



Mt. Washington Community Council
Board Meeting Minutes of June 7, 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 7:02pm.

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

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

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Board Meeting

Julie made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2023 board meeting, Karen seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Unfinished Business

Directors' Retreat

In light of all the planning that needs to be done for the Pumpkin Chuck, the board members' retreat is likely to be delayed until August.

Roving Packer Truck Update

Julie and Karen will discuss the apartment addresses for which Julie will file reports on the www.311Cincy.com website. Not only is trash a problem at these sites, but the grass has not been mowed. The landlord is an out-of-state landlord.

Updating Website

Karen will update the website as soon as time allows.

Pumpkin Chuck Updates

Kristina confirmed that we have two working trebuchets, so we should be able to get through all of the pumpkins in a timely manner.

Jaime is working on signing up food vendors. Karen is identifying businesses that might sponsor the event, particularly those that are food-oriented and/or family-oriented. We discussed the fact that the Pumpkin Chuck will occur just before elections, so perhaps some candidates would want to sponsor a banner with his or her name on it, at which pumpkins can be hurled.

The importance of setting up a website for the Pumpkin Chuck ASAP was recognized. We are waiting to hear back from Sophie about having her father set up the website. The website will make it easier for donors to sign up to be sponsors. Kristina said donors can pay for the sponsorship with PayPal, although PayPal will charge a fee. The PayPal fee can come out of the sponsorship cost or we can add it to the sponsorship cost.

There will be another Pumpkin Chuck meeting on Thursday, June 29.

New Business

Guest speakers for MWCC Membership Meeting

The Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition has expressed interest in speaking at a membership meeting, but no one has shown up yet. They have an open invite to present. We will continue to work with Officer Jason Rice on issues with the homeless in Mt. Washington.

Councilman Mark Jeffreys will be speaking about Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) at our next membership meeting. The planning committee passed the proposed ordinance on June 2. On June 14, Cincinnati City Council will vote on the ordinance. That means this ordinance is likely to pass before our next membership meeting on June 21.

Questions came up about the ordinance which should be asked of Mark at our membership meeting:

How are increased short-term rentals (basically Airbnbs) addressing the issue of increasing affordable housing?

How is the City going to enforce the ordinance? For example, how will they make sure a resident is living on the property of the ADU? How many Airbnbs can a resident own?

There are concerns about residents being able to build a two-story building only 3 feet from the property line.

Jaime will email our membership about Mark Jeffreys' upcoming presentation, asking members to prepare questions for Mark.

Membership Growth

We discussed ways to increase membership and wondered what methods other community councils use to expand their membership. We discussed increasing social media posts, how the fall postcard might increase membership, and trying to get people to provide their email addresses at the Pumpkin Chuck. Jaime hopes we will eventually have more interaction with people who watch our meetings via our Facebook Live stream. If one of us was logged into Facebook during the general membership meeting, we would be able to see who is watching.

PFAs Email from Bob Hyland

We received an email from Bob Hyland asking community councils to write to Cincinnati City Council members and the mayor to state that we want our city to identify and eliminate exposure to PFAs (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), man-made chemicals that have been shown to cause cancer, obesity, and birth defects. Mr. Hyland listed synthetic turf as one of the items that should be banned.

Karen provided two links that explain more about the PFA issue:

<https://www.ewg.org/what-are-pfas-chemicals>

<https://chemtrust.org/news/pfas-bike-oils/>

We discussed the importance of doing our part to be as environmentally responsible as possible at the Pumpkin Chuck. Karen will look into using compostable containers and will contact an organization that collects and composts the containers.

Jaime and Karen will write a letter expressing support for reducing PFAs in our community and will let the addressees know how we are trying to do our part by reducing waste at the Pumpkin Chuck.

Stop The Bleed Email from Regina Menninger

We received an email from Regina Menninger, a nurse who is the Trauma Prevention and Outreach Coordinator for the Trauma Center at UC Health. Regina is offering free community classes to teach people how, as bystanders, to stop uncontrolled bleeding (Stop the Bleed campaign), how to administer CPR, and how to use an AED (automated external defibrillator).

Kristina suggested we participate in this program separately from general membership meetings since some people may be squeamish about the Stop the Bleed program. It was suggested we hold the training on the same day as the DEA Drug Takeback event. We can invite the schools to participate. Perhaps Health Source will let us use a room for the classes.

Announcements/Upcoming Events

- **Reminder that general membership meetings will be held at 6pm in the summer**

Jaime will remind the membership that summer MWCC meetings will be held at 6pm in the summer due to the earlier closing time of the rec center.

- **Cancel the July meetings.**

The MWCC typically does not meet in July. We agreed not to have either a board or a membership meeting in July. We will let the general membership know there will be no July meeting at the June 21 meeting.

- **August 8 Special Election**

Kristina asked that we add an item to the June 21 membership meeting agenda: the August 8 Special Election. We need to make as many people as possible aware of the August 8 Special Election. A GOP-

backed state law that took effect in April made several changes to voting including banning most 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. A group of doctors and citizens is currently gathering signatures to put an abortion rights amendment on the November ballot.

Good of the Order

Karen gave a shoutout to Priscilla as a wonderful dragon boat leader of a team in which most of the rowers are breast cancer survivors. Priscilla is heading out to Boston for a competition which raises money for women who are fighting breast cancer. We wish the team well and thank Priscilla for all she does. Karen said it would be great to have a Mt. Washington dragon boat team compete in the September 10 dragon boat race.

Adjournment

Julie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kristina. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rimer