



MOUNT WASHINGTON

Mt. Washington Community Council

Board Meeting Minutes of April 3, 2024, 7pm

Welcome and Call to Order

A meeting of the MWCC board was held via Zoom link on this day. Jaime Castle called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Board members in attendance were Jaime Castle, Karen Luken, Priscilla Elgersma, Margeaux Selig, Kristina Kew, Rick Meador, Michael Gray, and Julie Rimer. Jack Diesel was absent.

Guest Speakers

Rob and Michelle Hayes and Joann Kavanaugh asked that the MWCC write a letter to the DOTE asking that the DOTE investigate traffic calming measures on the stretch of Beechmont Avenue between Mears Avenue and Berkshire Lane. Rob explained that many cars speed in this area, particularly those in the right-most lane.

Karen Luken noted that many streets would like to have traffic calming measures and asked our guests to explain why this area deserves priority. Rob stated this area has many pedestrians due to the presence of Guardian Angels School, McNicholas High School, the Mt. Washington Presbyterian Preschool, and the residences all along this area.

Rob stated the request for traffic calming measures to the DOTE must come from the Mt. Washington Community Council. Priscilla Elgersma asked our guests if they had talked with stakeholders in that area. Since hundreds of children are affected by speeding cars in that area, Priscilla suggested getting written support for traffic calming measures from the schools and churches. Those letters of support would enhance the impact of the MWCC request.

Rob said he would work on obtaining those letters with the goal of making a presentation at the MWCC general membership meeting on May 15, 2024.

Adoption of the Agenda

Julie Rimer made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, Kristina Kew seconded, and the meeting agenda was adopted by all.

Reading of and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Board Meeting

Rick Meador made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Michael Gray seconded, and the minutes were approved by all.

Old Business

NSP: Karen has received all the information she needs for all projects to file with NSP with the exception of Jim Tucker's projects. Jim has been asked to detail how he will allocate the total amount of NSP funds he will receive among the three approved projects: Pumpkin Chuck targets, Morrow Street beautification, and workshop scholarships. Karen has given Jim a deadline to respond of Friday, April 5.

Website Language Update: Jaime Castle stated that the Mt. Washington Community Council website has been updated. For example, the names of all current board members are on the website. Kristina Kew said she is not sure that our email is transmitting every email it receives, so that will need to be looked into.

Mt. Washington School Food Forest: Mt. Washington School has a community garden for which they would appreciate help. Representatives from the school have sent an email to us and will come to the next MWCC membership meeting to ask for volunteers.

Guest Speaker Protocol/Overlay Plan Mindfulness: A discussion ensued about Mt. Washington's Comprehensive Plan that was finalized in 2007. Precipitating the discussion was the Kroger consultant who sought motions to approve three variances for Kroger signage at the general membership meeting of March 20, 2024. All three variances were approved by the membership, but concerns were raised by Karen Luken that we did not apprise Kroger or the membership of Mt. Washington's Comprehensive Plan guidelines on signage limits before voting on the motions.

Rick Meador expressed concern that the plan is outdated since it is seventeen years old. Jaime Castle pointed out that the Mt. Washington Comprehensive Plan is similar to that of other Cincinnati neighborhoods. Julie Rimer stated a tremendous amount of thought and work went into creating that plan, that it should be updated, not discarded. Kristina Kew stated the plan is only a guideline, that we cannot legally obligate people to abide by it. Jaime said we could have the plan on hand at membership meetings as a reference. Jaime also said other communities are in the process of revising their plans, but the City can only work with so many communities at a time. We resolved to be mindful of our Mt. Washington Comprehensive Plan guidelines as issues arise.

The board discussed pop-up visitors, such as the two women who came to the March 30 meeting to ask for a letter of support from MWCC stating we would prefer the Coney Island pool not be destroyed. Karen Luken suggested both sides of each issue should be explored before the membership makes motions and votes. Michael Gray and Kristina Kew said that is impractical, that it is not the board's responsibility to seek out spokespeople for the opposing side of an issue. Jaime pointed out that we cannot interfere with the membership's right to make a motion and take a vote on a pop-up issue. For example, there was such overwhelming support for preserving the Coney Island pool that it was the membership's right to make a motion and vote to send a letter of support after the Save Coney Islanders' presentation. At a minimum, we resolved to ask anyone who comes with a proposal to state whether they have received support from any other entities. If we believe there is opposition to the proposal, we will look into it. Jaime suggested we state our preference to all who ask for MWCC's support: that the proposal be presented at a general membership meeting, but not be voted on until the following general membership meeting.

Facebook Live-Stream Monitoring Comments: Jaime Castle said no one has been available to monitor Facebook comments during our meetings. She could assign a different board member at each meeting the duty of monitoring Facebook comments and questions to address this.

Unfinished/Current Business

Community Trash Clean-up: Margeaux updated us on the meetings she has been attending related to 311Cincy and a Mt. Washington community clean-up. Margeaux explained that Keep Cincinnati Beautiful will drop off clean-up supplies for free. KCB will also pick up the trash that results from a clean-up. Margeaux will be planning a community clean-up on May 18.

Green Seeds Grant: Priscilla Elgersma and Marc Raab attended the meeting about the Green Seeds Grant. They plan to ask for rain barrels that can be used at Stanbery Park and at the Mt. Washington Cemetery. They noted the rain barrels must be installed above ground level so they are not used as toilets. They will also request solar composters. Our ask should be small since we are not one of the targeted communities for a Green Seeds Grant since our tree canopy in Mt. Washington is extensive.

Pumpkin Chuck: Margeaux has taken the lead on obtaining the Parks' special permit. We have requested a quote for the insurance. We will need to seek sponsors/donors for the wood needed to build a new trebuchet.

Announcements/Upcoming Events: No announcements/upcoming events were noted.

Good of the Order: Jaime thanked Julie for gardening in the neighborhood business district.

Adjournment: Julie made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rimer
MWCC Secretary