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## Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

### Minutes

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Minutes: April 19, 2018 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

#### Attendance:

Kathy Atkinson	Christina Hartlieb	Officer Roper-Issa	Betty Waite
Matthew Cuff	Tim MacConnell	Michael Rountree	Allen Woods
Charles Dillard	Toni Miller	Aimee Shinkle	
Maya Drozdz	Betsy Newman	Robert Stradtman	
Gayle Givens	Fred Orth	Greg Warner	

#### Opening:

Meeting called to order by Matthew Cuff at 9:05 AM.

Minutes from meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> were approved, Kathy Atkinson 1<sup>st</sup>, Aimee Shinkle 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Atkinson showed that we have received CNBDU approved funds in our account; of the \$4,600 allocated to us, approx. \$1,500 has been spent, and remainder must be spent by the end of June. Matt delivered three dues checks he had received from member renewals. Treasurer's Report was approved, Aimee Shinkle 1<sup>st</sup>, Christina Hartlieb 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Committee Reports:

*Safety* – Officer Kandice Roper-Issa

Crime statistics were distributed. A handout announcing a drug disposal day (for unused prescription medications) on April 28 was distributed. Overall crime statistics are looking good in Walnut Hills, but with a change in weather may come a change in activity. Washing of cars while parked on the street is illegal, and Officer Roper-Issa asked businesses to remind customers that parking in a no-parking zone will get ticketed. There is no designated day or time for towing of nuisance vehicles, but in general they try to tow before 1:00 PM due to traffic.

Toni mentioned a double shooting that occurred around the Iowa/McGregor/Reading area. At the upcoming meeting on May 9, it will be stressed that the affected agencies (Lighthouse, United Way, YWCA) should seek to work together. This meeting is different from the WHAC's Safety Committee meeting which will be Thursday 04/26/18 at 6:30 PM, at the Bush Center. Matt said that we need to report issues and incidents so the Police know which issues are important, whether that be a call to Officer Roper-Issa, or reporting through 591-6000.com for junked vehicles, or trash or weeds complaints. Toni noted that the City is effective at addressing most complaints within 48 hours.

*Membership/Activities* – Matt Cuff, Aimee Shinkle

Our mission statement will be featured more prominently on each month's meeting agenda, to clarify our focus on economic stability. Aimee reported that our current roster includes 11 paid prior to this meeting, plus those that were just received via Matt Cuff. If anyone needs the membership form, Aimee can email it, or it is also linked on our web site ([wearewalnuthills.org](http://wearewalnuthills.org)). Window cling decals can be distributed to current paid members. Matt suggested that we consider organizing some signature event for WHBG, as has been done in the past.

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#### *Communication/Promotions – Maya Drozd*

In late March, an Instagram account was begun, after trading with WHRF for the account name, and that account has about 400 followers. The Facebook profile (“walnuthillsbusinessdistrict”) has about 75 followers. Maya is reaching out to local business owners, and the neighborhood asset mapping project should be done soon; Maya will coordinate with Gary Dangel.

Kathy asked whether we are working to include the light industrial zone around Florence, as we have made past attempts to engage employers there. Maya said that she is beginning with the low-hanging fruit in order to build some momentum.

#### *WHRF – Betty Waite*

Betty is serving as interim executive director of the WHRF while they search for a candidate. WHRF will be applying for a \$100k grant to support the establishment of a small perishables-only grocer in the former Kroger building. Flowerpots in the neighborhood will be planted with both edibles and petunias, and local youth will help to maintain them. The Comfort Station is moving forward, and Circle Hospitality has signed a lease for the space.

Matt asked for confirmation that demolition for the Scholar House project will begin the first week of May. The former Kroger parking lot is still available to the public, and a “pop-up to permanent” healthy market organized by an entrepreneur through Mortar may make use of the lot.

#### *CNBDU – No Report*

### **Other Matters:**

Betsy Newman spoke about SCORE (Service Core Of Retired Executives, though many are not actually retired), presenting their flyer. SCORE was founded in 1964 and offers free mentoring to business owners. They also offer free webinars and team mentoring, as well as certain workshops which are not free. They have over 100 active members in Cincinnati, and 40% of their clients are already-operating businesses. They will come out to you, and can flexibly schedule in the evenings or on a Saturday, and they are looking for both clients and mentors. Their web site is [www.scoreworks.org](http://www.scoreworks.org).

Allen Woods ([allen@wearemortar.com](mailto:allen@wearemortar.com)), a founding partner at Mortar, said that they are looking to hire a retail & events manager. They hope to do more community events, such as a recent workshop on how to pitch. The Brick 939 location, which was Mortar's initial location, will become part of the Scholar House project.

Kathy announced that the refurbished MacDonald's restaurant will have its ribbon cutting on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Douglass Teacher Appreciation Week will be May 7<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> with approx. 60 teachers from Douglass in addition to some from Spencer.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:55 AM.