
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: September 20, 2018 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

Attendance:

Emily Ahouse
Kathy Atkinson
Yvonne Ballard

Matthew Cuff
Maya Drozdz
David Estep

Cindy Fischer
Mark Leeman
Toni Miller

Michael Rountree
Aimee Shinkle
Greg Warner

Opening:

Meeting called to order by Matthew Cuff at 9:04 AM.

Minutes from meeting on August 16th were approved, Aimee Shinkle 1st, Kathy Atkinson 2nd.

Treasurer's Report by Kathy Atkinson showed no change from the prior month. Report approved, Aimee Shinkle 1st, Greg Warner 2nd.

Committee Reports:

Communication/Promotions – Maya Drozdz

After 6 months, we have surpassed our goal with approximately 1500 Instagram followers (@walnuthills), though growth on Facebook has stalled at around 230. We should like and share posts from the Facebook page (walnuthillsbusinessdistrict). Engagement is high since followers are people who care about WH. Businesses need to provide their story or other content to keep things fresh. Maya was interviewed by SoapBox about the Essex Studios Art Walk; it was noted that they have never joined WHBG. Maya said that standard emails template needs to have updated links to social media; Michael said he would see to it.

Membership/Activities – Matt Cuff

Discussion centered around upcoming NSP funding, see CNBDU section below.

Nominations for the three elected officers of WHBG are due by the next meeting, and nomination forms were distributed. The three positions to be elected are President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

CNBDU – Cindy Fischer

Cindy and Kathy noted that the earliest we can gain operating funds is in November, if application is submitted by the October meeting (generally the first Friday of each month). However, a vote on the proposed spending categories must be taken and this must be announced 30 days prior, as well as included in the meeting reminder notice for that month. The amount available this year is \$3,800.00 and Toni said that insurance is goind to be covered by the City this year. Matt suggested that we add categories for Beautification and Civic Events Sponsorship.

The issue of continuing employment of Leonard for street clean-up was discussed, noting that we cannot afford what Ed Horgan had been paying, unless we perhaps split with Area Council. Toni noted the issue of Workmen's Comp and asked whether he could be hired through WHRF, which Emily said may be possible. Kathy said she has not heard back from Ed yet what his actual total cost was. Mark said another option might be to hire through Green Man Twist, and asked whether this could be seasonal employment; Toni replied that litter is a year-round problem.

Matt asked whether we ought to continue to deal with the fiber optic line. Kathy said that for a couple of years we did not have to pay any pole lease due to prior over-billing by Duke. WHAC is the actual owner of the line. It was unknown whether Duke might charge a fee to take it down. The original goal for this line was to serve as a backbone for a pubic wifi system, with free limited access subsidized by paid business high-speed access. The only paying

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customer, Fisher Designs, had now moved out, and fiber is not lit. It was recommended that WHRF set up a meeting to discuss further.

Cindy asked who we would identify as our three authorized representatives, to be reported to CNBDU. Michael asked whether the Treasurer needs to be one of the three, but Kathy said that it is not required. Cindy Fischer, Matt Cuff, and Toni Miller agreed to serve in this capacity.

Safety – No Report

WHRF – Emily Ahouse

Emily introduced herself as the new Executive Director of WHRF, saying that she is eager to meet and talk with the representatives of the community.

The Street Food Festival was cancelled for this year, due to insufficient sponsorships and difficulties with the recent turnover of personnel at WHRF. Demolition for the Scholar House project is in progress. The Walnut Wheels program is rolling out. An Interim Development Control (IDC) is going forward pertaining to sites near the new MLK interchange, though it is loose and only kicks into effect when one existing use is to be removed and replaced by development of another use, such as residential being replaced by retail. Toni expressed concern that it doesn't control simple tear-downs. Kathy noted that the form-based code implementation does not extend to this area, and said that everything thus far proposed has been mixed-use, not the same as original use.

Other Matters:

Maya said that KN8 printing has just moved to Oakley and will not be doing delivery; we still have an unused balance with them.

Maya mentioned the second Owls Nest event which will be on October 7th, asking whether WHRF might be present with their Walnut Wheels, or perhaps a “Meet Emily” event.

Candidates Night is planned for October 3rd 7:00 PM at DeSales Corner, but they have had trouble getting candidates to participate this year.

Aimee mentioned a fundraiser later that night from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, where they will be collecting items for a food basket.

Yvonne mentioned Sister Cities event on Saturday the 29th at Cafe Vivace.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:59 AM.