MOUNT WASHINGTON

Mt. Washington Community Council

August 20, 2025, 7pm
Mt. Washington Rec Center

I. **Welcome and Call to Order** Priscilla Elgersma called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
II. **Pledge of Allegiance** Judge Josh Berkowitz led us in the pledge allegiance.
III. **Roll Call** All board members were present except Jack Diesel: Margeaux Selig, Brian Zeschke, Teddy Morgan-Jablonski, Jon Young, Gary Noll, Julie Rimer, Priscilla Elgersma, and Rick Meador.
IV. **Approval of the Last Meeting's Minutes** Gary Noll made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2025 membership meeting, seconded by Rick Meador, and approved by all.
V. **Adoption of the Agenda** Jon Young made a motion to approve tonight's agenda, seconded by Gary Noll, then approved by all.
VI. **Approval of Treasurer's Report** Jon Young gave the treasurer's report. Matt Muscleman made a motion to approve it, seconded by Julie Rimer, then approved by all.

VII. Community Reports

A. First Responders: Sgt. Sellers went over the monthly crime report and said things are looking good in Mt. Washington. She advised Hyundai and Kia owners to get anti-theft software upgrades. She stated police officers are working here at night and overnight in Stanbery Park. They work with individuals who appear to need resources. A resident asked if drones are operating in Stanbery Park. Sgt. Sellers stated they have not used them lately because there have not been any recent complaints. Please let police know if you see any suspicious activity.

B. Firehouse Station 7: No one was present to give an update.

C. Schools: Mt. Washington School, Sands Montessori: Nikki Marksberry of Mt. Washington School stated today was the first day of school. She thanked Gary Noll for helping at the lawn spruce-up event which required volunteer help. An additional five million in funding was cut recently, including landscaping. Mercy Health no longer maintains a health clinic inside the school, but few children were using it. There is a school decision making committee made of staff and residents that could use one more community member for a two-year term. The committee meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4pm to 5pm. If you would like to join, please call Nikki at the school at 513-363-3800. Sands Montessori also had its first day of school today. Sands has hired a resource coordinator, Miss Marcy.

D. CRC (Cincinnati Recreation Center): Jason, rec center director, stated the rec center is transitioning out of their summer programs to the indoor school programs. All programs are full right now. Gym classes for homeschooled students will begin in a couple of weeks. Preschool tumbling will start in three weeks. You can register for the gym or preschool tumbling classes online.

E. MWCURC (Community Urban Redevelopment Corp): Bob Wetterer stated the spaghetti dinners have started up again with the next dinner on 9/20 from 4pm to 7pm. The dinners are now held at the Mt. Washington Methodist Church from 4pm to 7pm. The tower lights are working well. On September 15, the tower lights will change colors to relate to breast cancer and on October 15, the lights will change

colors to relate to the Pumpkin Chuck. The Monday after Thanksgiving, the lights will change to a Christmas theme. Jack Diesel is using an organic weed killer on weeds in the new business district.

F. MWCDC (Community Development Corp): Frank Busofsky stated the CDC had not received a grant to do anything in Tom Roth Place. Teddy Morgan-Jablonski stated there will be a holiday market in the parking lot of the business district from 4pm to 8pm on November 22. They are looking for volunteers and for people to have booths. You can reach out to Teddy Morgan-Jablonski if you are interested in volunteering.

A resident stated she and her neighbors have been waiting for updates on the CDC/Sieber housing project but have not heard any. She stated there was a recent active slip on Elstun Road due to the lack of a retaining wall. She stated that she and her neighbors are concerned about this development because there have been no assurances that Sieber will put in a retaining wall. The neighbors are concerned about landslides on their properties. Another resident stated that Sieber said there were no updates in the June MWCC meeting, but the residents found out that Sieber got 8 million in funding in May for the Belmar senior housing project (to be verified) and that should have been an update. Frank was asked to address this, but he said he is not on the CDC's real estate committee and Mike Sieber, who is on that committee, said there were no new updates for this meeting. Frank said he believes the city will not let them build anything that will jeopardize the houses. A resident stated that if landslides occur, taxpayers will be responsible.

Priscilla Elgersma stated the CDC and the city must be more proactive when applying for grants and initiating other projects in Mt. Washington so that the organizations can work together with the MWCC and the residents. It is not fair to the community council to keep being put in the middle due to the CDC and the city failing to engage/update the community. We can no longer be finding out after the fact. We must work together.

G. SPAC (Stanbery Park Advisory Council): Mark Raab, president of SPAC, stated that money has been awarded to connect the neighborhood business district to the Little Miami bike trail with an improved bike path along Beechmont Avenue. The bike trail will not be going through Stanbery Park. Many activities are coming up in Stanbery Park. Please reference Stanbery Park's Facebook page. This Sunday, at 7pm, there will be a free performance of a Midsummer Night's Dream by Shakespeare in the Park. In two weeks, starting in September, there will be something going on every Friday in the park. Clark Jenkins, acoustic musician, will play September 5, then the park will move into Friday movie nights where the movies begin as soon as it is dark. The Pumpkin Chuck will take place on November 1.

VIII. General Business:

Guest Speaker, Bob Bertsch, from the Neighborhood Economic Development Committee: Bob Bertsch stated he came to address a strip of right-of-way land the city has accepted from Sieber Construction, but he said he can also provide some information about the right-of-way where the CDC/Sieber senior housing is planned. The DOTE is looking at how much land they need for the aforementioned bike path. The city said there is some right-of-way land left over that the city is considering selling to Sieber which could allow Sieber to move the senior housing complex closer to the road. Mr. Bertsch said there are many departments looking at this and it will take about sixty days before they have a recommendation. After that process, the city can show us a map of what right-of-way the city may sell to Sieber.

Bob Bertsch said the city has been looking at the intersection of Beechmont/Mears/Morrow with the CDC for about two years. The city originally looked at that intersection almost ten years ago after a traffic study was done in 2015 and the recommendation was that a left turn signal be added to go from Beechmont onto Mears. The city recently accepted a strip of right-of-way from Sieber Construction at this location that Mr. Bertsch said could be used to

straighten out the curve on Beechmont and put in a new traffic light that will have a signal for a left turn lane onto Mears. The CDC got an NBDIP grant to put a new traffic light in at this location.

Mr. Sieber told the city he cannot use the property he bought very well in its current state, that he needs a turning lane into his property, so he has been talking with DOTE. Mr. Bertsch said they plan to widen the road and put a turn lane into Sieber's property when they have enough funding. A resident pointed out that Mr. Bertsch and the city have been talking with the CDC about this for two years but have never addressed the MWCC or the residents about these plans.

Priscilla asked if there is any way the community council can obtain community involvement before grants are awarded. The CDC is supposed to be interacting with the community council about grant requests, but they are not.

November 4 Election Candidates: The following candidates for Cincinnati City Council will be on the November 4 ballot and are here to address us: Laketa Cole, Dawn Johnson, Raffel Prophett, Aaron Weiner, Don Driehaus, and Steve Goodin. Judge Josh Berkowitz, who is serving on the Hamilton County Municipal Court and running for reelection, also spoke.

Mt. Washington Public Library Renovation Status: Paul Burch, branch manager of the Mt. Washington Public Library, stated the library should be back open early in 2026. The library is temporary located in the former Key Bank at Beechmont and Corbly. Please do not park in Ramundo's lot. You can park in the parking lot in back of the Key Bank building. There is a drop box at this location.

AIG Grant: At our June meeting, Jon Young explained we have an AIG grant of $830 that we need to spend now. The stipulation is that the grant be for the betterment of the community. We discussed the idea of spending the money to purchase some much-needed outdoor furniture for the rec center pool. Jon made a motion to round that dollar amount up to $1000, using MWCC funds for the difference, and give the amount to the rec center. Bob Wetterer seconded the motion and all voted to approve.

DOTE Presentation and Traffic Calming: We will be asking the Department of Transportation and Engineering to come to a MWCC meeting as soon as possible to discuss how they plan to make the Beechmont, Mears, and Morrow intersection safer.

In 2024, Rob Hayes and JoAnn Kavanaugh came to a MWCC meeting and asked for the council's support in requesting that the Honeysuckle/Beechmont area be studied for traffic calming measures. Rob Hayes provided an update. A resolution passed at that meeting to write a letter from MWCC to make this request to the DOTE. The DOTE responded to that letter and requested a more formal submission of the request, but that was not done, so we are now formally resubmitting that request. We are requesting that traffic calming measures be instituted in that area in 2027 when Beechmont is being repaved. We will submit that letter before the September 28 deadline.

2026 Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan: Priscilla stated that Jesse Urbancsik, City Planner, will be working with residents to update our comprehensive neighborhood plan. The plan was last done in 2007. We want broad involvement from residents. If you are interested in this one-year commitment, likely to meet once per month, please put your name and contact information on the sign-up sheet and Priscilla will forward that information to Jesse.

IX. Announcements/Upcoming Events

Event Updates:
Cemetery Tours: Julie Rimer stated that Mt. Washington Cemetery historical reenactment tours will take place on September 28 at 1pm and 4pm. The day of the event, the cost for adults is $20 and for children, $10. If you buy tickets in advance through the Mt. Washington Cemetery Facebook page, the cost will be less: $15 for adults and $7 for children. For 40 years, the volunteers have had to raise all the funds for and provide the care for the cemetery. The cemetery receives no public funds.

Pumpkin Chuck: Margeaux Selig stated the Pumpkin Chuck will take place November 4 in Stanbery Park. Margeaux put QR codes on each table for those who wish to sponsor, donate or volunteer. The website is pumpkinchuck.org.

Holiday Market: Teddy Morgan-Jablonski said the holiday market will take place November 22 from 4pm to 8pm in the business parking lot. They are looking for people to volunteer and to have booths.

X. Good of the Order: Julie Rimer thanked the candidates for coming out to speak to us.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm.