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**Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group**

Minutes

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

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

**Attendance:**

Kathy Atkinson	Jamie Jones	Sondra Palivoda	Judith Warren
Matthew Cuff	Laksh Khurana	Officer Kandice Roper-Issa	Annetta Waters
Gary Dangel	Mark Leeman	Michael Rountree	Betty Waite
Maya Drozdz	Baba Charles Miller	Robert Stradtman	
Cindy Fischer	Toni Miller	Alician Tidwell	
Gayle Givens	Matt Olliges	Greg Warner	

**Opening:**

Meeting called to order by Matthew Cuff at 9:03 AM, with introductions.

Minutes from meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> were approved, Greg Warner 1<sup>st</sup>, Robert Stradtman 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Atkinson showed that we have \$4,765.20 in general funds, which is unencumbered; all NBDSF funds were expended and reported to the City (\$4,600.94 total expense reported, on \$4,600.00 approved budget). Treasurer's Report was approved, Baba Charles Miller 1<sup>st</sup>, Robert Stradtman 2<sup>nd</sup>. Members asked for a copy of the NBDSF report to be placed on the WHBG web site.

**Committee Reports:**

*Communication/Promotions* – Maya Drozdz

Approximately 3500 of the 5000 printed business district maps have been delivered to various establishments. Some entities, like Kurelis Interiors and Union Institute, are choosing to include the maps in their own promotional packets. On social media, Facebook has seen an additional 30+ likes, and approximately 120 more followers on Instagram. Maya recommended that we add social media links to our email notices.

Maya still needs the assistance of Chris Davis to establish email address(es). She will begin working on compilation of a business directory, beginning with current and recent WHBG members. Matt reminded all that we have a positive account balance with KN8 for some future printing.

*Safety* – Officer Roper-Issa

Officer Roper-Issa reviewed crime statistics, noting that they look good. An arrest was recently made regarding theft of a television. “Shot Spotter” has some effective coverage in Walnut Hills, but only works for locating shots fired outdoors; Officer Roper-Issa urged members to call in to report any shots fired.

If the police do make any arrests for trespassing on the former Kroger lot, they will need for someone to show up in court when those cases are prosecuted. Betty Waite indicated that she would be willing to do so.

*WHRF* – Betty Waite

They are ready to hire an Economic Development replacement for Joe, with a plan to have that person also manage beautification efforts. An offer for a new Executive Director will be made in early August.

Firehouse Row will be closing this week. Work at the Scholar House is cleared to begin by the start of August, with demolition. Work at the Paramount Building is approximately 70% complete. WHRF is talking to two different developers regarding the former Kroger building, one that would be food-oriented and one that would be manufacturing-oriented; Gary said that there would be more to report at next month's meeting.

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The Street Food Festival will be on September 29<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 5 PM, and WHRF will be reaching out to local businesses to consider sponsorship. Sondra also announced that she will be leaving after this month to return to Cleveland.

*Membership/Activities* – No Report

CNBDU – Cindy Fischer

Cindy stated that NBDSF funds for the current year will need to be discussed during the next month's meeting.

### Other Matters:

Judith Warren spoke about Health Care Access Now, a non-profit that moved to WH back in January (co-located with Talbert House). She presented several handouts describing their services, which include assistance to enroll low income persons in Medicaid, pregnancy care, and medications assessment. They work with five major managed care plans, and can follow up with interested businesses regarding their “Pathways” primary care plan; Matt said that Just-Q-in is considering working with them. An upcoming event on October 21<sup>st</sup> will aim at engaging and educating fathers about various parenting issues including breastfeeding. Toni Miller said that they need to come present this same information at an Area Council meeting, to speak more directly to residents.

Jamie Jones introduced her non-profit called Laundry Love, which seeks to assist the homeless and lower-income by offering free laundry services once per month. Clean clothing can affect how one is treated and the chances for gaining employment. Jamie hopes to be able to offer additional support, such as referrals to job placement programs or child care. To support 100 families, they will need about \$1,900 per month, and they will also need snacks, drinks, and extra clothing. Jamie hopes to begin operation in September if funded.

Laksh Khurana presented handouts describing PACE financing for energy-efficiency building improvements. This program offers funds that are to be repaid via a special tax assessment on the building. Further information can be found at [www.ohpace.org](http://www.ohpace.org) or by calling the City of Cincinnati at (513) 562-4822.

Judith mentioned the upcoming Back To School Bash on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM to 4 PM, organized by Zion Global Ministries. They will be giving out 300 kid's backpacks, and asked for donations.

Toni Miller said that there will be a meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM, at the Brew House, for those concerned about what to do to address certain issues in current problem areas, such as around Iowa Street. Kathy noted that years ago the focus was determined to be on Peebles Corner and along McMillan and Gilbert, with some awareness that troublesome behavior might shift to other parts of the neighborhood. Toni said that they are working with Mt. Auburn as well as the larger hub agencies in the area, as well as residents.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 10:00 AM.