Mt. Washington Community Council

Membership Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2025

Mt. Washington Recreation Center

Welcome and Call to Order
Priscilla Elgersma called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Following the pledge of allegiance, Priscilla Elgersma made sure we had a quorum of board members present. Priscilla Elgersma, Jack Diesel, Gary Noll, Margeaux Selig, Jon Young, Julie Rimer, Brian Zeschke, and Rick Meador were in attendance. Absent: Teddy Morgan-Jablonski.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Margeaux Selig made a motion to approve the minutes of the last MWCC meeting, seconded by Gary Noll, and approved by all.

Approval of Agenda

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

Community Reports

Police report: Officer Will Holthaus filled in for Officer Wendy Martin; Sargent Sellers also attended. Officer Holthaus went over the Mt. Washington Neighborhood Crime Report. You can find it at this link:

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

Some of the major issues over the past month included a UDF robbery; strangulation in a domestic violence situation; and porch pirate activity.

Sargent Sellers said the police want to get ahead of the homeless problem early this year. The police have been meeting with Brooke Lipscombe weekly. Brooke offers services to the homeless. The police got Goodwill to take the fence down behind Goodwill, which is a good thing because the homeless were creating a tent city there. Sargent Sellers reminded the residents to call immediately if you see anyone doing something that looks illegal or if you see a new tent city being formed with tarps, tents, or other materials.

There was no one here from the station seven fire department tonight.

Schools:
Mt. Washington School: Nikki Marksberry said spring break will take place next week, with the hope that children who are alone during those days will come to the rec center and to the library. State testing will begin soon after spring break ends. Mt. Washington School's Knight's Fest will be celebrated on Friday, May 16. The school's annual fundraiser will take place on June 17 at the Big Ash Brewery.

Sands Montessori: Priscilla Elgersma gave an update on Sands Montessori and stated the school is in the midst of state testing and taking field trips. Sands will hold a carnival/fundraiser on April 12.

CRC (Cincinnati Recreation Center): Jason Richards, Mt. Washington CRC director, provided the update. The CRC, working with SPAC (Stanbery Park Advisory Council), will host a community-wide egg hunt in Stanbery Park on Saturday, April 5, from 10am to noon, for ages twelve and under. The rec center summer camp is full. There are still a few spots open for each day of the summer preschool program. The rec center is looking for 4-5 summer camp workers aged eighteen and over. If you know someone who would like to be a camp worker, please send them to the rec center to interview with Jason Richards. Riverfest, a canoeing program for those aged 12-17, will take place from July 28 to August 1.

MWCURC (Community Urban Redevelopment Corp): Bob Wetterer stated the tower lights have been ordered. The total cost for the new lights will be about $40K. Mary Schultz, a MWCURC member, helps out with the spaghetti dinners. She said we had a record number of people turn out for the January and February dinners. Please spread the word about spaghetti dinners. The next spaghetti dinner will take place on April 12.

MWCDC (Community Development Corp): Residents from the Elmdale, Ranchvale, Wasigo neighborhood reached out to the MWCC with concerns at the February 19 MWCC meeting about the proposed senior housing development at 5455 Beechmont Avenue. Neighbors said their major concern is site instability. Many of their homes abut this property and there has already been landslide activity. The neighbors want assurances that their property and their brick homes will not be negatively affected by this development.

Joe Sandmann, of the CDC, said these residents met with Sieber Construction and the MWCDC at the rec center before the MWCC meeting today. Sieber stated they do not have a site plan yet. They have done soil surveys, but they have not shared the results with the neighbors. Priscilla Elgersma stated she was pleased that the neighbors and Sieber/CDC were communicating directly and hope it continues.

SPAC (Stanbery Park Advisory Council): Nancy Van Pelt said the April 5 egg hunt, which will be held in conjunction with the CRC, will take place in Stanbery Park. Older and younger children will hunt in different areas of the park. The next non-native, invasive species removal will focus on removing garlic mustard. A park cleanup will occur at the same time as the non-native, invasive species removal on April 12 from 10am to noon in Stanbery Park. Please come to help. All supplies will be provided for the cleanup and non-native, invasive plant removal.

American Legion Post 484: Rick Meador stated the American Legion is hosting a fish fry every Friday from March 7 to April 18 at the legion which is located at 1837 Sutton Avenue. The dinners run from 4:30pm to 8pm.

Other Organizations Present: None.

General Business

Lunken Airport: Guest speaker Elissa Pogue of the Lunken Airport Oversight Board was not able to attend tonight because she has Covid. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Easter Egg Hunt: The Easter egg hunt planners requested $300 in MWCC funds to help finance the event. As many as 250-300 children could attend. Jack Diesel made a motion to approve $300 for the Easter egg hunt, seconded by Gary Noll, then approved by all. All attendees will decorate a bag. They will each get a piece of paper that tells them what colors and numbers of eggs to find, so it will be run more like a scavenger hunt. There will be nature camp activities, origami, and the Easter bunny at the Easter egg hunt.

Neighborhood Support Program: Rick Meador is our NSP Director this year. He explained that Mt. Washington is eligible for $10K in NSP project funds this year.

The six NSP proposals that were submitted include the following:
1) Pumpkin Chuck entertainment: $2K;
2) Mt. Washington Cemetery Historical Tour: $500;

3) Business district and welcome sign maintenance, prune oak trees, remove some mulch: $2400;
4) MWCC equipment for meetings/recordings: $1500;
5) Stanbery Park Madcap Puppets, Movies ($300 to $500 per movie for licensing), Band: $2360; and
6) Business district lighting, $1240 (LED lighting).

Gary Noll made a motion to accept the NSP proposals as written, seconded by Joe DiMario, and unanimously approved by all 36 Mt. Washington residents in attendance at the meeting. Rick Meador will be presenting these projects to the NSP committee on April 15.

Sidewalk repair costs to residents: The city has been spraying a yellow line on sidewalk squares that are broken or uneven. Residents are responsible for arranging to have these sidewalk squares repaired and for paying for the repairs. The MWCC received a letter from Matt Citak of Mt. Lookout who has been protesting the cost of these repairs. If you choose to have the city make the repairs, the cost is $700 per sidewalk square. You can also use a contractor on the city's list of approved contractors.

Treasurer's Report

Jon Young gave the treasurer's report. Julie Rimer made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Priscilla Elgersma, and then approved by all.

Announcements/Upcoming Events

Rick Meador announced that Saturday, April 26, from 10am to 2pm, the next drug takeback event will take place. The event will be held in the HealthSource parking lot at 6131 Campus Lane. Hamilton County Public Health employees will be there. Since the drug takeback events began in 2016, over one thousand pounds of pills have been collected.

Good of the Order

Priscilla Elgersma thanked Jon Young and Rick Meador for fixing some issues with last year's NSP proposal documentation. Priscilla stated she is grateful for the MWCC board we have. Priscilla also gave a shoutout to the neighbors, CDC, and Sieber Construction for getting together to discuss the proposed senior housing project issues.

Adjournment.

Margeaux Selig made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rimer
MWCC Secretary