



**MOUNT WASHINGTON**  
**Mt. Washington Community Council**

5/17/2023 Meeting Minutes

Jaime Castle called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Cal Johnson 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 and Julie Rimer. Karen Luken was on the live feed. Absent board members were Wade Johnston and Michael Gray.

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

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

**Community Reports**

Cincinnati Lieutenant Joshua Knoechel of Company 7 on Sutton gave the fire report. He didn't have a summary of the runs but will get it to us next month. Company 7 has been out every day doing spring servicing of the fire hydrants. This may stir up sediment and rust in your home tap water. Just let the water run a bit and it will soon be clear. Make sure your grill isn't right against your house or against anything flammable. Also, please clean your grill regularly. Grease on the grill is a source of fire. If you need a permit for an outdoor fire or need a smoke detector (some were recently provided by the Red Cross), you can call 513-357-7584 to get an application for a smoke detector or to get a permit for an outdoor fire.

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>

While Officer Rice had the floor, Jaime asked whether anyone had questions about the transfer of the liquor permit from the former owners of Towerview Sports Pub at 1832-1834 Sutton to the new owners, Sisters Getting It Done, LLC. The new owners plan to have a restaurant/bar with Southern cuisine, a mom-and-pop kind of place.

The transferred permit has the following features which are the same as those of the prior establishment:

D1: beer sales on/off premises until 1am

D2: wine and low proof prepackaged beverages on/off premises until 1am

D3: on premises consumption of high proof spirits until 1am

D3A: extends until 2:30am (also extends D1 and D2 hours)

D6: sales allowed on Sundays.

No concerns were raised.

No one was in attendance from Sands Montessori or Mt. Washington School to give a report.

Jason Richards, director of the Mt. Washington Recreation Center, said the summer rec hours will be from 7am to 7:30pm, Monday through Friday. Currently, the rec center closes at 9pm. The earlier closing time of 7:30pm will begin on June 1. The rec center will continue to be open on Saturdays from 9am to 2pm. The rec center pool will be open from June 5 to Aug. 11. Anyone interested in buying a pool membership can do so on [cincyrec.org](http://cincyrec.org). The rec center is almost fully staffed for the summer camps. There will soon be an opening at the rec center for a 6am to 10am Monday through Friday janitorial position.

Glenn Johnson, drill sergeant for the American Legion Post 484, stated the legion will be putting out flags at six local cemeteries on Saturday, May 27 with the help of the cub scouts in commemoration of Memorial Day. If you know of a veteran whose grave is missed on that day, the American Legion will be happy to provide you with a flag to place on that grave. The legion will be visiting five cemeteries and two monuments on Memorial Day beginning at 7am and concluding about 11am. The American Legion will soon be repaving their facility's parking lot.

There was no report from the MWCURC (Mt. Washington Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation).

The MWCDC (Mt. Washington Community Development Corporation) sent information. The business district parking lot will be repaved after the July 3 parade. This project will take about a month. The CDC wanted to thank everyone who came to the pop-up beer garden at the former Mt. Washington Ice and Beer on Saturday, April 29. The event was a success.

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 runs from 11am to 1:30pm. The June 2 First Friday event at Stanbery Park runs from 6pm to 9pm and will feature local jazz musicians, Ben and Sophia Troyer. Sophia Troyer recently graduated from SCPA and won the Vocal Music Overture Award. That award recognizes excellence in the arts among greater Cincinnati students in grades 9-12. The July 7 First Friday event will feature the SunBurners, a band that plays island party music. These events will be followed later in the year by Friday night films and the Pumpkin Chuck.

## General Business

The guest speaker from the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition did not show up and will be rescheduled.

The guest speaker from the Ohio Voter Rights commission was volunteer Tony D'Ambrosio. Tony discussed a variety of changes that have been made to Ohio voting laws. The changes add further restrictions to voting laws.

Because the information was extensive, Jaime will email the MWCC membership the slides that Tony reviewed. Among the new laws is one that requires you to have a picture ID if you are voting in person. Allowable photo IDs include an unexpired Ohio driver's license, an unexpired suspended Ohio driver's license, a State of Ohio issued ID card (this is free and can be obtained at the BMV for anyone over the age of 17 who does not have a driver's license), a U.S. military card, an Ohio issued National Guard ID, a U.S. issued Department of Veterans Affairs ID card or an unexpired U.S. passport.

For those voting by mail, a picture ID is not required, but you must request an absentee ballot. You won't be sent a ballot if you don't request it, even if you have voted by mail before. If you vote by mail, you must be very careful to do all of the following: 1) to receive a ballot, you must request one by filling out an application for an absentee ballot form. The application can be found online at the Board of Elections (BOE) website, or you can visit the BOE to obtain an application. You can also get an application at the library. 2) Once you receive the ballot, be very careful about filling it out exactly as required. There will be a ballot and a security envelope that must be signed and mailed back. You must mail it back to the BOE or return it in person AT LEAST 7 days before the election (it used to be 3 days). On the outer mailing envelope, be sure to apply adequate postage of one stamp per ballot page. 3) Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than the day before the election and arrive at the BOE no later than the fourth day after Election Day (it used to be that your ballot had to arrive by the tenth day after Election Day). You also have the option of dropping off your ballot 24/7 at the drop box at the BOE located at 4700 Smith Road, Cincinnati, 45212. There will only be one drop box per county.

The opportunities to vote early in person have been reduced. Instead of two weekends in which you can vote early, there will now only be one weekend. Also, the popular option of voting on the Monday before Election Day has been eliminated. Another restriction is that you will only have 4 days in which to correct or "cure" your ballot if you made a mistake and are contacted about it by the BOE; you used to have 10 days in which to do this.

If you need assistance with voting, there is an organization called VoteRiders that provides free help with voter IDs. You can call them at 866-ID-2-VOTE or contact them at this link:  
<https://www.voteriders.org/states/ohio/>

The guest speaker for Duke Energy was Marion Byndon. Marion is the director of state government affairs for Ohio and Kentucky. She also has community relation responsibilities for the City of Cincinnati. Marion left pamphlets on Energy Choice Ohio and emphasized the importance of being educated about choosing your energy supplier. Marion also provided information on programs that provide financial assistance. These pamphlets will be brought to the next membership meeting as well.

Rick Meador of Mt. Washington Cares gave an update on the NSP funded postcard that will be sent to residents giving information about October through December Mt. Washington events. Rick Meador has

been getting a lot of responses on events to list. To-date, the postcard will include meeting dates for the MWCC and the MWCURC, dates of the Light the Tower spaghetti dinners and church dinners at the Mt. Washington United Methodist Church, the Guardian Angels September 30 5K Halo Hustle walk/run, a link to the Sands Montessori website, the Mt. Washington School December 7 concert, the DEA's October national prescription drug takeback event, the November Pumpkin Chuck, the November American Legion turkey raffle, the American Legion December 17 lunch with Santa, the MWCURC holiday walk, and the McNicholas Rocketoberfest on October 7 and BooFest on October 14. Rick is still waiting to hear back about events at the rec center, the Tome Bookstore and the Mt. Washington Library. There are other organizations from which Rick is waiting to hear. If you have suggestions, please send them to the MWCC email address, [info@mwcc.org](mailto:info@mwcc.org).

Rick hopes to have all the information that will go on the postcard identified by June so he can then begin the process of having the postcard designed and identifying printers. The postcard will be larger than a standard postcard. The last postcard of this nature was sent in 2019 and the big news at that time was the approval of \$360,000 for the Kyle Plush Pavilion. Rick is looking for another topic of great interest to catch readers' attention. Please talk with Rick after the meeting if you can help with follow-up activities.

#### Volunteers Needed:

Volunteers are needed for the Pumpkin Chuck preparations. There will be a Pumpkin Chuck committee meeting on May 31. Please contact Priscilla Elgersma or Sophie Roberto if you can come to that meeting by sending a note to [info@mwcc.org](mailto:info@mwcc.org).

Volunteers are also needed for the July 3 parade. If you can help, please contact Bob Wetterer by email at [bwetterer@comey.com](mailto:bwetterer@comey.com) or call or text him at 513-884-8326.

Accessory Dwelling Units: Jaime noted that the city is voting on ADUs soon. If you have strong feelings or questions about this topic, you can talk with Jaime.

Treasurer's Report: Kristina presented the treasurer's report and the membership voted to accept it.

Kristina also explained that two soft speed bumps will be installed at the intersection of Ranchvale and Beechmont. Hopefully, this will slow traffic speed there and protect the trees in the median.

#### Announcements/Upcoming Events

Judy Zehren takes care of the Welcome sign on Beechmont Ave and of the Kyle Plush Pavilion. She needs volunteers to help weed at both sites. Weeding at the Kyle Plush Pavilion is a greater priority since Judy would like to have the weeding done before the May 27 Madcap Puppets presentation. Please contact Judy by sending a message to the Mt. Washington Community Council email at [info@mwcc.org](mailto:info@mwcc.org). Rick suggested we should consider allocating some NSP money toward these weeding efforts in 2024.

#### Good of the Order

Jaime gave a shoutout to Karen Luken and Sophie Roberto. Karen filled out and filed all of the NSP paperwork and Sophie made the NSP presentation. All projects were approved.

Adjournment

Priscilla made a motion, Kristina seconded it, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rimer  
MWCC Secretary