
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: February 15, 2018 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

Attendance:

Samuel Abu Bakr	Maya Drozdz	Fred Orth	Pam Schreiner
Kathy Atkinson	David Estep	Officer Kandice Roper-Issa	Greg Warner
Matthew Cuff	Cindy Fischer	Michael Rountree	Kevin Wright
Gary Dangel	Christina Hartlieb	Craig Rozen	
Charles O. Dillard	Mark Leeman	Joe Sandmann	

Opening:

Meeting called to order by Matthew Cuff at 9:02 AM.

Minutes from meeting on January 18th were approved, Greg Warner 1st, Joe Sandmann 2nd.

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Atkinson showed no major change aside from a current bill from Photonics, which has been held until we are able to reimburse out of CNBDU approved funds. Treasurer's Report was approved, Kathy Atkinson 1st, Pam Schreiner 2nd.

Committee Reports:

WHRF – Joe Sandmann

Joe spoke about the submissions for major and minor projects to be considered for CNBDU grant funding. A Pre-application is due by March 1st. Last year we had a successful submission for a minor project to do streetscape design, and the previous year we gained approval for neighborhood gateway signage design, for which work is currently being developed in conjunction with ArtWorks. Joe proposed that we seek funding to implement at least one mural design, as a minor project, and as a major project we can seek funding to install the streetscaping as designed. Matt asked whether the application would limit the potential site selection for murals, but Joe replied that there would be a selection process that would include picking an artist, a final design, as well as a location. Kathy noted that Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds were utilized in the past, and asked whether there was any balance that could be used now. Burying of power lines might be a scope that could be TIF-financed. Motion to approve drafting of major and minor project pre-applications as outlined by Joe was approved, Kathy Atkinson 1st, Greg Warner 2nd.

Safety – Officer Roper-Issa

Crime statistics were handed out. Police will be issuing pink windshield cards to notify vehicle owners when they might be tempting a theft-from-auto by keeping visible valuables in their vehicle; these cards are informative only, not a ticket. Active Shooter Training conducted by Sgt. George (certified ALICE trainer) will be held this Friday at the Police Academy, and there will be other sessions later in the year. There will be a Captain's Meeting on March 7 at 6:30 PM, held at the District 4 HQ, which is open to area council officers. Citizens On Patrol will hold training sessions March 20th to 22nd.

Membership/Activities – Matt Cuff

Membership forms will be present at the March meeting, and we will be prepared to accept dues during the meeting. Membership is for the calendar year, and thus as of January 1 all current members are up for renewal.

Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

CNBDU – Cindy Fischer

Our request for operating funds was presented last Friday and approved, so we now have funding for membership drive activities and for a paid website/social media director, in addition to covering fixed costs of insurance, fiber optic pole lease, and dues. Kathy said that the City will advance funds to our account.

Communication/Promotions – invited speaker: Maya Drozd

Maya was asked to speak about her candidacy for the paid website/social media director position that a portion of our CNBDU funds will go towards, and she presented a handout of proposed duties and strategy, with a proposed fee of \$2,500 for the remainder of 2018. She has a background in graphic design. Kathy clarified that our existing website is jointly run by the WHAC and the Business Group, and is intended to be for WH broadly, it just needs more content and utilization by the BG. Maya spoke about multiple tactics including Instagram usage, creation of a neighborhood map, and/or development of a postcard. Gary said that he has been working, along with Joe Sandmann, to aggregate information for an asset map; there is a professor from Cincinnati State that may offer help by having students conduct door-to-door surveys. Maya suggested a focus on walk-in types of businesses, but Kathy noted that we have non-retail businesses and light industrial areas that are not really engaged, as well as employment opportunities beyond retail.

Other Matters:

Following the presentation by Maya Drozd, there was some consideration of her proposal. Gary commented that the list of duties presented seemed ambitious, and it was agreed that we need to draft our own job description and publish it. Kathy stated that NBD funds are contingent on posting advertisement for the position, and Matt noted that we may have one other viable candidate. Kevin commented that Maya has done a great job in a similar role for East WH, and the proposal seems like a good deal. Matt said that we should plan to vote on this at the next meeting, and that the Executive Committee will convene before then to discuss the proposal in detail.

Craig Rozen announced that there will be a dedication ceremony for the Spencer Center on Feb. 23rd, with limited attendance.

On March 10th there will be a summit for Invest-In-Neighborhoods.

Gary Dangel and Samuel Abu Bakr spoke about a volunteer opportunity called “A Few Good Men”, to do work at 1010 Chapel, from 10 AM to 2 PM. Gary also mentioned an event on Feb. 21 at 6:30 PM, at the African American History Museum.

The City is conducting a survey regarding pedestrian safety in all 52 neighborhoods, and an article was handed out to describe this. The survey is accessible via the CAGIS web site, at <http://cagisonline.hamilton-co.org/pedsafetysurvey/>, and will be ongoing through April 30, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 10:00 AM.