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## Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

### Minutes

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Minutes: May 16, 2019 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

#### Attendance:

Brieyanna Braxton	Laura Davis	Mark Leeman	Patrick Rohs
Matt Cuff	David Estep	Julia Morgan	Michael Rountree
Gary Dangel	Cindy Fischer	Fred Orth	Dain Wahl
Daronce Daniels	Samir Kulkarni	Samantha Reeves	Greg Warner

#### Opening:

Meeting called to order by Samir Kulkarni at 9:02 AM.

Minutes from the April 18, 2019 meeting were approved, Greg Warner 1<sup>st</sup>, David Estep 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Treasurer's Report not made, Treasurer not present. Samir said that a report will be sent out via email. Michael noted that the executive committee chose to commit \$500 towards the Teacher Appreciation event, matching our level of support from the previous year, following up on last month's vote in favor of supporting this event with the exact amount to be determined by the executive committee based on Treasurer's input.

#### Committee Reports:

*Safe & Clean* – Samantha Reeves

The youth initiative with the WHRF is underway, tending to street flowerpots. The WHRF is looking to hire someone as a water transporter, and has posted a job description on their web site.

*Communications & Membership* – Samir Kulkarni

Letters have been finalized to reach out to former BG members.

*Events* – Laura Davis

Mortar will not be able to host the upcoming Meetup, so it has been changed to be at the Dillard Building. The May Meetup will feature readings by Betty Waite to coincide with the release of her new book, and attendees are asked to bring some form of cheese to share. The June Meetup will be at the Brew House, and July will be at JustQ'in.

There will be a Back-to-School Swap Meet on August 4<sup>th</sup>, at Green Man Park. Participants should bring trade items that are pertinent to the back-to-school theme, and there will be a dedicated section for price-tagged items in lieu of barter.

The Walnut Hills 5k will be delayed until next year. We will employ the 5k planner that Laura has been speaking with, signing a contract that commits us to go ahead with it. Laura asked for assistance, for someone to be in charge of this event; Daronce said that he could help with that.

*Planning & Development* – Samir Kulkarni

Pat Rohs is working with the City to develop an online interactive map, and presented an early version. The goal is to be able to click on properties and see available commercial space, acting both as an inventory and as an advertising tool. Pat said that it is proving difficult to get complete information in regards to tenants and building owners, and asked that we make use of the survey that was sent out via email (which links to a Google sheet where we can input information). Assuming that the needed information is collected, WHBG will need to commit to maintaining this database/map going forward.

Samir has been working with a UC/DAAP grad student to develop a Brand Guide, but has not settled on a preferred version yet. Michael asked how WHBG members will make use of this document, and Samir said that it is intended for businesses coming into the neighborhood, to give our vision and hopes for the neighborhood.

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Laura said that she knows of an ad agency that is looking for about 2,500 s.f. to lease, and they are looking for something less than the \$22/s.f. that they are currently paying. Dain Wahl also said that has a contact who is looking for 5,000 s.f. Samantha announced that the renovated Comfort Station will have a ribbon cutting on June 11 at 10:30 AM. Samir reported that Cutman Barbers will be opening at the end of May or early June, at the old Louis Meats location. Samir also noted that the Walker Funeral Home building is for sale, as is the former florist/interiors building, but that shop has a lack of parking and may require Zoning Variance to become a restaurant. Samir questioned what UC might do with the parking and maintenance facility behind PNC Bank, to which Laura replied that Kathy Atkinson knew a contact from about 10 years ago, when they seemed interested to sell, and Samantha stated that at the moment UC is using the property.

*NBDIP* – Samantha Reeves

The submissions for both major and minor project grants are in and initial presentations are done, with the peer bus tours to begin the next weekend.

### **Other Matters:**

Kathy Atkinson let Samir and Michael know that she has located a box of WHBG window decals, and will be able to distribute them to current paid members at a future meeting.

The Food Forest program has begun, utilizing the former Kroger store location. This program involves delivery of groceries (as ordered by participants) to the Kroger lot, for easy pickup there. Online orders can be made by use of a tablet kept on site or by downloading a custom app. They shop for best price from regional vendors. Pickup times are Sundays 10:00 AM to Noon, or Wednesday 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

Daronce announced “Bodega Day” on June 16<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 5:00 PM that will feature live music and celebrate fathers, located at 732 E. McMillan. Daronce also handed out postcards which members can use by filling their name, to petition City Council to continue funding the Center For Closing The Health Gap.

Gary mentioned the Lending Library which is looking for donations of power tools that it can use to loan out.

Matt said that JustQ'in is partnering with Cincinnati Music Accelerator to provide live music on the patio, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on May 24<sup>th</sup>, May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup>, and June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Samantha noted that the WHRF will be adding these events to its newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:36 AM.