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## Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

### Minutes

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Minutes: July 20, 2017 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

#### Attendance:

Kathy Atkinson	Jasmine Ford	Thea Munchel	Kailah Ware
Brandon Burke	Christina Hartlieb	Officer Kandice Roper-Issa	Greg Warner
Matthew Cuff	Jerry Houser	Michael Rountree	Kevin Wright
David Estep	Toni Miller	Aimee Shinkle	Sondra Palivoda

#### Opening:

Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM, with a reminder to provide one's email address on the sign-in sheet, if not receiving update notices.

Minutes from meeting on June 15th were approved, Greg Warner 1<sup>st</sup>, Kathy Atkinson 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Treasurer's Report presented as a handout. NSP funds to be encumbered by June 30<sup>th</sup> show up, but Kathy noted that there is an additional invoice for approximately \$400 for the web site, that is to be included in NSP expenditures. Kathy noted that the Membership Committee needs to issue dues renewal notices, as no dues have yet been renewed in 2017. Report was approved, Aimee Shinkle 1<sup>st</sup>, Greg Warner 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Committee Reports:

##### *Membership/Activities* – Aimee Shinkle

Aimee presented the freshly designed and printed window clings, as well as a vinyl banner and a membership card, which were developed with help from Gary Dangel. Materials were printed using NSP funds. Volunteers are needed to help distribute these materials to members. Matt commented that the business cards as proof of current membership may enable us to think about some kind of coupon or discount programs that businesses offer one another.

Matt spoke about an upcoming Spencer/Douglass School program opening in August, noting that they wish to do some form of Walnut Hills Day. They may combine with the Street Food Festival, and we can have a booth to offer giveaways or promotional material. CPS will provide tables, we only need to be present.

##### *Safety* – Officer Roper-Issa

Crime statistics were handed out. Officer Roper-Issa apologized for not being present at recent meetings, saying that the Tensing trial has affected her schedule.

There have been complaints about parking in the vicinity of Gomez Salsa, as the signage restricting it is confusing. Matt said that he has been seeing more activity around St. James, and Officer Roper-Issa is aware of this. There were a pair of homicides near Stanton and Oak, with the victims being boyfriend/ girlfriend; Officer Roper-Issa said that they are paying attention to the memorial services, as these can become opportunities for additional mischief.

*Communication/Promotions* – combined with Membership report, above.

##### *WHRF* – Kevin Wright

Sponsors are still needed for the upcoming Street Food Festival. The event is on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, from 11 AM to 5 PM.

Scholar House recently received approval for low income housing tax credits, which will enable it to go forward. This will be a development of 4 stories with retail on the bottom floor, at the current Dollar City location, with construction to begin in summer of 2018. This program is aimed as single mothers enrolled in a degree program, and will provide on-site day care.

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The purple building across from Fireside Pizza is approved to go forward, and the necessary permits have been issued for the Comfort Station (next door to the Dillard Bldg.) to start construction in late August or early September.

Kevin called attention to a car repair shop near Curtis & Gilbert that, according to the City, is operating illegally. The building is in poor or unsafe condition, and it doesn't fit in with current Zoning. Kevin said that WHRF would like to issue a letter to request that the City investigate and take appropriate action, and made a motion that WHBG should express support for such a request. Motion to support a request that the City take action was approved, Kevin Wright 1<sup>st</sup>, Matt Cuff 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Other Matters:

Kailah Ware presented her team from Artworks who are developing options for gateway signage, in accordance with our awarded CNBDU minor project submission. Their goal is to produce 4 designs by the end of summer, and they presented a survey to get community input. Michael asked whether they intend to present final designs to WHBG when they are done, and Kailah confirmed this. Kathy asked how their group was selected; Kevin replied that WHBG decided earlier in the year to forgo the City's design department in order to pursue a more customized design. WHRF intends to find a way to raise money for actual implementation next year. Kevin noted that this signage will be focused on entries to the business district, and they have been working with Metro to encourage them to adopt the new designs in some fashion when they replace bus stops in the neighborhood.

Brandon presented Milhaus' preliminary plans for the vacant land on Firehouse Row, for which they have the City's pre-approval. This will be comprised of 3 buildings with a total of 124 apartments – a 4-story along McMillan and two 3-story buildings in the block to the south. They are hoping for a planning commission meeting in August or early September, for which notices would go out as it will be open for public comment. Their goal is to begin construction by the end of the year, but this will be challenging, and they anticipate 12 – 15 months of construction time.

Jerry Houser presented a handout for an upcoming “1000 Block Business Renaissance” festival, at which businesses along McMillan's 1000+ block are asked to set out a table in front with whatever promotional or informational material they wish. This will be on August 5<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4 PM, and a \$10 registration is requested.

Jasmine said that her bakery, Jazzy Sweeties, will be hosting a \$1 cupcake sale that Friday; Kevin said that WHRF could mention it on their social media.

Matt said that Just Q-in along with Video Archive and Mortar will be hosting a Sip-N-Shop on Friday evening, with a band playing, from 6-9PM.

A handout was presented by Walnut Hills Community Design Studio, noting an upcoming “Emoji Mapping” event on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, at 1 PM. Beginning at Core Clay (2533 Gilbert), participants will walk the neighborhood and assign each block visited an emoji. This data will later be collected and analyzed.

Kevin reported that Walnut Hills is a finalist (one of seventy) for an ArtPlace grant of \$100,000. Evaluators are being shown around the neighborhood today, and are seeing our food desert issues in the wake of Kroger's closure, as well as our farm stand which opened earlier than normal. They will also visit Green Man Park and the 5-Points Alley later.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:52 AM.