Mt. Washington Community Council
Board Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2025

Call to Order

A meeting of the MWCC board was held virtually via Google Meet. Priscilla Elgersma called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

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

Approval of June's Board Meeting Minutes

Margeaux made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 4 board meeting, seconded by Brian, and approved by all.

Approval of Tonight's Agenda

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

Jacob Meyer: Videotaping of Membership Meetings

Jacob Meyer is working on the final step of videotaping MWCC membership meetings. We need to have a dedicated phone number for videotaping purposes. Jacob found a SIM card through Hologram that is exceptionally reasonably priced and will give us an Apple ID that exists independent of any individual. The cost is $4.00 to set it up and $1.00 per month. If we ever use this SIM card to record meetings when the Wi-Fi is down at the Rec Center, the cost will be between $15 to $60 per meeting, but to avoid expensive data usage, we can always record the meeting and upload it instead. Priscilla made a motion to set up the account, seconded by Julie, and approved by all to proceed with this plan. Jon will work with Jacob to set up the payment arrangement for the SIM card and service.

Annual Incentive Grant

Jon reviewed our recent discussions about deciding how to spend the $830 from the 2025 Annual Incentive Grant (AIG) program through Invest in Neighborhoods. Jacob confirmed that a survey of our membership to vote on a list of options for how to spend this money could be conducted via e-mail. It is good to know that we can do surveys like this in the future. However, the timing is tight because the funds must be spent by December 31, 2025. Margeaux originally suggested that we give the money to the Rec Center for pool furniture that the Rec Center desperately needs. Jason Richards, the Rec Center director, asked for funds at the beginning of the 2024 pool season. Priscilla suggested we add a little bit of money from the MWCC treasury to round the amount up to $1000. We will make this recommendation at the August membership meeting and see if the membership supports it.

NSP Status

Rick stated that $4704.23 of the NSP funds have been spent, approximately half of our annual allocation. Bob Wetterer has reimbursed MUST Landscaping above the approved NSP amount both times they cleaned the business district this year. Rick stated that the business district is not looking very good due to the weeds in the sidewalk cracks, around the

trees, and in the planting beds. Rick suggested that we take the $1240 that is categorized as tower lights under business district maintenance and add it to the $433.50 that is left for a third MUST Landscaping cleanup.

A discussion ensued about the fact that Bob has done this repeatedly. He routinely spends more than the NSP allocation and comes to the MWCC to ask for treasury funds to pay for these overages. We discussed having the MWCC board oversee the final cleanup. We will talk with MUST Landscaping to give them the list of specific tasks that need to be done and ask what that would cost. Rick said Bob should be at that meeting.

Alternatively, Julie suggested using two McNicholas graduates that the cemetery regularly hires to do those tasks at the same price the cemetery pays these students, $20 per hour. The students are very hard-working and reliable. Furthermore, they would dig out the weeds, giving long-term results. Julie will walk the square to determine how many hours it might take the students to get the business district looking good and ask the students if they are interested in doing this work. She will ask the students to provide an estimate that can be weighed against the estimate MUST provides for the same work. We will decide on how to proceed when both estimates are received.

Rick asked Priscilla how SPAC will make up for the increased insurance coverage amount (vs. NSP estimate) needed for the Pumpkin Chuck. Priscilla will send the NSP revised budget to Rick. Margeaux will give Rick and Jon the Pumpkin Chuck insurance invoice. Rick reminded all that NSP funds must be spent by November 15, 2025.

Woodland Animal Art

Priscilla has talked with Mount Washington School and Sands Montessori and has secured places in which to erect the woodland animal figures that Jim Tucker created with 2024 NSP funds. There is a total of five woodland figures. Two figures will go to each of the schools. The fifth figure is much larger than the others, an 8-foot-tall deer, which Teddy has agreed to place in her yard where it is likely to be safer from vandalism than other locations. Jim will get the figures to us after his art exhibition this weekend.

Event Updates

Julie provided an update on the September 28, 2025 cemetery tours that will be held at 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM. All roles for historical reenactments have been filled, a few of them by direct descendants of the people buried in the cemetery. The scripts are written, and the reenactors have visited Talk of the Town to select costumes for the reenactors that will be rented with NSP funds.

Margeaux gave an update on Pumpkin Chuck planning. Sponsorships are coming in. Margeaux will talk with SPAC about whether or not to allow companies that sell products (such as new windows) to have a table at the event at a cost of $250.

Teddy gave an update on the Holiday Market plans. Teddy is working on contacting schools and churches to ask for their participation. Katie Stefani is working on obtaining permits. They plan to charge a small fee, perhaps $30, for anyone wishing to have a booth that plans to sell something at the event. The suggestion was made that Teddy or Katie give a brief presentation about the event at an upcoming general membership meeting.

Candidates for Upcoming Election

Many candidates for the upcoming November election would like to speak at a MWCC membership meeting. Priscilla suggested sending a letter to all candidates from all parties to let them know that they will have a three-minute limit on their presentation. We will allocate approximately twenty minutes for six candidates to speak at each of the upcoming meetings in August, September and October. Everyone liked this idea.

Guest Speakers

If we have enough political candidates to fill the six slots per month, we will delay asking guest speakers to present at MWCC membership meetings until our November meeting. If we have time on the agenda due to a lack of candidates on the agenda, we will ask someone on our guest speaker list, such as Lily Soderland, an arborist and world ranked tree climber, to present at that meeting.

Sieber Land Donation to City

Priscilla filled everyone in on the city having accepted a donation of land from Sieber Construction at 2010 Beechmont Avenue. DOTE has stated that this land will be used to make the intersection of Beechmont and Mears safer but DOTE has not done any community engagement on this topic. We will be asking DOTE to explain their plans at an upcoming membership meeting. As this intersection is used by students at Mt. Washington School, Guardian Angels, and McNicholas, we would welcome anything that improves pedestrian safety

We discussed the need for the city to notify us sooner about projects in our neighborhood. The city has been sending out notices with virtually no time to respond. The Sieber property notice was received less than a week before the hearing. That does not allow enough time for our board to discuss the issue, let alone involve the MWCC membership. We need to write a letter to City Planning to ask for more time in which to respond.

We also know almost nothing about an NBDIP grant the CDC received for this intersection. During the May 2024 general membership meeting, Jim Tucker, representing the MWCDC, said they had applied for a grant to improve the safety of the intersection of Beechmont and Mears. Attendees asked for more information, and Jim said he would provide it at a later date. That never happened. We learned the amount of the grant, $153,000, at the August 1 zoning meeting in which the Sieber land donation was accepted. We would like the grant objectives explained to the membership by the appropriate parties, so we will contact those parties and ask them to come to an upcoming MWCC membership meeting. We will ask Jesse Urbancsik, City Planner, to come to the meeting.

Neighborhood Catalytic Capital Investment Plan

Priscilla sent all board members an email on Monday, August 8 regarding Cincinnati's Neighborhood Catalytic Capital Investment Program. She asked us to please read the email. The MWCDC should not be eligible for this round since the application states that projects are ineligible if they have received funding from the NBDIP in past years.

Here is the blurb about this from the Choose Cincy Instagram website:

Calling all developers & CDCs 📢
Apply now for Cincinnati's Neighborhood Catalytic Capital Investment Program (NCCIP)!

www.choosecincy.com/nccip

Our goal with this program is to support neighborhood projects that will have an outsized impact on catalyzing their neighborhood's transformation, revitalization, and activation.

If interested, please follow the instructions listed on our website and complete the application by 5 P.M. on September 12th, 2025.

2026 Mt. Washington Comprehensive Plan

Priscilla will be leading the effort to update Mt. Washington's Comprehensive Plan, last written in 2007. Jesse Urbancsik is the city planner assigned to Mt. Washington. Teddy stated she has been asked to be on this committee.

MWCC Code of Conduct

Teddy stated that she saw a reference to a MWCC Code of Conduct in the MWCC By-Laws. Priscilla explained that a Code of Conduct was discussed but never written in the past. Teddy volunteered to draft a code of conduct. Priscilla asked Teddy to work with Gary Noll on this project.

Google Drive Organization:

Teddy has volunteered to organize the MWCC Google Drive. She will not delete anything but will organize it to make it easier to find information. Priscilla suggested the board help come up with categories for folders.

Upcoming NSP Meeting

Priscilla stated there is an NSP meeting on August 27 and Rick or Jon should be in attendance.

Adjourn

Margeaux made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Rimer

Secretary