
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: June 17, 2021 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

Attendance:

Kathryne Gardette	Tim MacConnell	Leslie Rasmussen	Daniel Souder
Jane Keller	Diane Morris	Samantha Reeves	Lauren Weissman
Samir Kulkarni	Fred Orth	Mary Pat Raupach	
Anne Leeman	Sahir Rama	Michael Rountree	

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 May 20, 2021 meeting were approved, Tim MacConnell 1st, Samir Kulkarni 2nd.

Treasurer's Report - Tim MacConnell reported membership account at \$5,955.96. Beautification (Flower Pots) account has \$1,450.00 balance, with \$1,500 due to be paid to the Parks Dept. in a future installment. The 5K Race account has \$500.

Committee Reports:

Beautification – Samir Kulkarni

There are two outstanding invoices to be collected from sponsors of the flower pots. The summer planting just occurred, the next planting for pots will be on October 1st. The initiative to look into streetscape banners is being put on hold, due to a lack of volunteer manpower, as efforts will need to go towards the 5K. Samir said that he has been talking with UC to consider doing another cleanup sometime in July.

Communications & Membership – Samir Kulkarni, for Sahir Rama

Samir said that we should begin ramping up on business spotlights on our social media accounts. We also need to push more for new members to join.

Events – Samir Kulkarni

Samir said that he wishes to convene a committee of 4 or 5 persons to finalize planning for the 5K. The route and date for the 5K have been confirmed, and the logo has been decided. Samir said that he has spoken with Originalitees to get T-shirts produced, and he hopes that prizes can include tickets or coupons for food item(s) from neighborhood vendors. There are two title sponsors currently, Solica Construction and Just Q'in. Samir also showed the race web site, which is ready to go live; it can be viewed by going to runsignup.com and using their search tool for "Peebles".

Planning & Development – Samir Kulkarni

Daniel Souder made a presentation regarding 733 E. McMillan (the southwest corner at Concord), where Goodwine Wine Tasting intends to open up this fall. They are seeking a letter of support for a liquor license. The location is within the entertainment district, zoned TN5-SS0, with a use permit required. Daniel said they had been open for 5 years previously but were forced to shut down last year due to pandemic restrictions. Michael asked about security measures, and Daniel replied that they will be well lighted and have an alarm system and cameras; breakins that they had experienced while in Over-The-Rhine did not appear to be for the alcohol. Tim asked about their hours of operation and was told that they will likely be noon to 8 PM or maybe 10 PM on weekends. A vote for the requested letter of support will be taken at the next meeting.

Jane Keller made a presentation regarding Artworks who is seeking a letter of support for a large window display featuring their name as a vinyl mural that spans the full length of their storefront. This is their 25th year of working with youth and artists to make art public, and they recently unveiled a wall mural based on a design by Kathryne Gardette, as well as having done the 5-Points Alley mural. They expect to employ 200 to 250 youth this year, all over the city. Their gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday from noon to 5 PM, and they do sell art. The vinyl mural design was by Evan Verrilli, an alumnus of their program, and a Zoning Variance is required since the signage would exceed size limitations.

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The vinyl would be printed to 75% opacity, with inked areas covering no more than 35% of each window pane. Samir requested clarification that the variance is only required due to the spelling out of their name; other decorative graphic elements would not count as sign area. Tim mentioned that he recalled issues when Dollar General attempted to dark-tint their windows. Kathyne asked to see a better mock-up at the next meeting, when a vote on the letter of support will be taken.

Safety – No Formal Report

CNBDU / NBDIP – Samantha Reeves

The NBDIP rankings came back, and unfortunately we were not granted our request for facade improvement grants. Competition was tough this year and many communities were declined their requests.

Other Matters:

Samantha announced that the Street Food Festival will take place this year, close to the 5K as it will be on Saturday October 9 from 3-7 PM.

Financing for the former Kroger site will be closing this month, and Samantha said the WHRF intends to begin demolition of the building in August.

Anne said that they are looking for suggestions to increase utilization of Green Man Park. Those with ideas for activities can contact GreenManTwist@gmail.com. Samir said that we do intend to use the park for the after party following the 5K (10 AM to 2 PM).

Kathyne asked what we submitted to the City, regarding neighborhood crosswalks; Samir replied that our submission amounted to work that was left incomplete from last year.

Kathyne announced that there will be Juneteenth celebration at Green Man Park this weekend, and information regarding health and vaccination will be given out, with possible attendance by the Governor.

Jane asked when the group might begin meeting in person again, noting that Artworks has available space that is right on Peebles Corner.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 10:03 AM.