



**Mt. Washington Community Council**  
**Board Meeting Minutes of May 3, 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 7:08pm, which was when enough board members joined the meeting to establish a quorum.

**Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**

Board members in attendance were Jaime Castle, Sophie Roberto, Michael Gray, Karen Luken, Priscilla Elgersma and Julie Rimer. Wade Johnston and Kristina Kew were absent.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

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

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

Karen made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2023 board meeting, Michael seconded, and the minutes were approved.

**Unfinished Business**

**Directors' Retreat or Pumpkin Chuck Meeting**

Jaime deferred the decision of whether to prioritize a Directors' Retreat or Pumpkin Chuck meeting to Priscilla. Due to the urgency of all that is involved in planning the Pumpkin Chuck, it was deemed a higher priority.

The board will meet on Wednesday, May 31 at a time to be determined to delegate Pumpkin Chuck activities. Priscilla is in the process of filling out insurance forms for the Pumpkin Chuck. She stated we will need volunteers to coordinate the food trucks and exhibitors, in addition to myriad other tasks. Priscilla offered to hold the meeting on her deck. The board will extend an invitation to the May 31 meeting at the MWCC general membership meeting of May 17 and we will hopefully find additional volunteers that way.

**Roving Packer Truck Update**

Julie followed up on the use of a roving packer truck at apartments that have become dump sites in Mt. Washington. For this problem, it is more appropriate to report this violation to the Department of Public Services on the [www.311Cincy.com](http://www.311Cincy.com) website. Karen explained that the problem apartment leaves out its 96-gallon trash cans at all times, rather than putting them out only on collection days. Additionally,

excess trash has been dumped all around the trash cans. Karen will email Julie the address of the apartment of concern and Julie will file the complaint on the 311 website.

### **Updating Website**

Karen reached out to all the other organizations that she thought could benefit from exposure on the MWCC website. Only MWCURC expressed an interest in this type of support. Priscilla will talk with Mark Raab since she believes it would also benefit SPAC. One of the goals of this activity would be to help all Mt. Washington organizations secure more volunteers.

### **New Business**

#### **Guest speakers for MWCC Membership Meeting**

Jaime is waiting to hear back from The Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition as to whether they will have a representative making a presentation at the May 17 general membership meeting.

A representative from Ohio Voter Education will speak about the changes in voting rules at the May 17 general membership meeting.

Priscilla will contact Eric Russo, Executive Director of the Hillside Trust, to ask him to speak at an upcoming meeting.

It was suggested that a representative of the MWCC should be asked to give a presentation on how Mt. Washington's recent designation as a Central Entertainment District can be used to help the business district thrive. Karen suggested the designation as a CED might be leveraged, for example, in seeking out a business to occupy the current Tower Optical site which is for sale.

#### **Google Drive Updating**

While many documents still need to be uploaded for the MWCC Google drive to be up-to-date, Karen has already uploaded all the documents for this year's NSP projects. This drive serves as a library for the MWCC. Karen alerted Julie to check the MWCC post office box in case a check from NSP has arrived. Julie will check the box this week and deliver any checks to Kristina.

Jaime will send Julie Phil Roberto's contact information so that Julie can send PDFs of the board and general membership minutes to Phil for posting to the MWCC website.

#### **Membership Growth**

The Facebook Live streaming of the general membership meetings is proving to be popular and will hopefully engage more members of our community. Michael suggested we emphasize information about how to become a MWCC member in communications.

#### **Postcard Contacts Needed**

Rick Meador is reaching out to local churches about the fall postcard mailing. Priscilla stated the library should be contacted to see if they have something to be included in the postcard.

### **School Funding Needed**

Keith Schomaker, School Community Coordinator for Cincinnati Public Schools, requested \$916 for funding to be used by both Sands Montessori and Mt. Washington School. This is \$16 more than the \$900 that was included in the 2023 budget for these schools. A discussion ensued about accountability for delegated funds like this. In the past, the schools were allowed to use this \$900 for whatever they needed without providing receipts. While no decision was made on a protocol for how the use of these funds should be documented, suggestions included receipts, photographs, and signatures.

### **Announcements/Upcoming Events**

Priscilla reminded all that 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 Mt. Washington jazz musicians, Ben and Sophia Troyer. The event begins at 6:30pm and will run until 8:30pm. Sophia Troyer recently won the Vocal Music Overture Award, which recognizes excellence in the arts among greater Cincinnati students in grades 9-12.

A discussion ensued about the community moving forward as a unified body with the MWCC at the helm. Concerns were expressed about projects that the CDC had been moving forward on without proper input from the community (proposed Urban Parking Overlay District, mountain bike trails in Stanbery Park). Jaime said she has been meeting with members of the other community organizations to help ensure we are unified (Joe Sandman from CDC, Bob Wetterer from MWCURC, and Marc Raab from SPAC). Jaime will mention this concern to Joe Sandman of the CDC.

### **Good of the Order**

Jaime thanked Sophie for presenting the NSP proposal and she thanked Karen for handling all the NSP requests. We all expressed appreciation for being the kind of board in which we can civilly discuss concerns.

### **Adjournment**

Julie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Priscilla. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rimer