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## Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

### Minutes

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Minutes: August 17, 2017 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

#### Attendance:

Kathy Atkinson	Cindy Fischer	Katie Neltner	Pam Schreiner
Matthew Cuff	Brent Gallaher	Sondra Palivoda	Aimee Shinkle
Gary Dangel	Christina Hartlieb	Officer Kandice Roper-Issa	Rolanda Smith
Laura Davis	Linda Matthews	Michael Rountree	Greg Warner
Charles O. Dillard	Pat Neal-Miller	Joe Sandmann	Kevin Wright

#### Opening:

Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM, with introductions.

Minutes from meeting on July 20th were approved, Kathy Atkinson 1<sup>st</sup>, Greg Warner 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Treasurer's Report presented as a handout. Last month there was an invoice for the web page, for \$420.75; this amount is shared with WHAC such that the BG was reimbursed \$210.37, bringing available balance to \$4,893.89. Report was approved, Aimee Shinkle 1<sup>st</sup>, Laura Davis 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Committee Reports:

##### *Safety* – Officer Roper-Issa

Crime statistics were handed out. Captain Mack recently shared some information regarding “shot spotter” sensor technology, which will cover at least a portion of Walnut Hills. Officer Roper-Issa encouraged those present to report suspicious activity or loitering (765-1212) as there has been increased activity in the St. James pocket as well as in the business district generally.

Kevin noted that there are properties owned by the City where he has seen trespassing violations; Officer Roper-Issa said that it is easier for the police to enforce when the trespass is on privately-owned property. Laura volunteered that she may have video footage that may be of assistance to detectives, regarding thefts from autos.

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

Aimee is working on getting the roster up to date and intends to have renewal notices readied by the next meeting. Kathy asked whether the membership year will track with the calendar year or be dated from each member's date of joining or renewal; Aimee said that these issues would be decided by the next meeting. Window cling decals and membership cards need to be assembled into packets to be given out. We will also have a booth available at the upcoming Street Food Festival to be able to hand out flyers.

##### *Communication/Promotions* – Matt Cuff

This committee's activities have been combined with Membership for the moment, but could split off if there were more volunteers. For the upcoming Spencer school opening, we hope to partner with CPS for a WH Day; Matt said to expect to see emails that request business participation. Kathy said we ought to consider how to engage the parents of pupils that will enroll in Spencer.

Gary asked whether the recent 1000-Block event was affiliated with the BG; Matt explained that this was a group of merchants that organized on their own. Laura noted that prospective members are likely to ask what the BG can do for them, rather than what they can do for the BG.

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*WHRF* – Kevin Wright

Construction will begin in September to renovate the former Comfort Station, it will become a cocktail bar. There is continued activity at the Hamilton House and the purple building near Fireside Pizza. Paramount Square will begin work on a smaller phase, in late October; this will ultimately be an \$11 million project. Funding was secured for the Scholar House development, which will create 45 apartment units based around a program that assists single parents who pursue higher education.

Kevin asked the group to vote their support for drafting a letter about the situation at the Alms building (on Victory Parkway). The building had been sold in 2012 to an owner located in New Jersey, and since then conditions have grown worse. It was deemed a nuisance last January, having failed an HUD inspection, and is in receivership. If HUD inspections are failed 3 times, then HUD may issue letter of abatement which essentially would mean that current occupants would get vouchers to be redeemed at some other facility. However, it can be hard to find a location that accepts the vouchers, and the vouchers would only go to the current 120± residents; low income subsidies for the 80± unoccupied would be lost. Kevin requested a motion to draft a letter that requests that HUD refrain from abatement process; motion was approved, Laura Davis 1<sup>st</sup>, Christina Hartlieb 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Laura noted that calls for service at the Alms has been down about 60%, but Kathy said that this drop has coincided with a decline in occupancy. Kevin said that the ultimate outcome for the residents of the Alms may still involve relocating, but it should be based on a better process than the abatement vouchers. Kathy noted that if occupancy does increase again, we could expect calls for service to increase as well.

#### **Other Matters:**

Pat Neal-Miller gave an update on the impact of Douglass and Spencer school programs, noting monthly meetings held on Saturdays in collaboration with WHAC. They have been bringing together parents, principals, and members of the WHAC to ensure that the two programs work well together; Pat encouraged WHBG members to take a look at the new Spencer program, with its diverse constituency. Douglass will have a new focus on contemplative arts, and Spencer held an open house last Monday. Gary raised concern that they want to ensure that the children enrolled in both programs have chances to interact, suggesting some kind of common green space.

Pam noted an upcoming rally on the 28<sup>th</sup> for Dohn School, which is aimed at recovery for dropouts, who sometimes need the extra encouragement. She said that the school also wants to resume its annual hosting of a WHBG meeting.

Joe said that two Thrive grants were recently awarded, for Caffe Vivace and Pickled Pig (catering).

Cindy reported that the available CNBDU funding for this current fiscal year will be \$4,600.00 begun in July, but the submission paperwork is not yet available. We will need to develop our funding request in the next month or two, so that we can submit as soon as possible.

Gary Dangel is going to Run For The Hills on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and asked that BG members consider sponsoring this event as money raised goes towards neighborhood gardens. Last year, Joe S. and Kevin W. had a rivalry, with Joe claiming victory.

On August 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-6 PM there will be an end-of-summer block party at the St. James pocket park.

Aimee mentioned the food pantry program at Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, which is partnered with Target who donates some surplus food items. This program could stand to be increased tenfold following the closure of Kroger. Gary noted that Zweets is producing “healthy fast food”.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:55 AM.