



**Mt. Washington Community Council**  
**Board Meeting Minutes of August 2, 2023**

**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 7:04pm.

**Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**

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

**Adoption of the Agenda**

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

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

Karen made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2023 board meeting, Kristina seconded, and the minutes were approved.

**Unfinished Business**

**Pumpkin Chuck and Pumpkin Chuck Website Update**

Since the Pumpkin Chuck is fast-approaching (November 4, 2023), we will be going to bi-monthly meetings in September.

We need to contact Officer Rice to secure two police officers from noon to 5pm the day of the Pumpkin Chuck. We carry Workman's Comp that will cover the officers, but we need to find out what the fee for the officers will be. Julie will contact Officer Rice. Kristina said the City also charges a small administrative fee, but we are unlikely to be billed for that until closer to the end of the year.

Jaime provided an update from Sophie. The Pumpkin Chuck website is nearly complete, but it is not live yet. Shopping carts still need to be put on the website for the three donation levels. The donations are made via PayPal with the usual PayPal fees.

Karen will hold off on trying to get sponsors until the website is up and running, which is likely to be on Monday, August 7. Karen will need color copies for vendor solicitation and Jaime said the most reasonably priced place to have them made is the library.

Jaime will invite food vendors and will promote them on the Pumpkin Chuck website.

We will need to ask Priscilla or Sophie how the process works for exhibitors at the Pumpkin Chuck. Who will participate? Where will each exhibitor set up?

Jaime will follow up with the City to see if they will help with a green initiative. Karen said we can get recycling containers from Hamilton County.

Rick Meador said the Hamilton County Department of Public Health will be at the Pumpkin Chuck to distribute NARCAN kits and Fentanyl strips.

### **Postcard Update**

Rick Meador gave an update on the fall postcard. Rick sent all of us the postcard art that Jim Tucker designed. Sophie is working on the design of the back of the postcard and Rick said she has done a great job of incorporating all the information into the card without making it look too busy. Karen, Rick and Sophie are meeting this Friday to finalize the design.

The back of the postcard will have this tag line: "Mt. Washington: Fun and Frivolity this Fall." We took a vote and decided to go with that tagline as opposed to "Cincinnati Looks Up to Mt. Washington." Rick will let Jim Tucker put a tag for himself in a corner of the postcard in appreciation for Jim's work in designing it. Jaime said we should consider doing something for Jim Tucker to thank him for designing the postcard. There will be four logos on the postcard including ones for the Drug Takeback event, the Pumpkin Chuck, the Holiday Walk and the MWCC.

Rick will be using Mark Hammond of Union Savings for the printing and mailing of the postcard. With the recent increase in postal rates, it will cost approximately \$2000 to print and mail 8000 color postcards. Since it will take two weeks to print and mail the postcards, Rick's goal is to get the finalized design to the printer by August 28. Everyone thanked Rick for his phenomenal work on the postcard.

A question was asked about whether the cost will be higher if we don't have the same colors on the front as the back of the card. Sophie will ensure that the same colors are used on both sides of the card.

Rick mentioned that there is a plaque at the Mt. Washington Rec Center in which a MWCC member was recognized every other year. That activity has lapsed for several years, but we agreed to reinstate it.

### **UC Health Trauma Center presentation**

Regina Menninger, a nurse who is the Trauma Prevention and Outreach Coordinator for the Trauma Center at UC Health, 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).

Jaime will coordinate this presentation with the resource coordinators of our local schools. The training could be held at the Mt. Washington Rec Center.

### **New Business**

#### **Guest speakers for MWCC Membership Meetings**

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney will speak at our August meeting. Jaime will ask the membership to prepare any questions they have for Councilman Kearney in the email invitation to that meeting.

In September, we will have a speaker from the Cincinnati Public Schools' College, Career, and Community Resource Center. The resource center works with high school seniors to prepare them for graduation.

### **Holiday Walk: MWCC Sponsoring Coffee/Hot Chocolate Station**

The MWCC will be running a coffee/hot chocolate booth at the Holiday Walk. The MWCC donates \$250 to the MWCURC for the Holiday Walk; MWCURC donates \$250 to MWCC for the Pumpkin Chuck.

It was suggested board members take shifts in running the coffee/hot chocolate station so everyone can participate in the Holiday Walk. Julie and Rick Rimer confirmed with Bob Wetterer that they would do a shift.

### **Director Attendance Policy – Bylaws Clarification and Virtual Policy**

We need to review our bylaws to see if changes need to be made to require some level of participation. Even though this is a volunteer board, we agreed the board needs everyone to contribute. Jaime will talk with Wade about the number of meetings he has missed and the fact that he hasn't signed up to do any tasks this year.

Jaime will draft a bylaw addition that requires a revised minimum number of meetings that must be attended and a minimum level of participation for all board members. The addition will be voted on by the general membership at an upcoming meeting. We will get the bylaw addition resolved before trying to fill any open board positions.

We discussed virtual participation via our Facebook Live Stream and agreed that in-person participation is preferable, but virtual participation can be allowed if someone is sick, must provide childcare, etc. We also agreed to not allow virtual voting due to security issues.

### **Announcements/Upcoming Events**

#### **Jaime will be teaching at Leaves of Learning**

Jaime will soon be a teacher at Leaves of Learning, an innovative educational school. We shared experiences about students we know that thrived at Leaves of Learning and everyone congratulated Jaime on her new job.

#### **August 8 Special Election**

Kristina reminded all 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 November ballot measure to codify abortion rights in the Ohio constitution.

### **Good of the Order**

Karen gave a shoutout to Creamy Whip. Creamy Whip won a \$5,000 Storefronts to the Forefront grant. This grant is a partnership between the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber and Duke Energy to promote increased visibility of small businesses in our region. Five \$5,000 grants were given to existing storefront businesses in Mt. Washington, Oakley, Goshen, and Clifton in Ohio and in Dayton, Kentucky. Recipients will be able to use the funds for capital improvements, marketing support, expansion investments, or other growth-related efforts. Creamy Whip plans to use the funds to buy a walk-in refrigerator. Congratulations Creamy Whip!

For a lovely modern-day description of Mt. Washington, please go to this link:

<https://storefrontstothe forefront.com/storefronts-to-the-forefront-mountwashington/>

### **Adjournment**

Julie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kristina. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rimer