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## Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

### Minutes

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Minutes: August 16, 2018 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

#### Attendance:

Kathy Atkinson	David Estep	Matt Olliges	Greg Warner
Yvonne Ballard	Cindy Fischer	Fred Orth	Betty Waite
Matthew Cuff	Christina Hartlieb	Officer Kandice Roper-Issa	
Gary Dangel	Neil Loomis	Michael Rountree	
Maya Drozdz	Toni Miller	Aimee Shinkle	

#### Opening:

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

Minutes from meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> were approved, Fred Orth 1<sup>st</sup>, Matt Olliges 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Atkinson showed that we have \$4,465.20 in general funds, as well as some pre-paid balance with KN8 printing for future use. Toni cautioned that we should be careful as we draw down the balance with KN8 in that we need to be clear when orders are for WHBG versus WHAC. Kathy said that she has not checked the WHBG post office box recently to see if there are any new membership dues waiting.

#### Committee Reports:

##### *Communication/Promotions* – Maya Drozdz

The email address whbg@wearewalnuthills.org has been established and is monitored by Maya. Maya has reviewed the internal links and SEO infrastructure of our web site and made changes, which include the addition of search-relevant text on some pages. The WHRF has asked whether we intend to be represented at the upcoming Street Food Festival. Matt said that we should have a large banner that can be used, and Maya suggested that we might put up some form of interactive board to collect suggestions on what could be done with vacant spaces or buildings. It was also suggested that we have a response card printed, to use some of the prepaid printing balance; Maya asked for input on what kinds of information we would hope to collect.

##### *Membership/Activities* – Matt Cuff

Noting that our focus has been on McMillan and Gilbert Avenues, the past couple of years those streets have been getting cleaned by a man (Leonard) who was paid through Ed Horgan, but no longer. It was asked whether we might have interest in continuing the service, which would cost approx. \$300 per week. This could become a “beautification” line item in upcoming CNBDU funding request; Toni suggested limiting workdays to MWF, and said that partnering with WHAC may be feasible. Christina said that she has asked the City to place trash cans around the Gilbert/MLK intersection.

##### *Safety* – Officer Roper-Issa

Crime statistics were distributed. Officer Roper-Issa said there has been an increase of auto theft at the south end of the district, sometimes done in broad daylight. A suspect was arrested pertaining to burglary at St. Ursula as well as probable other incidents; this suspect is not native to WH. A new business will be moving in to 719 E. McMillan, and Officer Roper-Issa asked whether there are any community objections to the sought-for liquor license. Toni replied that she believes this to be a planned entertainment district license.

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*WHRF* – Yvonne Ballard

Yvonne introduced herself, noting that she has a background in interior design. The new executive director, Emily Sheckels Ahouse, will begin on September 4<sup>th</sup> and wants to get to know the key persons in community organizations. Betty said the WHRF will also need to hire a director of real estate to replace Sophia, whose last day will be in September.

Demolition at the Scholar House location on McMillan will begin soon; Betty said that the last of the paperwork holding up the project had been signed. Plans for another project at Lincoln & Gilbert will be starting as well. “Walnut Wheels” is a renovated van with a food truck side window, intended for community engagement. Gary said they are working on a schedule and will post it to their web site, and that it will be present at the upcoming Street Food Festival, which will be on September 29<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 5 PM.

Gary mentioned that they are 10% of the way there towards a goal of \$2 million for a new local grocer, having been awarded a \$100k grant. Matt asked whether the former Kroger parking lot space is being activated, and Betty replied that they do have some options for doing so. WHRF has been short-staffed recently and have had to focus on other priorities.

*CNBDU* – Cindy Fischer

Cindy stated that NBDSF funds for the current year will be \$3,600, and proposals will begin to be accepted in September. We will need to discuss and vote on our desired spending categories at a future meeting. Matt suggested that we plan an Executive Committee meeting to determine recommendations. Kathy noted that we have some recurring shared costs with WHAC such as insurance and fiber optic line; Toni said that WHAC will be allocating approximately \$1,000 into a youth project.

### **Other Matters:**

David asked for an update on the status of Hoity Toity Donuts, and Betty said that the owner has 7 months left to follow through. The owner is seeking additional funding.

Matt asked how the WHBG could be more involved in the community, and asked Toni about the southwest quadrant. Toni said that since February there have been discussions with representatives of several larger agencies that are located in the SW quadrant. This area is sparsely populated but has a lot of light industry, and the concerned agencies have clients that drive in from elsewhere. As a combined efforts with Mount Auburn they are organizing a “Good Neighbor Day” for this fall, for which Toni said she would forward better information to Matt. Some of the issues that need to be addressed include homeless camping under bridges, continuing crime, and especially car theft.

Fred said that he will request that Keep Cincinnati Beautiful provides for a water fountain at Green Man Park.

Maya said that during the upcoming Walk On Woodburn, Esoteric Brewing will be having a tasting.

Christina announced that the Harriet Beecher Stowe House will be hiring a part time marketing and events coordinator.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:58 AM.