
Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group

Minutes

Minutes: May 22, 2025 - Walnut Hills Area Council: Business Group Meeting

Taken by Michael Rountree, Childress & Cunningham, Inc.

Attendance:

Frank Arena	Ashley Gibbs	Lynn Love	Cole Weirich
La Tanya Cobb	Paul Haffner	Doug Olberding	Katrina Weiss
Chris Davis	Christina Hartlieb	Michael Rountree	
David Estep	Mona Jenkins	Stacy Sims	

Opening:

Meeting called to order at 9:06 AM.

Minutes from the April 24, 2025 meeting were approved, Stacy Sims 1st, David Estep 2nd.

Treasurer's Report – No report.

Discussion Topics:

Kathryne said that there has been a lot going on recently, and asked participants to give an overview of whatever they would like to share. Christina began, as the meeting was being held at Harriet Beecher Stowe House (HBSH), noting that they had about 35 persons attending last month. HBSH is planning a “birthday” party for Sunday, June 8th, from noon to 4 PM. They will have cake, sno-cones, and popcorn, as well as a poetry slam.

David said that they have purchased a fourth property in Walnut Hills, a former car dealership. Doug reported on the Flying Pig Marathon, which attracted about 43,000 people, with half of those from outside the region; rain might have kept the participation down somewhat. “Pigworks” is leaning into its nonprofit status, and Doug said he has been in his current role since June 2024. They are getting ready to close on 792 E. McMillan, with a vision to be a part of the neighborhood and an anticipated \$3.5 million renovation.

Cole said that LaSoupe is hoping to do something in September or October to celebrate its 10th year. Lynn mentioned that Market Wines holds wine tastings on the weekends, and that they are trying to get a music series going in Green Man Park. Lynn also noted that she will have been open in Walnut Hills for one full year on July 13th.

La Tanya said that RISE Development is looking into a neighboring paper street in conjunction with a housing development on McGregor. Mona mentioned her ongoing efforts to get a worker-owned grocery established in our community. Ashley reminded the group of the WHRF's upcoming Street Food Festival to be held in September, and of the NBDIP project proposals that are in process.

Katrina said that she will be leaving her position leading the WHAC's Sustainability Committee. She is an expert on recycling and will be available for a few more Committee workshops, on June 17th, July 15th, and August 19th. She presented a handout detailing these workshops and noting that the Committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday each month, 6 to 7 PM at the Library. Michael also reminded the group that he intends to step down from serving as WHBG Secretary at the end of this year; Kathryne said that Jessica Vasquez may have interest in taking on the role.

Stacy said that The Well has been glad to be located at Mortar, but they are looking forward to moving into the former ArtWorks space. She presented a handout of their upcoming events, including some at Paramount Plaza and at Green Man Park, and mentioned Mindful Music Moments which is suitable for use in a classroom (see their website). Paul said that Lighthouse is transitioning its leadership, and noted that they will be hosting the WHBG meetings in July, August, and September.

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Kathryne explained her “VOTE” acronym, meaning to Voice Optimism Tenaciously Everyday. She let every one know about an upcoming meeting at the Bush Center, regarding the City's Healthy Neighborhoods endeavor, to be held next Tuesday. Mona reminded all that events can be shared by sending an email to president@wearewalnuthills.org; Stacy asked whether it might be considered too much to send entire schedules, but Kathryne and Mona agreed that it is best to send anyways.

Mona mentioned the Reds Community Fund project which is slated to come to Walnut Hills on July 24th. This will include youth programming and upgrades to play/sports fields at the Bush Center, Douglas School, and upkeep of community gardens. Preparation will take place on the 23rd, and there will be about 500 volunteers on the 24th, from 9 AM to 3 PM. Kathryne asked about hosting some form of after-party, and Cole noted that LaSoupe had previously expressed a willingness to help with providing a lunch, but that 500 might be a bit much.

Kathryne asked what it might look like to obtain an arts/cultural district designation from the City, and said that Mark Jeffrey and a team from the City will be present at the June 5th meeting at the Library, from 3:00 to 4:30 PM. They will speak about the process of obtaining such a designation.

Kathryne also said that she has spoken with ArtWorks about assisting with a membership drive “Join In June”, with the goal of reaching out to about 200 current non-members in the neighborhood. Katrina said that it would be good to develop some form of window cling or decal, and Doug said that if we can get him a design, he knows the contacts to get it produced (doug@flyingpigmarathon.com).

Frank mentioned a coworker who had been working on a local business list, but who is now gone due to budget cuts. Kathryne said that we should let it be known as we face cuts, and Stacy said that we can collaborate with our resources and encourage conversations.

Mona invited our attendance on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5:30 PM at the Bush Rec Center (pizza served at 5:00), as many City departments are willing to come and explain various programs, like LISK, DOTE, and Healthy Neighborhoods.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:55 AM.