



MOUNT WASHINGTON
Mt. Washington Community Council
3/20/2024 Meeting Minutes

Jaime Castle, MWCC president, called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Rick Meador led us in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call: Jaime Castle made sure we had a quorum of board members present and they included Jaime Castle, Priscilla Elgersma, Jack Diesel, Rick Meador, Julie Rimer and Karen Luken via Facebook. Absent: Michael Gray and Kristina Kew. Margeaux Selig is attending another meeting on behalf of Mt. Washington Community Council at the same time.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes: Gary Noll made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Priscilla Elgersma and approved by all.

Approval of Agenda: Gary Noll made a motion to approve tonight's agenda, seconded by Julie Rimer, then approved by all.

Community Reports

Our Firehouse Station 7 firefighter Sean said there were 118 total runs last month: twelve fire runs and 106 emergency runs.

Officer Barry, our neighborhood liaison officer, reviewed the latest crime report. There were nine auto thefts. Please make sure you have nothing in your vehicle. Officer Barry recommends using the club on the steering wheel to help prevent auto theft. You can find the latest Mt. Washington Neighborhood Crime Report at this link:

https://cpdmobile.cincinnati-oh.gov/Neighborhoods/Reports/D2/MOUNT_WASHINGTON.pdf

Nikki Marksberry of Mt. Washington School told us next week is spring break for Cincinnati Public Schools. The school carnival will be May 9. Please remember to use the following rules of stopping for a school bus:

For two-lane roads, all traffic must stop for a school bus no matter which direction it is traveling. Traffic must stop at least ten feet away from the school bus, whether coming from its front or rear. If the bus is stopped on a street with four or more lanes, only traffic proceeding in the same direction as the bus must stop.

While there was no representative from Sands Montessori at the meeting, Priscilla Elgersma reminded all that Sands welcomes volunteers on a drop-in basis to work with the students on their math skills. All materials are provided to volunteers.

Jason Richards, director of the Mt. Washington Recreation Center, stated the CRC still has openings in the day care program that is being offered during spring break. He also said the rec center has openings for CRC staff who are eighteen or over.

Bob Wetterer of the MWCURC (Mt. Washington Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation) let all know that each flowerpot in the business district costs \$330 to be planted and maintained by the City, an increase of \$130 per pot from last year. A grant covers \$200 of that cost per pot. Bob has found business sponsors for all nineteen flowerpots in the business district. Each sponsor will pay \$130 per pot they adopt.

The next spaghetti dinner will be held on April 6 from 4pm to 7pm. The proceeds go to lighting the tower. All lights that were on the tower have been shipped back to the manufacturer and we hope they will honor the warranty that is still in effect. Bob could use 8 to 10 volunteers to help in planning the July 3 parade. If you can volunteer, please contact Bob Wetterer by email at bwetterer@comey.com or call or text him at 513-884-8326.

There was no representative to present for the MWCDC (Mt. Washington Community Development Corporation).

Priscilla Elgersma of SPAC (Stanbery Park Advisory Council) reminded all that the next SPAC meeting is at 5pm this Thursday at the Mt. Washington Public Library.

Rick Meador of the Mt. Washington Cares Coalition said there is nothing new to report.

Glen Johnson, drill sergeant for the American Legion Post 484, sent a note that they recently honored an electrician who has done work for the legion. There is a fish fry on March 29. The legion donated \$1,000 to those trying to restore the Fulton Presbyterian Cemetery due to the veterans buried there.

Priscilla Elgersma gave an update on the Pumpkin Chuck Committee which is currently comprised by Priscilla, Marc Raab, Margeaux Selig, and Maggie Lorenz. They will be meeting in a few days.

General Business

Guest Speaker:

Eric Russo, director of The Hillside Trust since 2000 and a member of the organization since 1989, explained that the organization is dedicated to thoughtful use and preservation of our hillsides. The Hillside Trust owns three properties in Mt. Washington: four acres behind Wilaray Terrace, ten acres in the Tridale/Meadowbright area, and a 13-acre parcel on Elstun Road.

In 2022, The Hillside Trust created a documentary on landslides in Cincinnati. Landslides caused a \$25 million dollar drain on economics in the southwest Ohio region. Eric provided pamphlets that provide warning signs that your property could be a landslide risk.

Eric has been doing 5 to 6 inspections per month for people concerned about the risk of a landslide on their property. He advised that anyone who is considering buying a hillside property do his/her due diligence. You can no longer buy landslide insurance.

Eric gave a couple of pointers for those whose property is hilly: Do not dump yardwaste at the edge of your property and when you substitute native plantings for non-native plantings, do so gradually so you do not destabilize the area.

Neighborhood Support Program Presentations and Vote

Each proposal sponsor had an opportunity to explain the proposal and answer any questions. The membership filled out a scorecard rubric after each presentation. This is the rubric that was used to score the proposals.

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 completed rubric scorecards were collected and tallied at the end of the presentations.

Here were the winning projects in order of most to least point totals:

- 1) Neighborhood Business District beautification
- 2) Friday night fun bands in Stanbery Park
- 3) Family friendly movies on Friday nights in Stanbery Park in September 2024
- 4) Madcap Puppets and Zak Morgan in Stanbery Park
- 5) Welcome sign clean-up and beautification
- 6) Morrow Road art installation/beautification
- 7) Pumpkin Chuck targets
- 8) Jim Tucker studio sponsorship

The membership approved that the remainder of the money after fully funding the first five items should go toward Jim Tucker's proposals, the 6th, 7th, and 8th items. Jim will allocate how much he plans to spend on each of those projects and will submit this for approval.

Kroger Variance Presentation – Anne McBride

Anne McBride, a zoning consultant, presented the remodeling plan for the Mt. Washington Kroger and explained that, at this meeting, she hoped to have three zoning variances approved by the membership. Here are those variances:

- 1) Motion for a variance on Section 1427-37 to allow signage on the side of the building that does not face a public street. Motion made by Nikki Marksberry, seconded by Bob Wetterer, and approved by all with three abstaining.

- 2) Motion for a variance on Section 1427-37A to allow 208.1 square feet of signage on the east elevation where no signage is permitted. (Ann kept calling the parking lot side the east side, but it is the south side of the store.) Motion made by Jack Diesel, seconded by Gary Noll, and approved by all with three abstaining.

- 3) Motion for a variance on Section 1427-37 to allow for two signs on the elevation facing the parking lot where no signage is permitted. Motion made by Matt Musselman, seconded by Nikki Marksberry, and approved by all with three abstaining.

Anne did not address the fact that the new signs exceed our urban overlay requirement that no sign should be greater than one hundred square feet. This issue was not addressed in the meeting.

Save Coney Island

Two Mt. Washington residents told of their efforts to try to save the Coney Island pool from destruction. They explained that fourteen rec center pools could fit into the Coney Island pool. Their website is [SaveConeyIslanders](http://SaveConeyIslanders.com). The membership voted to approve sending a letter to City Council stating we were in favor of trying to save Coney Island

Treasurer's Report

Jaime gave the treasurer's report. Nikki Marksberry made a motion to approve it, seconded by Bob Wetterer and approved by all.

Announcements/Upcoming Events

Jim Tucker has mentored eight talented, emerging artists in an eight-week residency with ArtWorks. Jim will be hosting an exhibition that will include the pieces made by the artists as well as Jim's largest installation to-date, a thirty-foot-long 3D mural celebrating the history of Walnut Hills.

Valerie Ratchford, a cemetery volunteer, told all about the two professional baseball players that are buried in the Mt. Washington Cemetery. One of them, Buck Ewing, is in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Good of the Order

Nikki Marksberry thanked Gary Noll who coached boys' basketball all season.

Julie Rimer thanked Bob Wetterer for finding businesses to adopt each of the nineteen flowerpots in the business district.

Adjournment

Jack Diesel made a motion to adjourn, Jim Tucker seconded it, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rimer
MWCC Secretary