
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: June 21, 2018 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

Attendance:

Khisha Asubuhi	Maya Drozdz	Mark Leeman	Aimee Shinkle
Kathy Atkinson	David Estep	Toni Miller	Greg Warner
Matthew Cuff	Cindy Fischer	Sondra Palivoda	Betty Waite
Gary Dangel	Christina Hartlieb	Michael Rountree	

Opening:

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

Minutes from meeting on May 17th were approved, Greg Warner 1st, Cindy Fischer 2nd.

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Atkinson showed that we have \$2,810.64 in general funds, as well as NBD funds that must be encumbered by the end of June. Treasurer's Report was approved, Aimee Shinkle 1st, Sondra Palivoda 2nd.

Committee Reports:

Safety – Matt Cuff

Officer Roper-Issa has been out due to training, but the BG was provided with copies of current crime statistics. Matt reminded members that the WHAC holds its Safety Committee meeting on the 4th Thursday each month, at 6:00 PM at the Bush Center.

Membership/Activities – Matt Cuff

Matt suggested that we plan some sort of event to help activate the former Kroger grocery space, but he noted that we will not be able to use current NBD funds for this due to schedule constraints. We need to keep looking for ways to increase membership; it was suggested that we each consider bringing someone else.

Communication/Promotions – Maya Drozdz

A local business map, postcard-sized, is under development to be printed later this month. Design will be finalized with review by Executive Committee and approximately 5,000 will be printed, to be distributed inside various retail or service establishments.

The website calendar has been upgraded, and Maya requested that we draft some descriptive text to populate some of the WHBG web pages with content; Gary said that he could adapt some copy that was generated for the Facebook account. Maya spent approx. \$100 on promotions through Facebook, and we have gained around 80 more followers at Facebook, as well as 300 more on Instagram.

WHRF – Betty Waite

A “Thriving Communities” grant was awarded, after having raised a certain amount via CrowdRise, which will put \$100k towards getting a limited grocer back into the former Kroger building; WHRF is in talks with a potential manager. Maya asked whether any additional funding will be sought, and Betty clarified that this is to be regarded as seed money, and they are soliciting other grants as well as directly asking for assistance from large local employers like Kroger, UC Health, and TriHealth.

WHRF will be closing on Firehouse Row this Friday (lots across from Green Man Park). Planned development is to be three buildings with 124 dwelling units of affordable housing.

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CNBDU – No Report

Other Matters:

Sondra said that WHRF has applied for a permit for the upcoming Street Food Festival, to be on September 29th from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, along McMillan. They are looking for sponsors.

Tomatoes and peppers have been planted in the neighborhood flower pots, and when ripe they will be available to be picked.

Matt announced that there will be a groundbreaking ceremony on June 29th for the Scholar House project, at 939 E. McMillan.

Cindy reported that First Step Home owns the property diagonally across the intersection of Fulton & Nassau, and they are moving forward with renovations. The housing for women in recovery will include 23 units in total, with 6 studio apartments and the rest 1-bedroom apartments.

Matt said that the Executive Director search for WHRF is ongoing, with the first round of interviews done, and an intent to complete within 90 days.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:38 AM.