
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: December 19, 2024 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham Architects

Attendance:

Frank Arena	Christina Hartlieb	Mona Jenkins	Michael Rountree
Cierra Bickel	Kathryne Gardette	Tim MacConnell	
Paul Haffner	Lexie Grimes	Samantha Miller	

Opening:

Meeting called to order by Kathryne Gardette at 9:20 AM, at Springhill Suites.

Minutes from the November 21, 2024 meeting were approved, Paul Haffner^{1st}, Mona Jenkins^{2nd}.

Treasurer's Report – No Report, but see discussion below regarding CNBDU and flower pots.

Discussion Topics:

Flower Pots – Kathryne noted that the person in charge is no longer able to manage, and we have not collected enough funds to cover the remainder that is owed for 2024. There is a final invoice 2450 from the Parks Department, and \$4950 is an amount owed to WHRF to reimburse their coverage of a prior invoice on our behalf. We need to make a decision by January 10th regarding whether we intend to continue with the Parks Department maintenance of flower pots. Kathryne said she will request an extension past January 10th.

We did take in \$245.00 from the recent fundraising activity. It was suggested that we add an encouragement to donate towards flower pots on each meeting reminder and other emails. Samantha said that we can commit most of our CNBDU allocation for 2025 towards paying off the current invoice. The cost per pot is about \$700, of which the Parks Dept. pays for half, so we are responsible for \$350 each, and we have 30 pots throughout the neighborhood. Frank asked what might happen if we did not pay, and Samantha replied that the pots themselves belong to us not to the Parks Dept. so they would likely just collect weeds and trash. Cierra asked if we could remove some of the pots, and Tim asked whether Parks Dept. might be able to store them for us. Lexie asked about organizing our own maintenance by volunteers, but Samantha noted that this can be problematic as volunteer effort can be unreliable, and we wouldn't have a watering truck that can easily access the pots. Kathryne said that we had once asked a local landscaper for a service quote, and they were roughly twice the cost compared to the Parks Dept. Tim said that he would contribute \$500, and Samantha said that she will create a button for PayPal donations.

CNBDU – Samantha Miller

Samantha said that we need to announce our proposed spending categories for the annual CNBDU operating funds this month, in order to be able to vote next month on them. Tim asked whether there are other ongoing costs that might need to be included, such as for our website; Kathryne replied that we recently changed our host and will be splitting the cost with WHAC. Other suggestions included development of a business district map, or landscape maintenance in the Gilbert median strips, though Kathryne replied that the costs for that could greatly exceed our potential CNBDU budget.

The total available for 2025 should be \$3,600.00 and we just need to define spending categories that are broad enough to encompass the flower pots and any other priorities we might include. It was agreed to commit the bulk of our budget to “Marketing of the Business District”, with the addition of \$100 allocated for our CNBDU dues and \$200 for Beautification.

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Other Matters:

Frank asked who is in charge of tracking active membership, and Michael replied that historically this duty has been shared by the Treasurer and a Membership Committee chair, and we currently lack a membership volunteer. It was noted that some members would contribute towards flower pots if it was put in front of them.

The meeting locations for 2025 were discussed, and it was decided to meet in a different location each quarter throughout the year. For January, February, and March, we will meet at Mortar (2453 Gilbert Avenue). For April, May, and June, we will meet at Harriet Beecher Stowe House (2950 Gilbert Avenue). For July, August, and September we will meet at Lighthouse Youth & Family Services (2433 Iowa Avenue). And for October, November, and December we will return to Springhill Suites (on the 3rd thursday due to holidays).

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:46 AM.