
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: September 26, 2024 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham Architects

Attendance:

Frank Arena	Heather Britt	Christina Hartlieb	Michael Rountree
Simone Bess	Sam Dobrozzi	Mona Jenkins	
Cierra Bickel	Kathryne Gardette	Samantha Miller	

Opening:

Meeting called to order by Kathryne Gardette at 9:17 AM, at Springhill Suites. Each person was asked to share something positive that had happened in the previous month. Kathryne expressed thanks to Bobby Minelli for hosting meetings in previous months at Household Books.

Minutes from the August 22, 2024 meeting were approved by Frank Arena 1st, Christina Hartlieb 2nd.

Treasurer's Report – No report. Samantha said that she has generated an invoice to reimburse her for covering an amount due for the flowerpots. The next payment will be due in October, approximately \$4,500. Merrit Colister had begun working on getting sponsors to contribute, but we have had no update on those efforts. Sam said that Fireside could offer a charity night to help raise funds. Samantha said that Alex Zyndorf and Samir Kulkarni still need to get together to transfer bank account access.

Discussion Topics:

Heather announced the opening of DanceFix on the Friday October 18th, with free classes to be available on the 19th and 20th. They will have a DJ for their party on that Friday.

Kathryne noted that Easter Seals has opened, and there are new murals installations by Artworks such as at Gilbert & Curtis.

October WHAC Meeting – Kathryne Gardette

The upcoming WHAC meeting will be important to attend, as there will be a presentation by a dialysis clinic as well as for a proposed hotel on Beecher Street, who chose not to present to WHBG. Walnut Hills has actually lost some housing over the years.

Safety – (discussion)

Kathryne asked what safety is like, and whether we are calling in when we hear gunshots or other suspicious activity. Sam said that things have been good lately since confronting two guys about loitering. They may be unhoused individuals, and one (Randy) seems to have been living in Green Man Park; he is polite and non-violent and has been asked not to return to Fireside Pizza. Frank said that things have been going better regarding break-ins of vehicles, which have been occurring at hotels city-wide as perpetrators seem to be looking for guns. Cierra said that at a Mt. Auburn meeting it was mentioned that the criminals are teens and they have some names. Mona said she sees connections, as there have been gun shops hit as well, and stolen guns are starting to show up, it may be part of a larger coordinated ring. There have been as many as 15 to 30 cars hit in one night, often in the early morning hours like 3 to 5 AM. Frank said that they have installed motion detector alarms that play sound effects, intended to deal with coyotes, to scare off thieves.

Mona said that the schools have been working the Police (CPD) to try to deal with the issue of fights taking place at bus stops (one occurred just last Wednesday). Cinti Public Schools has recently changed its bus systems, increasing the number of kids

Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

routing through certain neighborhoods. Mona also attended Dohn Schools' board meeting, as they held an emergency board meeting last Thursday. Due to Dohn's curriculum they are allowed to transport their students anywhere. Mona noted that there are students missing out on their education due to the fact that Dohn has facilities that are not yet open; she also said that Ramone Davenport has been released from his position, with Bill serving in his role in the interim. Kathryne said that she had seen a news clip regarding a CPS school board meeting; the police chief presented a bill for overtime pay. Mona noted that a lack of funding for CPS is the main issue, to which tax abatements have contributed. Simone commented that there is an attitude of "not my problem" once the students are off school grounds.

Other Matters:

Samantha presented a flyer for the upcoming Street Food Festival, to be held from 3 to 8 PM on September 29th at Green Man Park. WHRF is still accepting sponsorships of \$275 for this event. There will be a DJ, various art activities, and a performance by DanceFix.

Samantha also announced that there will be a clean-up happening this week, using grant money and a number of volunteers from University of Cincinnati.

Christina said that Harriet Beecher Stowe House has new brochures to hand out.

There will be discussion on October 25th regarding street coming for Gilbert Avenue.

Samantha announce a block party for Paramount Plaza on Saturday October 12th, including the grand opening for Etc Produce.

Michael reminded the group that elections of officers (chair, secretary, and treasurer) will be upcoming in November, and the slate of candidates must be finalized during the October meeting.

Samantha said that WHRF has an applicant for the position as support staff for WHRF, WHAC, and WHBG; this paid position is supported by an Americorps Vista grant. They will focus on getting communication channels amongst the groups up, and compiling resource lists.

It was noted that the Comfort Station building will be going up for lease.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 10:05 AM.