
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: March 16, 2017 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

Attendance:

Kathy Atkinson	Chris Davis	Mike Mattox	Joe Sandmann
Rick Beck	Cindy Fischer	Sara Leah Miller	Greg Warner
Matthew Cuff	Andrew Gomez	Baba Charles Miller	Kevin Wright
Gary Dangel	Tim MacConnell	Michael Rountree	

Opening:

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM.

Minutes from meeting on February 16 were approved, Joe Sandmann 1st, Greg Warner 2nd.

Treasurer's Report presented as handout, showing no recent activity. Kathy asked whether invoices might be getting delivered to some other address rather than coming to her. \$5,527 balance is separate from the NSP allocation of \$4,600; the NSP funds are not an advance but rather a commitment to reimburse, and those budget items must be encumbered before the end of June. Report was approved, Tim MacConnell 1st, Gary Dangel 2nd.

Committee Reports:

Safety – Matt Cuff

Officer Roper-Issa was not able to attend this morning, but she provided crime statistics handout. Matt had asked her about any potential plans regarding the newly empty Kroger store, and was told that the Captain has issued an all-shifts directive patrol for properties in the area. Sara Leah reminded everyone that the WHAC Safety Committee Meeting is upcoming, though it will be on March 30th rather than the prior week. Sara Leah also said that we can notify her about businesses with lights out around the building, by emailing her at info@wearewalnuthills.org.

Membership/Activities – Matt Cuff

Aimee Shinkle was not able to attend, as she was busy with the Hoops & Hops event. Matt said that our intent is to get more people participating in each committee, so that it is not just a single volunteer; a few in attendance agreed to join this committee. Several upcoming events, such as the Green Man Park dedication and Run For The Hills 5k, should be subjects for this committee's focus, to increase our exposure as well as our cooperation with WHAC.

Communication/Promotions – Matt Cuff

This committee needs additional participation, though Joe Sandmann has joined. The focus is to activate the district and to engage social media as well as utilize our web site.

WHRF – Joe Sandmann

The business district signage project is underway; this is the approved \$30k CNBDU budget for designing the signage. Four youth apprentices will be hired to develop prototype options, but additional funding will be required later to fully implement and install. Funds are also needed to do streetscaping between Trevarren and Gilbert. All of the recently-built modular homes have been sold, though owners cannot move in until a final Certificate of Occupancy is issued for each one.

Kathy brought to attention the potential elimination of some federal funds which support CNBDU major and minor projects.

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Other Matters:

The Green Man Park grand opening has been moved to May, and will likely feature participation by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra or the Museum Center. Gary and Sara Leah said that we need to brainstorm ways to show the support of local businesses, such as sponsored booths or food service.

Gary spoke about the 2nd Annual Run For The Hills 5k by Elevate Walnut Hills; they are looking for sponsors and were to hold a planning meeting that night. The event will be on September 23rd with an after-party in 5-Points Alley.

Sara Leah announced the Walnut Hills Youth Council, which is a proposed youth version of WHAC being developed in cooperation with the Drug Free Coalition. Adult advisors will be trained to help guide them, but they will determine their own projects and priorities. Approximately \$3,500 might be available via the Police Department to assist in getting this going, but all details are still being worked out. Matt suggested that youth might do well in engaging social media. Kathy said that Easter Seals should be contacted soon before they determine their allocations for the year.

Video Archive will be hosting a patio party for St. Patrick's Day; Gary noted that our website includes a calendar to which we can all submit events.

Kevin said that a lease has been signed for a new coffee shop to go in at the corner of Kemper and McMillan.

Chris reported that the Bre House has received permission from LucasArts to host its planned May The Fourth / Star Wars Day family-friendly event. They hope to have cosplayers and members of the 501st Legion in attendance.

Mike Mattox said that the intention of The Eddy is to function as a co-working creative space, where artists and other creative workers can use the studio and meeting spaces.

Kathy mentioned the drug policy survey which was sent out to WHBG members, intended to collect feedback on how businesses in 16 Ohio counties handle drug issues. Survey responses are due by March 24th.

Sara Leah mentioned a training session for opioid prevention, to be held the evening of the 28th at the Bush Center; this event has been listed on our website's calendar.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:50 AM.