Mt. Washington Community Council

Board Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2025

Call to Order

A meeting of the MWCC board was held virtually via Google Meet. Priscilla Elgersma called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

All board members were in attendance with the exception of Jack Diesel: Priscilla Elgersma, Julie Rimer, Jon Young, Margeaux Selig, Brian Zeschke, Gary Noll, Rick Meador, and Teddy Morgan-Jablonski.

Approval of Tonight's Agenda

Priscilla made a motion to approve tonight's agenda, seconded by Rick, and approved by all.

Approval of April's Board Meeting Minutes

Teddy made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5 board meeting, seconded by Margeaux, and approved by all.

Forcht Bank Debit Card

Jon explained that paying bills will be easier with a debit card rather than mailing payments. Julie made a motion to authorize Jon to get a Forcht Bank debit card, seconded by Rick, and approved by all.

Hyde Park Petition

Petitions are being signed to put the Hyde Park variance that city council approved on the November ballot. City council authorized a height variance despite widespread objections. Mary Lou Bolce will make a brief presentation at the May 21 MWCC meeting about the issue and will sit outside the rec center so anyone interested can sign the petition.

Dunkin'

It was premature to take a vote on a variance for a drive-through for Dunkin' since we found out they haven't even applied for any permits yet and haven't purchased the property. The membership took the vote because we were told it was urgent. We have asked the planning department to keep us in the loop for all future steps of the Dunkin' process.

Hillside Initiative

The Cincinnati Hillside Initiative is a city-led effort, in partnership with The Hillside Trust, to evaluate, streamline, and improve our hillside building and zoning codes. This initiative will ensure that future projects are developed safely and responsibly with clear, consistent engineering design solutions while keeping community impact and sense of place in mind.

These updated changes will remove potential ambiguity in current guidelines and provide developers, engineers, and contractors with a set of prescriptive, alternative design methodologies through the building and zoning codes.

The first meeting of this initiative is being held during our board meeting tonight.

Invest in Neighborhoods Grant

This grant is offered through the same organization that handles NSP. Any grant proposals must be projects that benefit the community as a whole. Jon asked if anyone had suggestions for how this grant money could be used. Teddy suggested improvements to Tom Roth Place or a mural on the Kroger wall. Julie pointed out that Katie Stefani of the CDC said they were applying for a grant for Tom Roth Place so the funding would be an overlap. Rick suggested a grant could be used to spruce up the community gardens or that money could be used for the July 3 parade or the lighting of the water tower on Flag Day. Margeaux suggested the rec center needs money for seating for the pool.

New Recording Equipment for Meetings

Jacob Meyer has purchased all the new equipment needed to record the MWCC general membership meetings. Rick set a date for Wednesday, May 14th, for us to learn how to operate the system and to do a test run of it at the rec center. With time, we will be switching the videotaped meetings from Facebook to YouTube. People who volunteered to go to the training include Rick, Brian, Margeaux, Jon, Teddy and Julie.

Walgreen's Handrail and Fencing

Rick pointed out that a section of Walgreen's fencing and the handrail on the handicap ramp have been down for years. He reported this on the 311 system, but the city said it is private property. Rick mentioned that it is an ADA/safety issue. We discussed writing a letter to Walgreen's and also asking Jesse Urbancsik, our city planner, if the city would be able to aid us in getting Walgreen's to address this. At the general membership meeting on May 21, we will seek a motion to send Walgreen's a letter about this issue. We discussed inviting Walgreen's to a future MWCC meeting to address the issue.

Morrow Display

The figures that Jim Tucker created with a 2024 personal suggested NSP grant have not been erected yet. Priscilla suggested erecting the figures within the barbed wire fence of the water tower to prevent the figures from being vandalized. Julie will call GCWW to see if this location is an option. Jack and Gary already told Rick they will help erect the figures once we determine where they will go. Rick pointed out that we need to meet with Jim to identify what hardware is needed to install the figures.

NSP Update

Rick informed us that Must Landscape exceeded the allotted amount of NSP funds in their first of three cleanups of the business district. Rick told Bob that Must will need to spend less in the second and third cleanups to stay within the allocated NSP amount.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Rimer

Secretary