
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: January 20, 2022 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

Attendance:

Moses Brown
Cindy Fischer

Christina Hartlieb
Jane Keller

Samir Kulkarni
Tim MacConnell

Samantha Reeves
Michael Rountree

Opening:

Meeting called to order by Samir Kulkarni at 9:09 AM. Meeting was held as a video conference using Zoom software.

Minutes from the November 18, 2021 meeting were approved, Samir Kulkarni 1st, Tim MacConnell 2nd.

Treasurer's Report – Our general account balance is \$6,665; the 5K Race account has \$6,076; and beautification (flower pots) account has \$738. The first payment to the Parks Dept. for flower pots maintenance will likely be due in March or April.

Samir announced that the Executive Committee has decided to change the monthly schedule of meetings such that every other month will be a meeting just of those serving as officers, committee chairs, or others specifically invited. The general body will meet on alternate months, i.e. January, March, May, July, September, and November. Minutes will still be recorded each month, regardless of constituency, and shared via our website and emails. Committees and their appointed chairs were discussed, see below.

Committee Reports:

Funding (formerly "CNBDU") – Cindy Fischer

Cindy said that we need to announce our intent to take a vote on proposed spending categories for this year's \$3,500 of operating NBD funds; Michael agreed to send out a special notice following the meeting. While the February meeting is intended to be just for Executive Committee, due to the need to vote on this issue, it will be open to any who wish to register their vote, and the vote will be among the first agenda items.

Samantha asked whether we have put in requests for major/minor project funding, to get the process started. Project ideas include neighborhood parking, public art, or a matching funds for facade improvements program. The pre-application process will be due in April, and will require a letter of support.

Membership – no report

This committee is in need of a volunteer to serve as chair.

Beautification – Tim MacConnell

This year we hope to expand from 36 to 50 planters, to include more north-south in the district.

Communications & Marketing – no formal report (Jarod Theobald to continue to lead)

Events – no formal report

This committee is in need of a volunteer to serve as chair. Moses Brown may help to organize neighborhood cleanups.

Peebles 5K Race – Samir Kulkarni

Samir will continue to lead this effort, noting that we had a successful beginning in 2021. The race is set for the third Sunday in October, and it was unclear whether the WHRF's Street Food Festival is on October 24 or November 1.

Traffic & Safety – Jane Keller

Jane volunteered to chair and serve as a liaison to Police, since they no longer send an officer to attend our meetings.

Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Other Matters:

The plan to review Bylaws for an independent WHBG will be to review a draft during the February meeting, then to present share a proposed draft in the March full body meeting. The Executive Committee will revise the draft based on feedback in April, and then a final proposal can be voted on in May. Samantha asked for a list of pros and cons to operating independently; Samir replied that it could mean access to more funding sources, could be more truly aligned to our interests as business owners/operators, make our bank accounts easier to access and manage, and simplify things like liability coverage for sponsored events. It will take more effort though to establish and maintain. Jane said that she would like to contact other similar business groups in the area to learn what they consider as pros and cons.

Samantha said that a streetscape improvement program might be a good project to propose for NBDIP funding, and it could be a Safety/Traffic initiative. Bump-outs in the parking lane are not being pushed by the City right now, though, and such changes would not qualify as a minor project as the D.O.T. would be involved. Samir said that Urban Forestry could provide trees if we could find a way to fund planting locations.

Artworks has purchased the former Race Refrigeration building, expecting to begin renovations this summer and finish by the end of 2023, working together with WHRF. Meanwhile, some art will be coming on the plywood paneling. This building will become a permanent home for Artworks and will include gallery and studio space.

Jane confirmed that the Artworks conference room on Peebles Corner will be available for WHBG meetings in the future, despite not being open for the meeting this morning.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:57 AM.