



MOUNT WASHINGTON

Mt. Washington Community Council

3/15/2023 Meeting Minutes

Jaime Castle called the meeting to order at 7pm. Jaime explained we are trying out Facebook Live stream so people at home can watch the meeting and the meeting will also be recorded. Jaime also brought a microphone to make the meeting more accessible to anyone hard-of-hearing. Board members present included Jaime Castle, Kristina Kew, Karen Luken, Priscilla Elgersma and Julie Rimer. Absent board members were Wade Johnston, Michael Gray and Sophie Roberto.

Rick Meador led the pledge of allegiance. Jaime asked those who hadn't received the minutes by email to please make sure to write their email address next to their name on the sign-in sheet so that all will receive future communications.

Rick Meador made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Karen Luken seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Priscilla Elgersma made a motion to approve tonight's agenda, seconded by Glenn Johnson, then approved by all.

Community Reports

The fire report was given by Lieutenant Joshua Knoechel, a representative of Company 7 on Sutton. He congratulated everyone on surviving the recent windstorms. He said the fire department had 107 runs in February of 2022 and had at least twice that number of runs in February of 2023. It is smoke alarm season: change your clocks and change the batteries on your smoke alarms. If you are buying new smoke detectors, the lieutenant recommends the new type of smoke detectors that have a battery life of ten years and are disposable at that point. He also said we might be surprised at how many runs are made due to people putting something on the stove and forgetting about it, so be careful about that.

Officer Jason Rice provided the most recent Neighborhood Crime Report and he said we've had a recent significant drop in crime. Community members thanked Officer Rice for the increased patrols in Stanbery Park and told him the patrols are very appreciated.

Nikki Marksberry had two major items to inform everyone about at Mt. Washington School: 1) the school will hold "Knight's Fest" on Thursday, May 11. It is a free community carnival. The school welcomes members of the community at the carnival and would appreciate any volunteers who would be willing to run one of the booths with carnival games. To volunteer, please call Nikki Marksberry at 513-363-3835. 2) Bella said Mt. Washington School is conducting enrollment for Fall 2023, particularly for preschool and kindergarten students. She said these are some good reasons to enroll your child: this is a neighborhood school; they have on-site, after school care; Mercy Health Network has a satellite site

at the school; kindergarten through sixth grade students all take Spanish; and the school has an on-site library and is one of the few Cincinnati Public Schools to have that. Preschool enrollment is handled by CPS Early Childhood Hub. You can find the information for preschool enrollment at this link: <https://www.cps-k12.org/Page/218> Anyone wishing to enroll a child for kindergarten or any other grade can call Mt. Washington School at 513-363-3800.

This is Bella's last MWCC meeting because she has accepted a job with the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. A big round of applause was given to thank Bella for all she has done and to wish her well in her new job. If you know anyone who is interested in being an early childhood resource coordinator, please contact Nikki Marksberry at 513-363-3835.

Keith Schomaker, the school community coordinator from Sands Montessori, introduced Kaitlin, a resource coordinator who will begin next fall. Kaitlin has worked for Girl Scouts of America and the Children's Home of Cincinnati. Over 200 families participated in Sands Montessori's family reading night. That also kicked off a read-a-thon which is a big fundraiser for the school. Sands has a school carnival coming up on Saturday, April 22, which is Earth Day. The school will have a ceremony thanking companies that have donated resources, time, labor and materials to Sands. The school is looking for sponsorships for this event, so if you have a business and would like to have a booth, run a game or just come up and engage with the 700 Sands families, the school would love to have you.

Joe Sandman from the CDC told Jaime he has nothing new to report this month.

Mark Hamad, president of the Mt. Washington Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (MWCURC), reminded everyone that the next spaghetti dinner will be from 4pm to 7pm on Saturday, March 18 at the American Legion Post 484 at 1837 Sutton Avenue, 45230. The MWCURC is planning a parade that will be held on July 3. If you can volunteer for the spaghetti dinner, they start setting up at 1pm. They will have the March Madness basketball games on during the afternoon. They would appreciate volunteers for an hour or so between the 1pm and 7pm time frame. If you would like to volunteer, please email Bob Wetterer at bwetterer@comey.com or call or text him at 513-884-8326.

Marc Raab, president of the Stanbery Park Advisory Council, said that SPAC is in the middle of planning the park entertainment for the year. Zac Morgan and the Madcap Puppets will be in Stanbery Park on Saturday, May 27, of Memorial Day weekend. Other band dates are being planned, as well as dates for movies in the fall.

Jason Richards, service area coordinator, gave the Cincinnati Recreation Center report. The CRC has filled up its registration for summer day camp. The CRC also has a preschool summer day camp and has a few spaces left. Today, the CRC opened up registration for their summer club CRC program which is a lower cost option for kids. That program runs Monday through Thursday from 10am to 3pm for a \$20 per week fee. To enroll your child, please go to the Cincinnati Recreation website at this link: <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/recreation/>

The CRC is looking for employees for this summer. They are hiring summer day camp counselors who must be at least 18 years of age. The CRC is willing to even interview candidates on the spot. Please just go to the rec center you want to work for in order to interview. The CRC is also desperately looking to hire lifeguards who must be at least 15 years of age. The CRC will even teach lifeguards to swim at the Mt. Auburn pool and will pay them to learn. The lifeguards will be paid between \$16 and \$18 per hour.

Rick Meador of Mt. Washington Cares said there was nothing new to report this month.

Glenn Johnson of the American Legion Post 484 said they have many activities planned for Memorial Day. They go to 6 cemeteries, including Mt. Washington Cemetery, and many other destinations.

Bob Wetterer, MWCURC, is looking for sponsors and volunteers for the July 3 parade. If you would like to be a sponsor or volunteer, please email Bob Wetterer at bwetterer@comey.com or call or text him at 513-884-8326.

General Business

Update on the Parking Overlay Initiative: Jaime said we need to have a neighborhood plan in place before we consider anything like a parking overlay. The various groups (MWCC, MWCURC, MWCDC, SPAC, etc.) are meeting to discuss our vision for Mt. Washington. There is no UPOD on the table anymore; that is gone.

Don't Trash the 'Nati: Karen Luken explained that councilman Mark Jeffreys introduced the idea of reinvigorating "Don't Trash the 'Nati." Unfortunately, levels of littering and open dumping increased throughout the city during Covid. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful is working with Councilman Jeffreys on a competition amongst all the neighborhoods in Cincinnati. The neighborhood that collects the most trash wins a first prize of \$5,000. The second prize is \$3,000 and the third prize is \$2,000. Karen signed up Mt. Washington for the competition. Mt. Washington is one of 17 neighborhoods that signed up for the competition. The competition began in March. Mt. Washington can get credit for the cleanup that was conducted in Stanbery Park with UC students and some neighbors on Saturday, March 4. Garbage from abandoned homeless camps was cleaned and non-native, invasive plants were removed. SPAC can add an assessment of the amount of garbage and non-natives removed to cleanup totals. If someone does a cleanup themselves, please take photographs and send the pictures and describe the accomplishment to info@mwcc.org. There is a hot spot of dumping near Ranchvale that could be cleaned up. If you have ideas of areas that residents of our community should try to clean up, please email suggestions to info@mwcc.org.

NSP Funding: The amount of NSP money allocated to Mt. Washington is \$9872. There are four different projects that have been proposed for funding. We are in an unusual situation where we have enough money to fund all four projects. Jaime asked each person who proposed a project to explain their proposal. Here is a summary of the proposals:

	Project Name	Amount Requested	Category
Project #1	Business District Cleaning	\$2000	Neighborhood Improvement Activities/Beautification
Project #2	Community Entertainment Events	\$4000	Neighborhood Services
Project #3	Community Outreach Postcard Outreach	\$2100	Communication Project
Project #4	Interactive Arts Activities	\$1772	Neighborhood Services/Education

Additional information on NSP Project Proposals:

Project #1: Bob Wetterer submitted an NSP request from the MWCURC asking for a total of \$2000 for four projects. \$1000 will allow the hiring of a contractor to clean up the business district from April 2023 through January 2024 (10 months) for \$100 per month. \$500 can be used to hire a contractor to weed the business district three times per year and apply weed killer and mulch once per year. \$200 will be used on yard waste bags, weed killer and mulch. \$300 will fund the care of the pots in Tom Roth Alley by the City of Cincinnati (includes the planting of all plants in the pots and regular watering).

Project #2: Marc Raab explained how SPAC has been working to take care of the park. A Stanbery Park cleanup was held on March 4 with many student volunteers from UC. Much was accomplished: garbage from abandoned homeless camps was cleaned up; mulch was applied under all the playground equipment; and non-native, invasive bush honeysuckle and wintercreeper were removed. SPAC hopes to make the non-native, invasive plant removal a monthly event. Marc attended a presentation by The Cincinnati Parks Foundation discussing their “obliterator” campaign. The foundation can supply Stanbery Park with buckets and trash picking tools for future park cleanup events.

SPAC has long partnered with MWCC to fund programming at the park. SPAC is asking for NSP funding for the Madcap Puppet show, Shakespeare in the Park and for marketing assistance. Marc has been hoping to bring some members of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, perhaps a quartet, to the park for a performance. Lastly, some funds have been requested to offset the cost of showing movies in the park.

Project #3: Rick Meador explained the last community event postcard went out in 2019. This postcard proposal is for fall/winter 2023 events. Events that could be included on the postcard include the drug takeback event, the Pumpkin Chuck, the Holiday Walk, and Trunk or Treat. Rick talked with Addressed for Success and found that if we send a 3” by 5” postcard to 4600 addresses in Mt. Washington, the cost will be \$1335 if the community council pays for it (the cost is discounted if MWCC pays directly for the postcard because the MWCC is a 501(c)3 organization and nonprofits get a discount). Without a 501(c)3 status, the cost will be \$1700. In 2019, the postcard mailing cost \$3009. We don’t have information on exactly how many cards/addresses that mailing entailed. Rick estimates the cost will be around \$2100 for a fall/winter mailing depending on the final number of postcards mailed. This is an approximation based on what was paid in 2019 and the estimate provided by Addressed for Success.

Rick would like to see a committee organized to determine what the final postcard product should be. Karen suggested Rick could join the 9am committee that is already meeting between MWCC, SPAC, MWCURC and MWDCD on Thursdays or set up a separate committee.

Rick expressed the need to reach more people for the drug takeback event. In October 2022, 16 people died of fentanyl overdoses in Hamilton County. If anyone wants to go to hamiltoncountyhealth.org website, you can see that in December 2022 in zip code 45230, there were 46 overdoses, the total based on people going to the emergency room due to overdosing. In January 2023, there were 41 overdoses. In February 2023, there were 37 overdoses.

Rick said the need has never been greater to organize events to preach prevention, to offer free NARCAN kits, and to offer fentanyl test strips.

Project #4: Special guests Jim Tucker and Michael Thompson of Artworks spoke about this project proposal. Jim and Michael, in conjunction with Artworks and on their own, have produced over 20 public murals in the greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area. They are opening an art studio in the location of the Konkrete City Skateboard shop. Their studio will open the first of July. They are hoping to engage the community through various events in the studio.

Their NSP request is for \$1772 to cover art, labor and materials for two projects to artistically enhance the Mt. Washington community. The next step will be to engage with the community to decide on the parameters of the two specific projects for Mt. Washington.

Patricia made a motion to approve all four projects for full funding, Bob seconded and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of the membership.

Treasurer's Report: Kristina Kew asked to defer the treasurer's report as it was not yet ready.

Announcements/Upcoming Events: Some members of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra will be coming to Mt. Washington School's Knight's Fest. A suggestion was made that Knight's Fest would be a good place for SPAC to meet some members of the chamber orchestra since SPAC would like to have the chamber orchestra participate in a Stanbery Park event.

Michael Thompson is making a keynote presentation on the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibition at the Cincinnati Art Museum on March 30 from 6pm to 8:30pm. If you come before the presentation, you can get free tickets to the show.

Good of the Order: In the last MWCC meeting, Julie stated there has been a rash of vandalism in the Mt. Washington Cemetery recently: ten headstones have been toppled and someone tried to steal the wrought iron entry gates. The cemetery has over 1000 veteran burials. The American Legion Post 484 is donating \$200 from the Sons of the American Legion and \$500 from the American Legion Veterans to the cemetery to pay for increased lighting and to add security cameras to keep the cemetery safer. Julie thanked Post 484 for the incredibly generous gift of money to increase cemetery security and also gave a shout-out to Post 484 for their support through the decades in donating trees and volunteer help to the cemetery, going all the way back to Post 484 member Bill Berry who spearheaded the restoration of the formerly abandoned cemetery in the early 1980s. Julie also received a shout-out from Bill Holzman for her work in the cemetery.

Karen gave a shout-out to Julie for writing comprehensive minutes of our MWCC meetings. Karen also gave a shout-out to all the people who came to the meeting. She said we have new businesses and new people moving to Mt. Washington and with this level of involvement, this is an exciting time for Mt. Washington.

Adjournment: Keith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Karen seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rimer
MWCC Secretary