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**Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group**

Minutes

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Minutes: December 21, 2017 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

**Attendance:**

Matthew Cuff	Cindy Fischer	Mark Leeman	Michael Rountree
Gary Dangel	Tracy Flanagan-Ryan	Tim MacConnell	Greg Warner
David Estep	Christina Hartlieb	Officer Kandice Roper-Issa	Kevin Wright

**Opening:**

Meeting called to order at 9:10 AM.

Minutes from meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> were approved, Tim MacConnell 1<sup>st</sup>, Greg Warner 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Treasurer's Report not presented.

**Committee Reports:**

*Membership/Activities* – Matt Cuff

Matt said that Aimee Shinkle is working on getting renewal notices out, so that all members will need to plan on paying dues in January.

*WHRF* – Kevin Wright

The planning commission voted in favor of the necessary zoning change for the Millhouse property, so they are working on final financing and hope to be able to break ground in February to complete the demolition of remaining foundations. The Scholar House project is going forward, with demolition of the Dollar City building to occur soon; the hope is to be up for the 2019 school year. The former Kroger site remains a top priority.

Cafe Vivace is hoping to open in February or March, at its new location in Trevarren at Kemper and McMillan. Model Group is building their space out fully for them, and they will not have a full kitchen. Express Cafe is opening in January, in the 1000 block of East McMillan. Near the Firehouse, the Hamilton house should be finished in February, with another house to be completed in May. The barber shop will not be going into the former Louis Meats location, but they are looking for another location.

Tim offered commendation to Kevin for all the great work that WHRF does in the community.

*CNBDU* – Cindy Fischer

With an available \$4,600 of funding that will reimburse expenditures through June 30<sup>th</sup>, it was proposed that \$3,600 of it be spent on hired professional services to assist with social media and membership efforts. The other \$1,000 would be used for fiber optic pole lease and insurance fixed expenses. Kevin noted that ownership of the fiber-optic system might change which could mean reimbursement from other source(s) for that portion. Kevin also mentioned that he knows of someone who is already doing similar social media campaigns for East Walnut Hills and may be interested to help.

Cindy said that we are not considering inclusion of flower pots in this scope, but that we should perhaps consider organizing a campaign to find local businesses to directly sponsor them at \$200 each. We need to determine how many pots we have, whether we need all of those, and whether we can extend the Parks Dept. deadline for claiming them. Kevin said the WHRF can help once we know these specifics.

Michael noted that the reimbursement categories are flexible, but if fiber-optic expenses do not accrue as expected, then we will need a spending category to shift the funds into. The hired services would seem to be a fixed contract

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sum, so he proposed a separate category of a Membership Drive that can be more flexible. Motion to request CNBDU funding for the categories of Insurance & Dues, Pole Lease, Hired Professional Services, and Membership Drive was approved, Cindy Fischer 1<sup>st</sup>, Michael Rountree 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Cindy asked whether the WHRF has any suggestions for seeking funding for a major and/or minor project this year. Last year we requested \$30k for streetscape design as a minor project, and failed to get approval, however the approved project for Oakley may fail to come about, which may mean that they get passed over in our favor. Artworks has been engaged in development of artwork for neighborhood gateway signage for the past several months, and will have designs ready to be revealed in the new year. Even if streetscape design is not funded, the implementation of that design will need to occur over time and can be a project proposal. Kevin also suggested that resolving public parking is another good area to focus on, especially since the City and the Dillard Center cannot reach agreement regarding necessary improvements to the lot adjacent to 791 East McMillan. It was noted that pre-application for any proposed project(s) will be due in February.

*Safety* – No Report

*Communication/Promotions* – No Report

#### **Other Matters:**

Kevin stated that Music Off McMillan won't be managed by WHRF any more, as this was funded by a grant that no longer applies. They are ready to hand this off to others, hoping that it is a simple-enough concept to organize one Friday each month. Street performances cost money, and so might not be a feature going forward, but it can be as simple as coordinating when various establishments have performers. Matt said that several local restaurants including Fireside and Brewhouse should be interested in this.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:45 AM.