
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

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

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

Attendance:

Kathy Atkinson	David Estep	Mark Leeman	Joe Sandmann
Matthew Cuff	Cindy Fischer	Tim MacConnell	Robert Stradtman
Gary Dangel	Gayle Givens	Fred Orth	Greg Warner
Maya Drozd	Paulette Hisle	Michael Rountree	Kevin Wright

Opening:

Meeting called to order by Matthew Cuff at 9:08 AM.

Minutes from meeting on February 15th were approved, Kathy Atkinson 1st, Cindy Fischer 2nd.

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Atkinson showed no recent activity, but ready to receive CNBDU approved funds. Treasurer's Report was approved, Tim MacConnell 1st, Greg Warner 2nd.

Committee Reports:

Membership/Activities – Matt Cuff

Membership renewal is due for the calendar year, and the dues amounts were reviewed. Matt said that he would like to have the Executive Committee consider our Mission and Vision statements, to make greater use of them. Gary commented that the current statement repeats the word “business” three times, and it might be wise to consider some alternate wording.

WHRF – Kevin Wright

The Paramount Square project is underway, and the new brewery space has been cleared out. Apartments will be completed by late summer, as there are tax credit deadlines to meet. The brewery will be done in spring 2019, as will the CVS. Phase 2 at the former WHRF office location should be done by the end of 2018.

The first phase for the Comfort Station will be done next week, which is just the building shell. The next phase will be tenant improvements. Demolition for the Scholar House project (across from the former Kroger) will begin in May. Cafe Vivace will open this month, and the Mill House project is moving forward (vacancy adjacent to the Firehouse).

Kevin announced that he will be leaving his position at WHRF as of April 6, and the Board will be searching for an interim replacement. Kevin will be starting a new company based in Cincinnati but servicing a broader region. Tim expressed gratitude for the awesome job Kevin has done while at the WHRF.

CNBDU – Joe Sandmann

Joe said he would be in attendance later that day at a City meeting to vet the various project submissions. Matt asked about parking at the former Kroger lot; Kevin said that signage for public parking might go up by late spring, but the management agreement with Model Group needs to be reviewed.

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Safety – No Report

Communication/Promotions – Matt Cuff

Matt reviewed the selection process we went through to hire Maya Drozdz, and due to the City's fiscal year running through June 30th, the Executive Committee decided to apportion Maya's lump-sum proposal as a \$300 per month contract through June, with expectation of renewal in July. Cindy asked whether CNBDU funds will need to be moved around, and Kathy suggested that we might have expenses such as the purchase of a business mailing list that could go towards one of the approved spending categories. Maya's priorities will be to enhance our website content and presence, to establish us in social media, and to report to us at each monthly WHBG meeting.

Gary noted that Robert Stradtman has been performing similar functions for WHAC, and suggested that the three of them should coordinate. Robert has been tasked with creating an Instagram account for WHAC, and said that WHAC has developed a postcard to describe membership for prospects. Gary said that Asset Mapping of the neighborhood is still underway with a college professor and volunteers, the project should be done next month.

Gary has been working closely with Photonics regarding our web hosting. Kathy noted that it wasn't clear to her what Photonics was billing for, an amount of approximately \$1,400.00 for maintenance. This amount is in addition to an annual \$445.00 to host the website, a cost that is shared with WHAC. Kevin said that it is easy to create one's own web site for much cheaper; Michael noted that design and establishment of a site is not the hard part, but rather providing content and utilization.

Other Matters:

Mark Leeman said that April 6th will be the opening weekend for Green Man Twist. They are looking for two more persons to hire, preferably young men as they mostly have women currently. Kathy mentioned she may have some possible contacts, and Kevin suggested contacting Dohn School.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:48 AM.