
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: November 16, 2017 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

Attendance:

Matthew Cuff	Jasmine Ford	Tina Phillips	Greg Warner
Gary Dangel	Gayle Givens	Officer Kandice Roper-Issa	Kevin Wright
Charles O. Dillard	Anteia Greer	Michael Rountree	
Cindy Fischer	Tim MacConnell	Joe Sandmann	

Opening:

Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM, noting that primary issues on the agenda are CNBDU funds and officer elections.

Minutes from meeting on October 19th were approved, Tim MacConnell 1st, Greg Warner 2nd.

Treasurer's Report not presented.

Committee Reports:

Safety – Officer Kandice Roper-Issa

Crime statistics handout was presented. Activity at Stanton and Oak has quieted down, after meeting with two property owners. It may be that activity is just displaced, moving to Wayne & May Streets. Prostitution around the area of Lincoln, Melrose, and Stanton remains a concern; Tim also noted Oak and Gilbert. Greg said that HGC has spoken with Sgt. Cunningham regarding the refurbishment of an exterior camera, but has had no definitive response yet.

CNBDU – Cindy Fischer

Last year's allocation was marked mostly for flowerpots; about \$1,000.00 for fiber-optic pole lease and for insurance are given each year. Matt proposed the hiring of a paid assistant whose overall goal would be to increase membership. This could be done through compilation of a list of WH businesses, as well as initiating contact, and could include an increased social media presence. Michael noted that this is funding that will only extend through the end of June, so it needs to be for a discrete scope. Tim asked whether the WHRF might already have a list of businesses; Kevin and Gary replied that they have something updated a few years ago that can be built upon.

Cindy noted that we will be voting on proposed spending categories at the December meeting, so that our proposal can be submitted in early January.

Kevin noted that WHRF has a survey for business owners ready to distribute, which could be a part of the paid services. Tim asked whether WHBG members could do this internally; Michael replied that overall coordination would be done by the hired staff, who might direct volunteer efforts by others. Kevin commented that NBD funding is tied to a specific business district.

Michael asked whether there might be any other spending categories that should be considered, such as the flowerpot maintenance. Matt said that the cost was simply too high. There were about 8 pots that were adopted by others last year; WHRF is willing to approach developers working in the business district about sponsorship/adoption. Charles said that he may be willing to donate some trees, if the costs can be separated out.

Membership/Activities – Matt Cuff

Matt conducted the Elections of Officers by distributing and then collecting ballots. All three officer positions ran unopposed and were re-elected, with Matt Cuff to continue serving as President, Kathy Atkinson as Treasurer, and Michael Rountree as Secretary.

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Communication/Promotions – No Report

WHRF – Joe Sandmann

Joe presented leftover materials that had been printed for Small Business Saturday, including things like tote bags, and encouraged members to take what they might like. The former Comfort Station building is under contract for stabilization work to begin soon. The Facade Improvement Program is still available to assist new local businesses. The former Kroger building has been purchased by WHRF, and they are hoping to engage the community to determine a best use for the site. Fencing will be going up in the former Kroger parking lot, as this will be used for construction staging while rehab work is done at Paramount Square.

Other Matters:

Jasmine announced a grand opening of Jazzy Sweeties Bakery on Saturday, Nov. 18. They will be open from 7 AM to 4 PM on Tuesdays through Saturday, and are located at 1006 E. McMillan.

Express Cafe at 1012 E. McMillan is about a month away from opening, and they will have hours from 7 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Saturday. They will serve breakfast foods and sandwiches.

Gayle said that Zweet's will be changing its focus to be more on herbal and healthy lifestyle products.

Cindy offered thanks to Gary Dangel and the WHRF, noting that the bounty of the community gardens was impressive this year.

Greg announced that HGC will continue its tradition of Christmas on Stanton, as they have done each year since 1966; this will be on Saturday, December 16 at 10 AM.

Gayle noted that the East Walnut Hills group is interested in collaborating for their Walk On Woodburn.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:45 AM.