



MOUNT WASHINGTON

Mt. Washington Community Council

4/19/2023 Meeting Minutes

Jaime Castle called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Jaime called attention to two changes on tonight's agenda. The date of the next spaghetti dinner is Saturday, May 13. The speaker from Ohio Voter Education will be presenting at next month's MWCC membership meeting rather than at tonight's meeting. They will be explaining Ohio's new rules regarding voter identification.

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.

Officer Jason Rice led the pledge of allegiance.

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

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

Community Reports

Cincinnati Firefighter Gerald Belle of Company 7 on Sutton gave the fire report. He will be retiring soon after 35 years of service. He cautioned everyone who smokes not to throw cigarette butts into mulch or anywhere else because that could start a fire. Also, outside burns are illegal in Cincinnati. Please don't burn brush, leaves, etc. in your yard. You will get a citation if you violate that law.

From March 1 through March 31, there were 20 fire runs which were due to accidents or fire alarms, but there were no actual fires. There were 117 EMS runs in Mt. Washington alone. Medical runs are on the rise. Please make sure that if you call for a medical emergency that it is truly an emergency. If the call is for a non-emergency medical issue, you are likely to end up waiting for hours in an emergency room. If it is truly a medical emergency, don't hesitate to call.

Gerald Belle introduced Jeff Nienhaus, our new Company 7 lieutenant. Jeff introduced himself, thanked Gerald Belle for all his help, and stated he looks forward to meeting Mt. Washington residents.

Officer Jason Rice provided the most recent Neighborhood Crime Report. You can find the Mt. Washington Neighborhood Crime Report at this link: <https://cpdmobile.cincinnati-oh.gov/Neighborhoods/Reports/D2/MountWashington.pfg> Of note, auto thefts are up. There were eight crimes classified as auto thefts: seven involved Kias and one was a Hyundai. Three were auto theft attempts; the other five stolen vehicles were recovered. While there are no suspects, the police department did obtain a picture of three juveniles from a Mt. Washington School security camera who

were in possession of two of the cars that were stolen from Anderson. Officer Rice stated that if you have a Kia or a Hyundai, the companies are conducting recalls to make the vehicles more difficult to start without a key. Officer Rice asked that residents please share any footage they may have from home security cameras of suspicious activities with the Cincinnati Police Department. The Cincinnati Police Department will be conducting a Feed the Homeless event at Crossroads on May 20.

District 2's captain, Danita Pettis, introduced herself. She can be reached by calling (513) 979-4444 or by calling the main desk at District 2.

Priscilla Elgersma, Stanbery Park Advisory Council board member, thanked Officer Rice and District 2 police for all they have been doing to make Stanbery Park safer and better. Their activities have been successful in addressing many park issues and Priscilla stated that park users are grateful.

Keith Schomaker, the school community coordinator from Sands Montessori, said the school will be offering a screening of a movie called "Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age." The screening will be on April 20 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm and all are welcome. This is an award-winning film offering solutions for how we can help our kids navigate the digital world. There will be a discussion after the film.

This Saturday, April 22, is the date of the Sands Montessori school carnival. The carnival runs from 11am to 3pm. Since the Saturday forecast is for rainy, cool weather, the school may be moving the carnival indoors. Please come to support this fundraiser for the school.

Other upcoming Sands Montessori events include Teacher Appreciation Week, an International night, and a field day for the students. The final day of school is May 25, 2023.

Jason Richards, director of the Mt. Washington Recreation Center, said they have hired enough lifeguards to open the rec center's pool for the full season. The CRC still needs another 100 lifeguards for other rec center pools. The Mt. Washington Rec Center is still looking for staff for its summer day camp program. Candidates must be 18 or older and enjoy working with children. The staff will do arts and crafts, field trips, sports and games with the children. As Jason said, "You get paid to play."

The rec center is looking for volunteers to help with an upcoming weeding and mulching event of the rec center's flower beds. The date is yet to be determined, but it will be an upcoming Saturday with a good weather forecast. If you can help, there is a sign-up sheet at the front desk of the rec center. Please put your email on the sign-up sheet and Jason will email you further details.

Katie Stefani, a member of the Mt. Washington Community Development Corporation (MWDCD), told everyone about an upcoming event at the former Mt. Washington Ice and Beer location at 6139 Plymouth Avenue. The event will be on Saturday, April 29, from 4pm to 8pm. Big Ash Brewing will supply the beer, Girls Rock Cincinnati will provide live music, and Sweets & Meats will have their food truck there. There will be arts and crafts activities for children. Jim Tucker designed the poster for the event.

Priscilla Elgersma, of the Stanbery Park Advisory Council, said Zac Morgan and the Madcap Puppets will be in Stanbery Park on Saturday, May 27, Memorial Day weekend. That event begins at 11am. The June 2 First Friday event at Stanbery Park will include local jazz musicians. Ben Troyer is a jazz guitarist and his sister, Sophia Troyer, recently won the Vocal Music Overture Award. That award recognizes excellence in the arts among greater Cincinnati students in grades 9-12.

Rick Meador of Mt. Washington Cares said April 22 is the DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back

Day. You can dispose of unneeded, unwanted and expired medications at this event. Drugs can be brought to the Anderson Center at 7850 Five Mile Road from 10am to 2pm. There are also drop boxes for drugs at 3295 Erie Avenue (District 2 Police Headquarters) and at 7954 Beechmont Avenue, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

General Business

Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition: The speaker from the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition did not show up to tonight's meeting, so that presentation will be rescheduled.

Postcard Update: The community approved a fall postcard mailing that markets a variety of events as an NSP project. Rick Meador is coordinating this project. By the end of April, Rick hopes to have assembled a committee to help with this project. Rick stated he hoped to have Karen Luken as a consultant, Bob Wetterer (who has printing contacts that may provide a reduced printing cost), Wade Johnston (who did a postcard event in 2019), and Jim Tucker (graphic artist who can help with the design of the postcards) on the committee. Most of the committee communications should be able to be done by email. By June, Rick hopes to have identified the content for the postcard. He said the information would likely include such events as the October 28 drug take back event, the Pumpkin Chuck, the Light the Tower event and spaghetti meals. Rick asked that residents submit anything they would like to see on the postcards to the MWCC's email address, info@mwcc.org. The goal is to submit the postcards to the printer by September 1 and have the postcards ready to mail by October 1.

Volunteers Needed: Jaime informed all of upcoming events that are in need of volunteer help. 1) Priscilla addressed the help needed for the October Pumpkin Chuck in Stanbery Park. The permit for the park is secured. Volunteers are needed the day before the event to put up the snow fencing. The day of the Pumpkin Chuck, volunteers are needed to work the trebuchet crew and help with other activities. SPAC is looking for vendors and entertainment for the day of the Pumpkin Chuck. If you have ideas, please reach out to Priscilla via info@mwcc.org. 2) The May 13 spaghetti dinner at the American Legion Post 484 at 1837 Sutton needs volunteers. These dinners provide the funds to light the tower. While the dinner runs from 4pm to 7pm, help is needed starting with set-up at 1pm, handing out the meals from 4pm to 7pm, and cleanup after 7pm. 3) The Mt. Washington School will hold "Knight's Fest" on Thursday, May 11. It is a free community carnival. Setup begins at 2:30pm and the event is from 5pm to 6:30pm. 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. The MWCC will have a booth at Knight's Fest. Jaime Castle will man the MWCC booth and welcomes anyone else who would like to help. 4) Help is needed for the July 3 parade. This parade is held in the evening so it doesn't compete with other parades held on the 4th of July. If you can help at the July 3rd parade, please contact Bob Wetterer by email at bwetterer@comey.com or call or text him at 513-884-8326.

Treasurer's Report: Kristina Kew presented the treasurer's report and left copies of it on all tables. Karen made a motion to accept the report, Rick seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Announcements/Upcoming Events: Karen is working with our website designer to update the "Get Involved" page of our MWCC website. Karen's goal is to update this page every 3 months.

Good of the Order: Jaime Castle gave a shoutout to Kristina Kew for adding reflectors to the flags that pedestrians can carry when they cross the street in certain areas of Mt. Washington. The flags are in a bucket at commonly used crossing areas and they provide added safety to pedestrians in our community. Priscilla stated she appreciated the flag bucket at Oxford. These flags make it safer for

students who are crossing the street to go to a field trip in Stanbery Park. Kristina said she has enough buckets of flags left to do one more location. Please contact her via info@mwcc.org if you have a crossing that could benefit from these flags.

Julie Rimer gave a shoutout to the SEM Pantry for having provided baked goods for the Stanbery Park cleanup that was held on March 4. She also thanked Bob Wetterer for contacting the City and coordinating the stabilizing of the chain link fence posts of the fence that runs along the Beechmont side of the Mt. Washington Cemetery. This fence is owned by the City of Cincinnati and had been a safety hazard before Bob got the City to secure all the posts.

Adjournment: Priscilla made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kristina seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rimer
MWCC Secretary