



## **Mt. Washington Community Council**

### **Board Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2023, 7pm**

#### **Welcome and Call to Order**

A meeting of the MWCC board was held via Zoom link on this day. Jaime called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

#### **Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**

Board members in attendance: Jaime Castle, Kristina Kew, Michael Gray, Wade Johnston, Karen Luken, Priscilla Elgersma and Julie Rimer. Sophie Roberto was absent. Marc Raab attended as a guest.

#### **Adoption of the Agenda**

Julie made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, Karen seconded, and the meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

#### **Reading of and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Board Meeting**

The minutes of the February 1, 2023 board meeting were approved by a unanimous vote.

#### **Unfinished Business**

##### **Urban Parking Overlay Update**

Before anything like a UPOD can be considered for Mt. Washington, we need an updated neighborhood plan. There have been prior plans done in 2007 and 2020, to name two, and we need to inventory these plans and others to determine what is still relevant. Jaime will inventory these plans and we will have regular, ongoing meetings with other organizations in Mt. Washington (MWCCDC, MWCURC, SPAC) to discuss the way forward.

Wade thought he recalled MWCC asking for an updated neighborhood plan as one of our Community Budget Requests (CBR) a few years back and it being awarded by the City, but never executed. Wade found that the last neighborhood plan listed on the City's website is the one done in 2007. He suggested we find out whether there is any more recent plan.

##### **CORA Proposed Trails in Stanbery Park**

Jaime asked board members to state any concerns they had about mountain bike trails in Stanbery Park. Three board members expressed no concerns. The other board members expressed the following

concerns: 1) Jason Reser/CORA needs to contact the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to understand their concerns; 2) want to see how CORA has improved trails in other parks; 3) CORA hasn't been transparent about the process and disregarded the request to not engage with the public until the parks signed off on this proposal; 4) concern that some Mt. Washington residents, for whom this is their only greenspace in an urban area, won't have an opportunity to give input on this proposal; 5) concern regarding environmental degradation that could be caused by mountain bikes: increase in non-native, invasive plants and creation of rogue trails; 6) those who live adjacent to the park will have to care for anyone injured in a mountain bike/pedestrian collision; 7) will be difficult to get emergency vehicles back to anyone injured on a trail; 8) mountain bikes will make the park less family-friendly when this park has been cited as one of the most family-friendly trails in Travel and Leisure Magazine; 9) Stanbery Park would be the second smallest park in CORA's park acreage making this a less appropriate place for mountain bikes. Parks where CORA trails are located average approximately 700 acres compared to Stanbery Park at 125 acres. 10) CORA wants access to two of the most popular trails, the Shoop trail and the sledding trail; 11) CORA has not dealt with SPAC in good faith: SPAC was last to know about this proposal and CORA had a booth at the Pumpkin Chuck to promote the trails even though CORA and SPAC had been told by the park board not to engage the public yet.

Marc Raab, president of the Stanbery Park Advisory Council (SPAC), was a guest at this meeting. Marc presented a timeline of when SPAC found out about the CORA-proposed trails (6/1/2022) and all the events that have ensued. In summary, CORA, the CDC and MWCC moved forward with the proposal, omitting SPAC from some important meetings. CORA and the CDC engaged with the public about the proposal when they were advised by the park board not to do this. Mt. Washington residents gathered over 300 signature petitions opposing mountain bike trails in Stanbery Park. Four Stanbery Park patrons spoke out against the CORA proposal at the January 19, 2023 park board commissioners' meeting and the petitions were delivered to the park board at that time. The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma has sent a letter to the park board rejecting the CORA proposal because the proposed trails run through sacred spaces and burial grounds of indigenous people. As suggested at the February 15 MWCC meeting, SPAC will take over the discussion with CORA from the MWCC. The CORA-SPAC timeline provided by Marc Raab is an attachment to the minutes.

A question was asked about the location of the trails the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma is concerned about. Those trails are in the Elstun Road connector.

A question was asked about how to attend SPAC board meetings. Jaime will send an email connecting Marc and Wade.

A motion was made by Julie and seconded by Karen to let SPAC take the lead with regard to CORA's proposal. The MWCC will support as needed. The motion passed with Wade and Priscilla abstaining.

### **New Business**

#### **Director's Retreat**

Jaime will send board members an email about this.

**Roving Packer Truck**

Julie stated the truck can be used for trash or yard waste, but we must specify what we are asking the truck to pick up when we request it. The trash and yard waste packer trucks take the debris to different locations.

**NSP Projects**

Jaime asked if the board has any NSP proposals to submit for items needed to run the MWCC. We are not sure if we need to purchase equipment to record meetings. Jaime is recording this meeting and we will see how that goes.

We need to make sure we fund the \$600 needed to pay the City for the care of the three pots in Tom Roth Place.

Concern was expressed about the cost/effectiveness of mailing out postcards for Mt. Washington Cares. If this proposal is approved, perhaps information from other organizations could be added to the postcards.

The NSP proposals that have come in so far total \$10,200, more than the NSP budget.

Jaime designed the scorecard below for judging NSP proposals:

Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Category: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rate this project: 1- unsatisfactory, 2 – below average, 3 – average, 4 – above average, 5 – exceptional

Benefits many people	1	2	3	4	5
Lasting benefits	1	2	3	4	5
Improves quality of life	1	2	3	4	5
Improves the neighborhood physically	1	2	3	4	5
Inclusive	1	2	3	4	5
Uplifts children	1	2	3	4	5
Connects people	1	2	3	4	5

Total points: \_\_\_\_\_

Everyone liked the scorecard rubric. Two suggested changes to the scorecard were made: 1) change “exceptional” to “excellent,” and 2) add a row that asks if the proposal has other revenue sources.

We discussed the possibility of approving all NSP proposals but giving everyone a certain percentage of the request to stay within the NSP budget.

The procedure for choosing NSP proposals will be as follows: The project representative can present the project in no more than 3 minutes. Questions or comments can follow each project, aiming for no more than five minutes for each project. Each person will score each project based on the scorecard criteria. The people sitting together at tables will combine their scores for each project. The scorecards will be collected and the projects ranked based on the scores. We will start with the highest ranked project(s)

and decide to award full or partial funding. Votes will be taken at different dollar amounts that are set forth in a motion. We will go in order down the ranking, awarding funds until the amount is used up.

### **Updating Web Page Content**

Karen volunteered to update the dated content of the MWCC web page. The updated page will make it clear how to get involved in the MWCC and could include information on how to get involved in other community organizations. Julie made a motion to bring the web page up-to-date, Jaime seconded and the motion passed.

### **Revenue generating/fundraising as a community council**

There was a discussion about how to raise funds for MWCC. Suggestions included: 1) get more sponsors for the Pumpkin Chuck, but do not ask the same sponsors that Bob Wetterer uses for the Holiday Walk and 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade; 2) ask Chipotle for Pumpkin Chuck sponsorship; 3) SPAC could buy inflatables for events. While this would cost money upfront, it would be a revenue generator in the future and would be cheaper than renting inflatables; and 4) perhaps the legion could sponsor a community grill out. Forscht Bank employees are willing to volunteer for community events.

### **Invest in Neighborhoods Summit**

This Friday, March 3, is the registration deadline.

### **February membership meeting minutes edits**

Julie edited the original minutes after researching best practices in writing minutes. A motion was made by Michael and seconded by Karen to accept the membership minutes. Motion passed.

### **Budget issues – address any lingering questions for new Directors.**

We must be sure to put in a budget line of \$600 for the care of the 3 planters in Tom Roth Place.

### **How to support other organizations in Mt. Washington**

The organizations in Mt. Washington should do a better job of supporting each other. A suggestion was made that organizations should volunteer for each other. A request was made to support the next spaghetti dinner on March 18. Carryout is available.

Bob Wetterer of the MWCURC is heading up getting the chain link fence that runs along the east side of the cemetery on Beechmont replaced by the city. The current chain link fence posts are rusted and falling over, creating a safety hazard. The fence has been hit many times by automobiles.

### **Announcements/Upcoming Events**

There is a Stanbery Park event this Saturday, March 4. Volunteers will be spreading mulch under the playground equipment, cleaning up litter, and removing non-native, invasive plants. The event runs from 10am to 1pm.

### **Good of the Order**

Jaime acknowledged Julie for conscientious work on improving the minutes according to best practices and Priscilla acknowledged Julie for the work in organizing the Stanbery Park work event on March 4.

**Adjournment**

Julie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Priscilla. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rimer