



## MOUNT WASHINGTON

### Mt. Washington Community Council

#### 2/15/2023 Meeting Minutes

Jaime Castle, MWCC president, called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and introduced herself as the new president of the Mt. Washington Community Council.

After reciting the pledge of allegiance, Michael Gray made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Kristina Kew seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

#### Community Reports

Officer Jason Rice introduced himself as our new neighborhood liaison officer. He had prepared a thorough Neighborhood Crime Report documenting the type of crime, its location, and the outcome for the past 28 days.

Nikki Marksberry had two major items to inform everyone about at Mt. Washington School: 1) the school is conducting enrollment for Fall 2023, particularly for preschool and kindergarten students, and 2) the school will hold "Knight's Fest" on May 11. There will be carnival games and other activities. The school would appreciate volunteers from the community. To volunteer, please call Nikki Marksberry at 513-363-3835.

Keith Schomaker from Sands Montessori explained the school has kicked off a math challenge campaign. The school would appreciate volunteers from the community who will work with students using math flashcards. Volunteers do not need any training or background checks. The school has designed a program that is very flexible for the students, teachers and volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please come to the school any weekday between 11:45am and 3pm. You will be partnered with a student.

The Mt. Washington School and Sands Montessori will be submitting proposals for art projects that could be funded with NSP dollars.

Jason Richards, service area coordinator, gave the Cincinnati Recreation Center report. The CRC is registering 6- to 12-year-old students for summer day camp. The camp will have 86 children; 30 spots are still available. The rec center is hiring summer day camp counselors who must be at least 18 years of age. The rec center is hiring lifeguards who must be at least 15 years of age. The lifeguards will be paid between \$16 and \$18 per hour.

Spring quarter after school activities at the rec center begin in March and run through May. Parents can enroll their children for \$5 per day. The activities will include dodgeball for 8- to 12-year-olds. Dodgeball will take place between 2:45pm and 4:30pm. Nerf ball wars will follow dodgeball from 5pm to 6:30pm. There are a lot of available spots for enrollment. Please go to [cincirec.org](http://cincirec.org) to enroll your child. If you have any trouble with online enrollment, you can call the rec center at 513-232-4762 and ask to speak with Matt about dodgeball enrollment or Hunter about nerf ball wars enrollment.

Bob Wetterer introduced Mark Hamad, the new president of the Mt. Washington Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (MWCURC) and an employee of Union Savings Bank since 2002. Bob reminded all that the next spaghetti dinner will be on March 18 at the American Legion Post 484 at 1837 Sutton Avenue, 45230. Each year, the MWCURC sponsors nine spaghetti dinners and the profits are used to light the tower. The MWCURC also plans the Mt. Washington Holiday Walk every year. The MWCURC is planning a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and needs volunteers. If you can volunteer, please email Bob Wetterer at [bwetterer@comey.com](mailto:bwetterer@comey.com) or call him at 513-884-8326.

Wendy O'Neal of the Mt. Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) said they have the permit to start the process of improvements to the business parking lot.

Priscilla Elgersma of the Stanbery Park Advisory Council (SPAC) stated that SPAC is gathering input to decide what events to offer in Stanbery Park this summer.

Rick Meador of Mt. Washington Cares said the next National Prescription Take-Back Day will be held in October. The DEA decides the date of the Take-Back Day.

Glenn Johnson of the American Legion Post 484 said they continue to host spaghetti dinners, fish fries and breakfasts for the community. You can go to the American Legion Post 484 Facebook page to stay updated on all their offerings. The American Legion has recently given academic awards to students at McNicholas High School and Miami Valley Christian Academy.

Bob Wetterer stated that Father Tom King of Guardian Angels has been awarded "Citizen of the Year" by the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce for what he has accomplished in the community. A banquet will be held in his honor on March 22. Please call the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce at 513-474-4802 to make reservations for the banquet.

### General Business

**Update on the Parking Overlay Initiative:** Jaime Castle will be meeting with Reggie Harris's Chief of Staff tomorrow to discuss whether any form of a UPOD would work in Mt. Washington. Residents have asked many questions and stated concerns about the proposed UPOD. Jaime will update us on what she learns at the next meeting.

**Update on the CORA initiative to have mountain bike trails in Stanberry Park:** Jason Reser of the Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance stated CORA has sponsored a feasibility study for the Little

Miami Scenic River Trail which includes proposed mountain bike trails in Stanbery Park that would connect Stanbery Park to the trail at Lunken Airport. The study is nearing completion. Stanbery Park has been deemed to be beyond the scope of this study because there are too many existing issues: landslides into the creek, erosion, and extensive work needed to get many of the hiking trails into useable condition. CORA hopes to be able to fund another feasibility study for Stanbery Park once the hiking trails are put into good condition.

Priscilla Elgersma read a portion of a letter sent to the park board from the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma citing the concern that the proposed mountain bike trails should not go through sacred cultural spaces and burial grounds of indigenous peoples. The letter was entered into the minutes. Priscilla also noted that several hundred Mt. Washington residents have signed a petition opposing off-road bike trails in Stanbery Park.

Jason Reser will reach out to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. CORA and SPAC will meet. If there is community interest and backing, it could help bring attention to the work that needs to be done to make the hiking trails useable again.

**NSP funding proposals:** Please send all NSP proposals to the MWCC email address at [info@mwcc.org](mailto:info@mwcc.org) by midnight, March 8.

Please include such information as who is submitting the proposal and if the submitter is affiliated with any organization. Also state how much funding you are requesting and if you are using any other funding sources for your project. Explain what the project intends to do and why you are proposing it; how you intend to do the project; and how the project will impact our neighborhood. Please state who benefits from your project and whether this is a short-term or long-term initiative. Please estimate how many volunteer hours will be needed to execute the project. Lastly, what category does your project fall under? Below are the eligible categories:

- Neighborhood Leadership Development Activities - that strengthen, improve, and develop neighborhoods through human development activities
- Communication Projects - specific or general activities that seek to inform, educate, and publicize the work of the Community Council, special activities, or events
- Neighborhood Improvement Activities - that focus on cleanup and beautification, recreation area development, conservation, capital improvements (not private property), and the acquisition of fixed assets.
- Educational Activities - which seek to enhance existing programs or opportunities, inform residents of new neighborhood initiatives such as environmental or development issues, or to create new programming that will fill an education void for youth, teenagers, adults, or senior citizens.
- Neighborhood Services - designed to aid law enforcement, develop or enhance recreation opportunities, stimulate economic or commercial development, or manage, study, or promote environmental issues.

- Problem-Solving Projects - to investigate problems or conditions in an effort to develop a comprehensive plan to improve or alter situations communities deem a priority.
- Other/Quality of Life - projects or activities which will improve the quality of life and serve public needs that are consistent with the NSP Guidelines
- Council Business/Administrative/Operations—costs which are not direct project costs, but necessary for the work of the Community Councils

All proposals will be presented at the next general meeting on March 15, so that meeting is a very important meeting to attend if you would like to vote on the ideas. Karen Luken, NSP director, stated that we may have more requests than we have money to fund. A rubric will be developed based on NSP guidelines to help in selecting projects. Jaime clarified that anyone whose project is approved will need to keep track of volunteer hours and receipts. Projects must be paid for upfront and MWCC will reimburse once the projects are completed and all receipts are submitted.

Elissa Pogue noted that it is important to attend an upcoming meeting if we want to have an impact on the City's budget. Jaime volunteered to attend that meeting.

**Roving Packer Truck Initiative:** Julie Rimer explained that we can reserve a roving packer truck through Keep Cincinnati Beautiful. The roving packer trucks can pick up debris associated with a cleanup event in Mt. Washington. To qualify for the packer truck, the cleanup event must be registered with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful at least two weeks in advance. Details such as the number of volunteers involved in the cleanup and before and after pictures are needed for the KCB cleanup documentation. The packer truck will be supplied at no cost to the community.

**Mayor's Office Update:** Jaime recently met with the mayor's staff. If there is something that you want Jaime to bring to the mayor's attention, please email your concern to the MWCC organization email address at [info@mwcc.org](mailto:info@mwcc.org). Jaime suggested residents check out the City of Cincinnati Government website to understand how to request services and to get an idea of all of the ways in which the City works for its residents. That page can be found at this link: <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cityofcincinnati/>

**Congressman Landsman Townhall Report:** Mt. Washington is lucky to have one of its own as a United States representative. Greg Landsman is serving in Congress on the small business and veterans' affairs committees. He has a local office at 961 E. McMillan Street, 45206. Check out Congressman Landsman's website at <https://landsman.house.gov/> to get an idea of all the initiatives he is working on. He will be conducting town hall meetings. Greg has already made a difference for us by working on an initiative to cap insulin costs for children and by taking measures to increase public safety, just to name two of his projects.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kristina Kew gave the treasurer's report. A motion was made by Julie Rimer to approve the report. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

**Announcements/Upcoming Events:** Rick Meador said it is time to report your favorite pothole! There are three ways you can do this: 1) call 513-591-6000; 2) go to 5916000.com to report a pothole; or 3) you can download the 311Cincy app on your smart phone to report a pothole.

**Good of the Order:** Jaime Castle recognized Bob Wetterer for the countless hours he donated to Mt. Washington in spearheading and coordinating the annual Holiday Walk. Julie Rimer recognized Jaime Castle for running an excellent first meeting in her new role as MWCC president.

**Adjournment:** Bob Wetterer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jaime Castle seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rimer  
MWCC Secretary