

MINUTES

West Hill Cambridge Council Board Meeting

August 2, 2023

Call or Order

The meeting was called to order by Mike Scuderi at 5:39 pm; all members present.

Minutes / Agenda

The Minutes from the April 17, 2023 meeting will move forward to the next general meeting.

Banking Update

Crystal and Holly visited Key Bank and have made changes to the process of receiving a bank statement. The electronic mail will come to the Council's email account. This action will save the Council a \$3 per month service charge. While at the bank, we deposited a donation that brings the current account balance to over \$1000. Keeping this minimum balance will save us an additional \$5 monthly fee.

Resignation

Crystal Blanco has moved out of the city and is requesting replacement for her position. All board members expressed gratitude for her expertise and superb duty to the council's work. With that, the board accepted her resignation.

Officer Status ACTION: The WHCNC board accepted the resignation of Crystal Blanco, board Treasurer.

The board discussed possibilities for her replacement and discussed splitting out the duties of Treasurer and Grant Writer, creating two positions. Holly will speak to a good candidate for the Treasurer position and Dennis will talk with a neighbor who has grant writing experience.

Crystal will transfer all banking materials and account information to Holly in the interim for management. Once a new treasurer is on board, that person will assume those duties.

National Night Out

A handful of neighborhoods conducted NNO activities and were visited by Rep. Tina Orwall, Councilmember Toni Troutner, and Kent Police Officer Matt. Holly will collect pictures and get something supporting NNO activity onto the website and to the City for their use.

Green River Homeless Project Update

Mike continues to monitor the status of this project and impacts on our city and community. He has been in contact with the mayor's office to express frustration with lack of information and communication from King County. We detect that her office likewise has some frustration with lack of action and information. Mike remains in contact with the Salt Air neighborhood and the action they are taking in reference to this possible housing relocation. The Salt Air neighborhood group will be meeting on August 10 for a strategy meeting.

Mike will be attending the next Kent City Council meeting (August 25) for public comment on this issue. He will most likely take talking points gleaned from the Salt Air meeting. He will be addressing the City Council on unofficial behalf of our Council sharing concerns expressed by neighbors. If you have thoughts on talking points reflective of what we hear from our neighbors, get those to Mike.

Housing Authority Contact

Mike and Holly shared of attempts to connect with Abby Anderson, which have been fruitless. She does not return calls nor emails. Mike will attempt to make another contact with her.

Lanae shared information she received of a meeting of an organization she belongs to, at which Abby will be presenting. Lanae may speak on our behalf and will report back to us.

Grant Writing

The Council board discussed the types of City grants we may consider applying for. The Communications Grant is most likely our primary focus. Lanae will plan to do another mailer and will get those costs to us for inclusion in grant estimations.

Types of grants:

- Communication
- Mini-event
- Beautification
- Impact on Community (keeping community resilient)

Grant Writing Workshop – September 30, 9:00 am – 11:00 am; Kent Activity Center. Dennis will speak with a grant writer he knows to see if he would consider attending on our behalf.

The board also discussed fundamental purposes for the WHCNC and steps/directions needed to appropriately build unity and relevance for our neighbors. Steps may have costs so those estimated action costs need to be included in grant calculations.

Fundamentals / Direction

- How do we get people to “know we’re here”?
- How do we get them to want to be part?
- What projects/activities interest our neighbors?

What We ARE Doing

- Entrance Clean Ups
- Hosting Mayor and City Experts
- Drinks in the Driveway
- National Night Out

Let Ask

The board will create methods of “polling” to find out what interests neighbors; what are their concerns and wishes? What are your biggest concerns? What activities would they like to see to enrich the wellbeing of the neighborhood?

Lanae will post a poll on NextDoor and Facebook. Holly will work with Dale to see if something of this sort can work on our website. The board feels that we need to communicate our plights for relevance and seek support for meaningful direction.

Future Meetings and Dates

The board determined that a calendar of planned events needs to be formulated in consideration of relevance. The following are suggested for the drawing board:

- September entrance clean up – Gaby will coordinate a date
- An annual meeting will need to be planned for April
- May in the Park event – food trucks – door prizes - etc
- Sound Transit update - Mike will coordinate
- Neighborhood block watch training
- Kid activity
- Cultural activity

The board will next meet on September 13 at 5:30 pm at Holly’s house. At that time we will:

- Articulate a plan for grant writing
- Develop a calendar
- Analyze issues submitted by neighbors – what are they saying

Other

- ✓ Dennis will contact the City re: dead wood within the Glenn Nelson Park.
- ✓ Holly and Lanae will work on continued connection with the schools and how we can partner on projects and meeting space.
- ✓ Holly will solicit again the City for including Neighborhood Councils within their umbrella liability insurance.
- ✓ Holly will post on the website consideration for board participation and that Crystal has resigned.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned about 7:23 pm.

Submitted by: _____
Holly Isaman

Attested by: _____