
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: May 20, 2021 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

Attendance:

Louis Arnold	Kathryne Gardette	Samir Kulkarni	Samantha Reeves
Melissa Currence	Christina Hartlieb	Tim MacConnell	Michael Rountree
Sam Dobrozsi	Brian Jackson	Sahir Rama	Zach Woolard
Cindy Fischer	William Johnson	Leslie Rasmussen	

Opening:

Meeting called to order by Samir Kulkarni at 9:05 AM. This meeting was held as a video conference using Zoom software.

Minutes from the April 15, 2021 meeting were approved, Sahir Rama 1st, Tim MacConnell 2nd.

Treasurer's Report - Tim MacConnell reported membership account at \$5,915.96 with an additional \$50 in dues yet to be deposited. Beautification (Flower Pots) account has \$4,050.00 balance, with \$3,000 to be paid out to Parks Department today, and \$1,500 due to be paid in a future installment. The 5K Race account has \$500.

Committee Reports:

Beautification – Samir Kulkarni

One of the flower pots on Paramount Square had been vandalized, but was restored. A presentation on business district banners will be made at a future meeting, after information regarding projected costs has been gathered. A proposal from Childress & Cunningham Architects to document sign locations and typical mounting details has been received for consideration.

Communications & Membership – Sahir Rama

Sahir welcomed one new member in attendance, Louis Arnold. Jared has been continuing to develop our social media presence.

Events – Samir Kulkarni

Melissa announced that Artworks will host an Open House on Friday, May 28, from 4 to 5 PM. They recently moved into a space on Peebles Corner, with the gallery on the McMillan Street side. They are focusing on youth artists and will have a show going through July, and hope to coordinate with 5 Points Alley to bring in a drums-for-peace performance. They also have been working on a mural at Curtis & Gilbert which will be dedicated on Friday, based on a design by Kathryne Gardette.

The 5K Peebles Run is confirmed for Oct. 17, 2021, and there was discussion about the proposed logo and materials to be developed. Prizes and swag will need to be made, and there are vendors in talks with Samir. We may offer a trophy to the WH or East Walnut Hills team with the largest or fastest team. Kathryne asked about the shelf life of branded swag, suggesting that we remove the date.

Planning & Development – Samir Kulkarni

Zach presented an update on the Alexandra and Peebles Apartments projects, to follow up on the presentations made the prior month. Construction at Alexandra may start in the second quarter of 2022, with a goal to minimize displacement of current senior residents. The Peebles Apartments did gain LIHTC funding, so the new 4-story mixed-use building on Gilbert can go forward. Both projects will seek Home funding, and Model Group requested a letter of support for each. Tim asked why it seemed that low-income housing is confined to one building (Peebles), and was answered that it has to do with the available funding sources for low-income. Motion to provide a letter of support regarding the Alexandra Apartments was approved, Samir Kulkarni 1st, Michael Rountree 2nd. Motion to provide a letter of support regarding the Peebles Apartments was approved, Samir Kulkarni 1st, Michael Rountree 2nd.

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Slowing down traffic along McMillan was discussed as a point of interest, as was the creation of 2-way bike lanes between Clifton and Gilbert. Potential bike lane routing might connect to Krohn, to Harriet Beecher Stowe House, or along Taft. The City has some bike racks in inventory ready to deploy. A Transportation Committee will begin meeting in June.

Safety – No Formal Report

Leslie, who is a residential manager for Model Group, said she has seen an increase in crime and loitering in WH in recent years. She asked for discussion of what can be done. Tim said that a police officer recently stated that he was the only one on active duty in District 4 at the time, showing that the Police have a severe staffing issue. Sam reported an incident that happened about 2-1/2 months ago, where someone was grabbed at a public/private lot with an out-of-service street light. That light is now being repaired. Leslie said that there have been cameras placed at the former Kroger lot, among other efforts.

Kathryne invited all with concerns to attend the upcoming WHAC Safety Committee meeting, which is the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM; Kathryne noted that the Police said they would be in attendance. Louis Arnold said that he is a former police officer and plans to attend. Kathryne asked Leslie to clarify whether the issues she is seeing may be related to the Greenwich or to apartments above. Leslie mentioned after hours parties upstairs and the recent gunshots in the building; Kathryne said that she has spoken with one of the two liquor license holders at Greenwich and he said that following the gunshot incident, he is issuing an eviction notice. Kathryne noted that there are other hot spot locations as well.

CNBDU / NBDIP – No Report

Other Matters:

Teacher Appreciation Week this year was discussed, as a request for support was not made in a timely fashion before the full WHBG body. Instead, the Executive Committee discussed the request and determined that we would not provide support this year, since the body had not voted on it. Kathryne said that WHAC made the decision to allocate some funding equally to three schools (Dohn, Spencer, and Douglass), and Tim said that the Executive Committee had a question about other schools since the request had come from a representative of Douglass.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 10:18 AM.