
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: May 19, 2016 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

Attendance

Jeff Brewster	Baba Charles Miller	Kevin Wright	Jerome Tarver
Michael Rountree	Toni Miller	Fred Orth	Kathryne Gardette
Officer Kandice Roper-Issa	Tim MacConnell	Matthew Cuff	John Putnam (PowerNet)
Kathy Atkinson	Chris Davis	Anteia Greer	Joseph Bradley (PowerNet)
Clarence Taylor	Nichol Jones	Mark Stenger	Susan Lennard
Betty Waite	Evelyn Dayzie	Katy Dietz	
Gary Dangel	Joe Sandmann	Cindy Fischer	

Meeting called to order at 11:45 AM, with mention by Jeff Brewster of an article that appeared in the May 8th Enquirer, that reflected on local employers looking for qualified job candidates among local residents.

Minutes from meeting on April 21, 2016 were not discussed; Jeff asked that approval be delayed until the May meeting. Printed copies of Minutes from March, April, and May will all be available at the June meeting.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Tim MacConnell

Tim is working on reconciling the current list to get caught up, and said that he has been developing an idea for a promotional piece, which he will present at a later meeting. New members were recognized, including Just Q-in and Laser Spine Institute, and new visitors were acknowledged.

Safety – Officer Roper-Issa

Crime statistics were distributed. Lincoln & Gilbert was shut down last week due to an incident in which two drivers were shooting at each other. Warmer temperatures can mean more loitering typically, and there have been more thefts from autos, esp. around Park and Cross. Sgt. Kilgore has been working to streamline the process for requesting security cameras; the City doesn't fund these, but "Real Time Crime" is willing to monitor cameras, provided that specific equipment is purchased and installed.

At the old substation on Hemlock & McMillan, Mr. Maile is seeking a liquor license. Kathy reported that there is ongoing friction with arguments recurring on the street, near the auto repair place at May and McMillan. An eviction notice has been served at 2338 Boone Street. Underage prostitution has been seen around Kemper; Officer Roper-Issa asked that she be notified if such is seen.

Constitution/By-Laws – Jeff Brewster

As the Business Group has voted in the affirmative to explore the acquisition of a separate 501c-3 status, the next step is to develop governing By-Laws independent of the current WHAC By-Laws under which we currently function. A committee consisting of Jeff, Kim Coleman, Pam Schreiner, Michael Rountree, and William Johnson will convene and is open to additional participants, with the intention of presenting a draft of new By-Laws at a future meeting. It was clarified that we have not yet voted as a body to become an independent body; that vote must come after By-Laws have been finished.

Toni said that the WHAC is in support of the changes, but they will need to make amendments to their By-Laws and vote to dissolve the standing Business Group committee when the time comes.

Finance – Jeff Brewster

Report was included on reverse side of meeting agenda. For expenditures to be reimbursed by CNBDU operating funds, they must be encumbered by end of June (fiscal year). Expenses can be shifted into other approved categories, with Beautification likely to be the default for remainder of expenses. Jeff said that any necessary re-allocation of funds will be discussed at the June Executive Committee meeting. Financial Report was accepted, Tim MacConnell 1st, Betty Waite 2nd.

CNBDU – Cindy Fischer

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The bus tour to present our proposed projects happened recently; Kevin said we have proposed two good projects (gateway signage design and stabilization of the Comfort Station) but Jeff noted that there is tough “competition” for these project dollars, as the City is on a dynamic move.

Planning & Physical Development – Kevin Wright

The community reinvestment plan is underway, with a draft plan forming. The second round of public engagement will commence soon; Kevin said the next big meeting would be June 25, but Kathy commented that the City's Poverty Summit is the same day, and asked whether it might be changed. Evelyn said she has been seeing a lot of homes boarded up; Jeff said this is the kind of thing that might be addressed via the reinvestment plan.

Approximately 300 people came out to the 5-Points Alley on Cinco de Mayo, many of whom were not residents of WH. There will be a meet-up at Just Q-in on May 26, with free BBQ from 7-9 PM. They have a new smoker called LuAnne, and have a goal of hiring WH residents.

Education / Workforce Development – No Report

Beautification – No Report

Other Matters:

“Art Out Loud” will feature spoken-word poetry, to be held on Friday the 27th from 6-9 PM. “Music Off McMillan” will be held June 4th, featuring live music at multiple establishments including Fireside Pizza and the Greenwich.

Susan Lennard presented the upcoming Neighborhood Games, which will include competitions amongst all 52 Cincinnati neighborhoods. Qualifiers are currently being held; any resident of WH or worker in WH can represent WH. Finals will be in July, and the full schedule of events is available at www.cincygames.com (events include cornhole, tug-of-war, chess, 3-legged race, soccer accuracy, etc.).

Jeff spoke about the foresight that led to installation of fiber optic some dozen years ago, noting that now it is time to catch up to where we should be with its deployment and integration. Presentations will be made by two vendors, with a presentation by PowerNet at this meeting. PowerNet is a 24-year-old woman-owned business headquartered in Cincinnati. They have provided an installation for the Cincinnati Zoo recently, and are working in Avondale.

PowerNet proposed a system in which the Business Group retains ownership of the fiber and WiFi hotspots, and free WiFi can be provided based on a social media login, which would enable the collection of lots of user data. This data could then allow the promulgation of targeted advertisements as well as relevant community info, and users could be welcomed with notifications about local sponsors. User movements might be tracked, and a “Take Me There” feature could offer wayfinding to local establishments or venues. Any/all data captured would belong to the Business Group.

Targeted ads and sponsorships would make this into a potential revenue source for the BG, though there would be substantial up-front costs to purchase all necessary equipment. Bandwidth can be via any preferred provider such as Time-Warner or Cinti Bell, and they promise that the network could be live within 90 days of a signed contract. Fiber-Optic service to local businesses could be offered at any price point the BG chooses, perhaps including a discounted rate for BG members.

Network management can be automated to some extent, such as specifying that all 50+ males on their first visit are sent one particular ad or piece of info. It would be up to the BG to manage this, though. Login to free WiFi can require a social media account, or can be based on an online form to be submitted, it would be up to the BG to determine such requirements. Data is collected on cloud-based servers by Amazon, with password-limited access.

Anteia spoke about Dohn School's “SOAR” program which seeks to impart skills to help its students retain jobs. They have many juniors and seniors who are now available to be hired.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 1:30 PM.