura Davis	Mike Mattox	Aimee Shinkle	

#### Opening:

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM with welcome to new members and introductions all around.

Minutes from meeting on November 17 (deferred from prior month) were approved, Greg Warner 1<sup>st</sup>, Joe Sandmann 2<sup>nd</sup>; Minutes from meeting on December 15 were approved, Michael Rountree 1<sup>st</sup>, Greg Warner 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Committee Reports:

##### *Safety* – Officer Roper-Issa

Crime statistics handout was presented. Matt stated that we will get away from a full report at each meeting, noting that the WHAC Safety Committee may be a better venue for such (this meeting is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, 6 PM at the Bush Rec. Center). Note cards will be available at our meetings to enable sharing of specific issues, to be addressed later.

Officer Roper-Issa said that 2016 was a decent year, but 2017 has begun with some violence, though not due to WH residents. The victim at the St. James cut-through was a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Kam noted that the Stars Report on the City's web site is public info with more depth from each district captain.

Andrew Gomez called attention to vehicle break-ins that have occurred near the Marathon gas station, where dim lighting may be a factor. Kevin commented that the new lines of people waiting to get into Video Archive may mean a potential for new problems. Mike Mattox noted that he has seen instances of graffiti.

##### *Finance/CNBDU* – Cindy Fischer, Kevin Wright

Kevin spoke about the approved minor project funding request from CNBDU, which includes \$30k for the design of gateway signage at four neighborhood entry points. As WHRF is managing this project, they would prefer to avoid having that money be spent by the City's design department, which could produce signage that simply looks the same as in other neighborhoods. Kevin said their approach instead could be to hire a local artist who can work out of a local storefront and engage with the community, who may even develop designs that are unique for each entry point. This design work will be done by this summer. Motion to support the WHRF's proposed approach to hire a designer was approved, Kam Misleh 1<sup>st</sup>, Gary Dangel 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Cindy noted that she will need the signatures of several WHBG officers on some forms for awarded funds (to be done after the meeting).

##### *Membership/Promotions* – Matthew Cuff

Matthew said that our group's focus needs to be on what is happening right now, and aimed at economic stability. We need to answer the question, "Why should I join the Business Group?". Matt said that we need two primary committees: Membership & Promotions, and Communications. These will need Chairs, as well as others willing to participate; sign-up sheets were at the meeting.

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#### Other Matters:

Steve Smith, with The Model Group, spoke about development initiatives. Paramount Square is moving forward, with tax credits secured to make it viable. Last year, Steve presented the Scholar House to WHBG as a proposed residential program that could fill in a gap at the St. James cut through, where other development will be occurring to either side along McMillan. This program seeks to break a cycle of poverty for single parents who are enrolled in higher education full-time; the program failed to be funded last year due to a tie-breaker vote, despite having a perfect submission score.

The Model Group was recently able to purchase a portfolio of scattered properties previously held by The Community Builders. Some of the buildings will need to be torn down, and about 40 units can be renovated. They intend to turn 1004 and 1020 Chapel into a senior campus, and some rental subsidies will go with the Scholar House program. Matt noted that this has all been presented to WHAC for their support, and so was just being shared for our information.

Kathy presented a handout for the Ohio Means Jobs workforce program. This will afford on-the-job training for eligible participants, with up to 50% of their wages reimbursed during the first 6 months. The Walnut Hills Job Bank will feature candidate screening and assessment in a storefront on Lincoln (courtesy of the Model Group). This one-stop location should be open by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Gary mentioned a survey being done regarding grocery needs, as Kroger will be closing in March. He also presented a handout for an upcoming Town Hall to discuss the situation. This will be an opportunity to build something that really meets the community's needs; Matt said that development at that location can have a big impact.

Sara Leah announced that George Smith is the new WHAC Safety Committee Chair, and he wishes to assemble a neighborhood little league. He will be holding a meeting at 11:30 AM on January 26<sup>th</sup> at the Bush Center. Matt said that this can be a way for businesses to engage with residents, and that the Just Qin team is going to win all the time.

Laura said that she will be helping to host an art show for May The Fourth (a.k.a. "Star Wars Day"), with donations going to Force For Change. The show is expected to be more than what the Brew House can host, and LucasArts would prefer to have more of a family-friendly venue, so they are hopeful that other establishments will participate.

Matt stated that parking for our meetings at The Eddy will be available in the rear lot behind Beck's Hardware.

Kathy gave a brief Treasurer's Report with a handout, and asked for help to update the current paid status of BG members.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 10:00 AM.