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**Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group**

Minutes

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Minutes: May 17, 2018 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

**Attendance:**

Kathy Atkinson	Cindy Fischer	Sondra Palivoda	Betty Waite
Matthew Cuff	Gayle Givens	Michael Rountree	Allen Woods
Amber David	Mark Leeman	Joe Sandmann	
Maya Drozdz	Toni Miller	Robert Stradtman	
David Estep	Fred Orth	Greg Warner	

**Opening:**

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

Minutes from meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> were approved, Kathy Atkinson 1<sup>st</sup>, Cindy Fischer 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Atkinson showed that we have \$2,806.98 remaining to be spent by the end of June. This amount had been allocated for Communications and Membership activities, but funds can be shifted amongst the approved spending categories. Maya suggested targeted Facebook promotions and/or promotional postcards as uses. Toni mentioned that some portion of the funds spent on insurance might get refunded, and it is unknown whether the City will assume insurance payments in the future. Treasurer's Report was approved, Cindy Fischer 1<sup>st</sup>, Robert Stradtman 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Committee Reports:**

*Safety* – No Report

*Membership/Activities* – Matt Cuff

We recently supported Teacher Appreciation Week at Douglass Elementary. CNBDU funds mentioned earlier were allocated towards membership activities rather than beautification in keeping with a goal of increasing membership, rather than spending on flower pots. Betty asked whether flower pots were no longer desired by WHBG, noting that the WHRF can take care of watering donated plants if funded for approximately \$135 per week. Cindy commented that there is a waiting list of neighborhoods eager to have pots placed, so we might not be able to get back any that get reassigned. The Park District has already taken some back; the remaining 28 are not controlled by them. Motion to provide \$500 funding for one month of maintenance by WHRF was approved, Kathy Atkinson 1<sup>st</sup>, Greg Warner 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Joe voiced support for a postcard idea. Maya clarified that it could be targeted towards business owners rather than neighborhood visitors. Kathy asked whether we could purchase a list of 45206 businesses from the Chamber of Commerce, and Maya said she has access to the neighborhood asset mapping document.

*Communication/Promotions* – Maya Drozdz

Maya met with Alan Brown recently to seek clarification on invoices, and would like to call a meeting with those who participated during the web site's development. She would like to increase visibility on social media, and is working on adding events and other content to the web site. Instagram account growth has reached 750 followers (it took 6 months for East WH to get to 1,500 followers), while Facebook growth has been slower.

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The neighborhood asset mapping is available online, but it contains over 320 entries even after editing it down. Maya said that this would not be likely to produce a useful business directory, and asked what we might want to include in the business list. Toni and Michael said that the intention of the website listing was to include all local businesses in a simple text listing, but then allow WHBG members to include a graphic ad or other special formatting. Joe asked whether this should be a list that is useful to WHBG members, or more for selling to neighborhood visitors; Kathy noted that workers in businesses down along Florence might become customers to others in WH if made aware of the local goods & services available. Matt requested that the Executive Committee meet at a later time to determine the scope and focus of a business directory and postcard.

*WHRF* – Joe Sandmann

Comfort Station is about to begin its white box phase, in July; CM<sup>2</sup> has been selected. Joe and Cindy have been meeting to keep informed of the CNBDU major/minor projects proposed (streetscape implementation), for which we should have some feedback by the end of July. Paramount Square is progressing, with some residents able to move in this fall, and the new brewery to move in next spring. Matt noted that demolition will begin in mid-June for the Scholar House.

Betty said that the house on Chapel was awarded the tax credits sought, and will be run by Episcopal Retirement Homes. Mold remediation has been completed at the former Kroger building, meaning it is eligible to be occupied and to apply for grant(s); funding via CrowdRise was not achieved. Sondra announced that the WHRF will be seeking participation in the upcoming Street Food Festival, to be on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Joe announced that June 1<sup>st</sup> will be his last day working with WHRF, as he has accepted a position as real estate director for College Hill.

*CNBDU* – No Report

### **Other Matters:**

Maya announced that East Walnut Hills will have a community movie night on June 9<sup>th</sup> in Owl's Nest Park, viewing the movie "Moana". There will be another similar event in August.

Allen said that there will be an anniversary party for Brick Haus on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

Amber said that LISC has accelerated business loans available.

Toni said that there was a new business owner who came to the recent WHAC meeting, and that she will get his contact information.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:52 AM.