



MOUNT WASHINGTON
Mt. Washington Community Council

1/17/2024 Meeting Minutes

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

Priscilla Elgersma led us in the pledge of allegiance.

A quorum of board members was present. Board members present included Jaime Castle, Kristina Kew, Priscilla Elgersma, Rick Meador, Karen Luken and Julie Rimer. Absent: Michael Gray.

Priscilla Elgersma made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, Nikki Marksberry seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Julie Rimer made a motion to approve tonight's agenda, seconded by Rick Meador, then approved by all.

Community Reports

Jeff Nienhaus of Fire Company 7 on Sutton reported there were 107 total runs last month with 94 of them being EMS runs. He told all of us to keep an eye out for each other during the extreme cold we are experiencing. He also said to be careful with space heaters. Make sure there is open air around them. Please do not put blankets or other items near them.

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.pdf>

The crime of greatest concern was an armed robbery at Walgreen's. Fortunately, the police have video and will try to track down the perpetrator.

The Mt. Washington School choir, under the direction of music teacher Elena Ivanova, entertained us with beautiful songs, musical instruments and dances including songs with four-part harmony and a tango!

Nikki Marksberry, Resource Coordinator of Mt. Washington School, told us the Cincinnati Public Schools is going to host an all-schools expo the last Saturday of the month, January 27, at the Cintas Center from 11am to 1pm. This is an opportunity to learn about all 66 schools within the Cincinnati Public School system. Please let your friends and neighbors know about this. If you know fifth or sixth graders who are wondering where they are going to go to middle school, this is a great opportunity to learn about options.

There was no representative from Sands Montessori tonight.

Jaime reminded all that this is the time to renew your Mt. Washington Community Council membership. It is \$7 per year per person to be an official member. You can renew in person or online at this link: <https://mwcc.org/product/mwcc-membership/> With your membership, beyond the power to vote on agendas and minutes, you get to vote on issues such as choosing your Board of Directors and how to spend Neighborhood Support Program monies.

Jason Richards, director of the Mt. Washington Recreation Center, stated the CRC's toy drive in December was very successful, garnering several thousand donations, and providing toys for nearly 400 children. The rec center will begin registration on February 8th for summer day camps. There will be camps for children aged 5 to 12 and pre-school camps for children aged 3 to 5. The rec center is always looking for those 18 and over to employ at the summer camps. The rec center is also looking for lifeguards to work at the rec center pools. The rec center will even train the lifeguards, provide them with a uniform, and the pay is \$16 per hour.

Bob Wetterer of the Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (MWCURC) told us about the two new businesses in our business district, The Potted Palm at 2123 Beechmont Avenue, and Scott's Auto and Service in the former Valvoline station at 2303 Beechmont Avenue. Bob also gave an update on the status of the tower lights. The lights will all be taken down and sent to the manufacturer to see what, if anything, they can do within our warranty.

It is likely we will need to have new lights put up. After talking with seven vendors, we were told by all that the tower is too large to be lit with flood lights. It is likely to be at least a six-month project before the tower is lit again and we will need sponsors. Please remember to attend the next spaghetti dinner at the American Legion, Post 484, which will be held on Saturday, February 10. The proceeds from these dinners pay for the tower lights and go toward beautification efforts in the business district.

Katie Stefani of the CDC stated there were no new updates.

Priscilla Elgersma said the next SPAC meeting will be held the last Thursday of the month, January 25, at the library from 5pm to 6pm. We will be discussing all the things SPAC plans to do next year and we welcome your input. We are looking at again having Madcap Puppets and Zac Morgan. We would like to know what bands you'd like to see or if there is something new you'd like to see in the park.

Rick Meador of the Mt. Washington Cares Coalition said there were no new updates at this time.

Glen Johnson, drill sergeant for the American Legion Post 484, was not able to attend tonight, but sent along a message that he will tell us about the high school winners of the citizenship test next month.

Deb Lopez of Forcht Bank thanked everyone who donated to the bank's non-perishable food collection. Forcht Bank collected close to 900 non-perishable food items which were donated to the SEM Pantry and that is about twice what they collected last year.

Guest Speaker

We had a guest speaker, Jude Johnson, an HR manager for the City of Cincinnati. He told us about the Career Pathways Initiative which began in 2022. The initiative works with local high schools, area colleges, and workforce development associations to let them know about the wide array of jobs that are available working for the City of Cincinnati. They have also created a Career Pathways Overview of the City in which students spend a half-day getting an overview of the city. They start the day in council chambers, meet the City Manager, the mayor, host a Q&A, and try to give the students an in-depth look at what it is like to work for the City of Cincinnati. Near the end of the session, a diverse panel of city employees talks with the students.

The mayor's 18th annual Career Expo will be held on Saturday, February 24, from 10am to 1pm, at the Duke Energy Center. They anticipate between 50 and 100 employers at the expo who will be looking to hire high school aged students.

With the closing of Coney, the CRC hopes to hire some of the Coney lifeguards to staff the 24 city pools. Jude Johnson left handouts for those wishing to become lifeguards for the CRC. He also left business cards for any schools willing to host speakers from the Career Pathways Initiative.

General Business

We have openings for two MWCC board members. People could nominate themselves or someone else. Margeaux Selig and Jack Diesel both spoke.

Margeaux began coming to meetings a year ago and met a group of people that really inspired her. She is looking forward to giving back to the community. Julie Rimer thanked her for all the volunteer events Margeaux helped with last year.

Jack Diesel, a retired City of Cincinnati building inspector, used to be on the Corryville community council. He likes Mt. Washington a lot and looks forward to volunteering.

Rick Meador made a motion, which Bob Wetterer seconded, to accept both nominees. The membership universally approved the motion. Welcome to the Board of Directors, Margeaux and Jack!

NSP Projects: Jaime explained that our community can qualify for up to \$7300 in NSP funds. We are looking for ideas from the community for how the funds should be spent. Jaime distributed a rubric with which we will evaluate the proposed ideas:

Rate this project: 1- unsatisfactory, 2 – below average, 3 – average, 4 – above average, 5 – excellent

Benefits many people	1	2	3	4	5
Lasting benefits	1	2	3	4	5
Improves quality of life	1	2	3	4	5
Improves the neighborhood physically	1	2	3	4	5
Inclusive	1	2	3	4	5
Uplifts children	1	2	3	4	5
Connects people	1	2	3	4	5
Other revenue sources will be added to the project	1	2	3	4	5

The deadline for ideas is March 13 and we will vote on the ideas at the March general membership meeting on Wednesday, March 20. In 2023, NSP funds were used to pay for a number of events in Stanbery Park, including creating the Pumpkin Chuck targets, and were used to send out 7800 postcards that listed events from September through December in Mt. Washington. We also used money for the flower pots in the business district. Bob Wetterer mentioned that the price for the planting and care of each of the 22 pots in the business district is going up from \$200 per pot to \$330 per pot. MWCURC is willing to pay \$200 per pot, but perhaps NSP funds can be used to pay the balance. Bob explained that even at \$330 per pot, this is considerably less than the \$500 per pot we have received from an outside vendor.

Budget Presentation: Kristina Kew, MWCC treasurer, reviewed the December 2023 and January 2024 treasurer’s reports. (We needed to approve the December 2023 financials at this meeting since there was no general membership meeting in December 2023.) Kristina also reviewed the Pumpkin Chuck income and expenses. The 2023 Pumpkin Chuck netted a profit of \$1500. Priscilla gave a shoutout to Kristina for so expertly handling all the complicated financials of the Pumpkin Chuck.

Julie Rimer made a motion to approve the December 2023 and January 2024 treasurer’s reports, seconded by Priscilla Elgersma, then approved by all.

Announcements/Upcoming Events: There will be no new announcements.

Good of the Order: Jaime thanked Karen for all the work involved in handling the NSP funds throughout 2023 and Kristina for all the financials she handled for the MWCC and the Pumpkin Chuck. She thanked Jack Diesel and Margeaux Selig for being willing to serve on the Board of Directors.

Adjournment: Nikki Marksberry made a motion, Jack Diesel seconded it, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rimer

MWCC Secretary