



MOUNT WASHINGTON
Mt. Washington Community Council

6/21/2023 Meeting Minutes

Jaime Castle called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Priscilla Elgersma led us in the pledge of allegiance.

A quorum of board members was present. Board members present included Jaime Castle, Kristina Kew, Sophie Roberto, Priscilla Elgersma, Michael Gray, Julie Rimer and Karen Luken participated via Facebook because she had strep.. Wade Johnston was absent.

Rick Meador made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. A community member seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Michael Gray made a motion to approve tonight's agenda, seconded by Cal, then approved by all.

Community Reports

Officer Jason Rice provided the most recent Neighborhood Crime Report. A couple of highlights include the fact that the person who did the shooting at the car wash is in custody. We had 11 attempts to steal automobiles. You can find the Mt. Washington Neighborhood Crime Report at this link:
<https://cpdmobile.cincinnati-oh.gov/Neighborhoods/Reports/D2/MountWashington.pdf>

Nikki Marksberry, Resource Coordinator of Mt. Washington School, stated there is a summer program for Mt. Washington students at Kilgour School. Nikki is running a program at Mt. Washington School for kindergarten, first and second graders because they are too young to be in the Kilgour program. School resumes on August 17.

There was no representative from Sands Montessori to give a report.

Jason Richards, director of the Mt. Washington Recreation Center, stated the summer rec programs are at capacity. The rec center pool is open and busy. There is a swim meet tonight. There is a new nerf wars program on Wednesday nights from 6pm to 7pm. It is \$5 per person to participate. Adults and children are welcome. The rec center provides all the supplies, but you must bring your own safety goggles. The summer rec hours are from 7am to 7:30pm, Monday through Friday. The rec center is open on Saturdays from 9am to 2pm. The rec center pool is open from June 5 to August 11.

Bob Wetterer of the MWCDC (Mt. Washington Community Development Corporation) needs volunteers to help with the setup for the July 3 evening parade. If you can help, please contact Bob Wetterer by email at bwetterer@comey.com or call or text him at 513-884-8326.

The Mt. Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) said the business district parking lot will be repaved after the July 3 parade. This project will take about 2 to 3 weeks.

Priscilla Elgersma, of the Stanbery Park Advisory Council, said Pumpkin Chuck planning meetings will take place at 6pm on the last Thursday of each month in the Kyle Plush Pavilion until the November 4 Pumpkin Chuck. Volunteers are needed. The July 7 First Friday event will feature the SunBurners, a band that plays island party music. Friday night films will begin in September.

Rick Meador of Mt. Washington Cares said the DEA has not yet given the date of the October national prescription drug takeback event. Overdoses go up in the spring and summer. Fentanyl is showing up in many drugs. If you need Narcan, safe injection supplies, or fentanyl testing strips, please call 513-316-7725 or visit: <https://www.flowcode.com/page/harmreduction>. You will also be able to get Narcan and free fentanyl test strips at the DEA drug takeback event.

Glenn Johnson, drill sergeant for the American Legion Post 484, stated the color guard will participate in the July 3 parade.

General Business

NSP Postcard: Rick Meador gave an update on the NSP funded postcard that will be sent to residents giving information about October through December Mt. Washington events. July 1 is the cut-off date to submit information that might go on the postcard. Rick explained some groups don't plan that far ahead so the websites of those groups will be listed on the postcard. Rick will work with Jim Tucker on the design for the front side of the 6 inch by 9 inch postcard. The attention-grabbing statement on the postcard will be, "Cincinnati Looks Up to Mt. Washington." Sophie is assisting with the design of the back side of the postcard. We need a different image for the holiday walk since the current image will not work. The permit obtained for the 2019 postcard mailing is still in effect and will allow us to obtain non-profit postage rates for this fall's postcard. Rick will be getting two bids for the printing of the postcard. Rick will present the plan for the postcard for approval at the August board meeting.

There is likely to be some leftover money beyond what was budgeted for the postcard that Rick would like to use for banner creation. Jaime said we can create an amendment for that usage of the NSP funds and vote on it.

August Special Election: Kristina Kew reminded all about the one-issue August 8 Special Election. A GOP-backed state law that took effect in April made several changes to voting including banning August special elections. But on May 10, Republican lawmakers approved a statewide vote this August to decide on a resolution to make it harder to amend the Ohio Constitution.

Republicans want voters to raise the threshold for approving future amendments to the Ohio Constitution from a simple majority to 60% before a possible November ballot measure to codify abortion rights in the constitution.

We are voting on a proposed change to Ohio's constitution. If you vote "no" on the issue, Ohio's constitution will remain as it is, requiring 50 percent plus 1. If you vote "yes," you will be voting to require 60% to change an amendment. You need a picture I.D. to vote. It's okay if the address on your I.D. has changed. Early voting begins July 12.

Guest Speaker: Councilman Mark Jeffreys: ADU Ordinance

The full city council will vote on this proposed ordinance on Monday, June 26 at 1pm. You can attend the meeting and register to speak or join in virtually.

Mark Jeffreys stated an ADU is an accessory dwelling unit that must have a separate entrance. ADU legislation was initially promoted as an important option for those who wish to age in place. An ADU could also be an option for disabled family members. Jeffreys said we have 2000 people per year moving to Cincinnati while there are 500 new housing units per year.

Jeffreys said issues raised by residents who have been engaged include concerns about who will be renting these ADUs and concerns about institutional investors. Jeffreys said it is illegal to require owner occupancy because New Orleans required that and got into legal trouble. Instead, the ordinance requires a "responsible party" to occupy the house and this party cannot be an employee of the owner. Any violators of this provision could incur a \$15,000 fine. ADU owners must register every year. The program will be reevaluated in two years and may be tweaked.

Residents raised concerns about a lack of engagement with residents. Only 3 people in the room had heard of the proposed ADU ordinance. Some of the other questions included: This is a huge zoning change. Why didn't we get a letter from the City about it? Why can't you delay passing this ordinance until after sending a letter to all homeowners? How will short-term rentals address creating affordable housing? Why isn't there a minimum lease requirement? Could this turn into noisy, short-term rentals in quiet residential communities? Will this result in a bunch of new Airbnbs instead of low-income housing? What if these ADUs are built on hillsides and the taxpayers get stuck with hillside repairs needed due to hillside degradation, like what happened on Columbia Parkway? Why can't we vote on this on a ballot? One member pointed out that the few studies to-date have shown that ADUs benefit mostly wealthy white people who can afford to build them; they don't provide housing for lower income people and those who wish to age in place. If these ADUs increase the density of an area, how will the fire department deal with the increased demand? Will the owners insure the units if they are independent units (you can't expect renters to insure the unit)? Will people be able to build a unit on a driveway, putting more cars out on the streets?

Fire Report: Cincinnati Fireman Gerald Bell gave the fire report later than usual in the meeting since they had been out on continuous runs. Company 7 has had 93 EMS runs since our last meeting. There have been 19 fire runs including 3 in which Company 7 was assisting Anderson.

This is the time of year when outdoor activities can cause fires. Be careful during cookouts. Make sure you have a water source on hand should a fire start. Smother any fire with a lid. If the fire can't get air, you can contain it. Don't throw flour on a fire; it doesn't help.

Please dispose of cigarettes in an appropriate container. Someone recently threw a cigarette in mulch that resulted in a fire.

Please check on your elderly neighbors. Make sure they are hydrated and have access to cool air.

Treasurer's Report: Kristina gave the treasurer's report. Julie made a motion to approve it, seconded by Sophie, and approved by all members.

Good of the Order: Jaime Castle congratulated board member Michael Gray on the birth of his son, Oliver.

Nikki Marksberry stated there is a new librarian at Mt. Washington School, Meredith. She requested that community members stop by to say "hi."

Adjournment: Priscilla made a motion, Kristina seconded it, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rimer

MWCC Secretary