



**Westview Community Organization
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2016**

4/04/2016

Octavia Vogel (President) opened the meeting at 7:15 PM

In attendance: 23

Main Meeting

Invocation

Melvin Bray (chaplain) did invocation.

Approval of Minutes-18 ayes, no abstentions or nays.

Motion to Adopt the Agenda – 14 ayes, no abstentions or nays.

April WCO Meeting

- New Business – Opportunity School District (OSD) – Copy of FAQ’s presented by Jacinta to community.
- Compared to other counties the percentage of APS schools slated to be taken over is higher. Over half of APS Schools are at high risk of OSD takeover.
- Several Washington Cluster Schools are vulnerable schools and are on the list scheduled to be taken over by the state.
- Jacinta – Attached map/grid review schools on cluster that are at risk
- FAQ #6 - Overview of the how the ballot will read

- Jacinta also passed out education signature plan for community to review for schoolwide education course
 - Catherine – What was the outcome of similar plans done in other areas?
 - Jacinta - Special needs children have not received any services since 2005 in New Orleans where a similar plan was in place. New Orleans School System has gone bankrupt.
 - Catherine- Community needs to take seriously
 - Melvin- Former teacher with school age children – 1) There is a reason for making things a constitutional amendment 2) Memphis where a similar plan was put in place is struggling...also a financial redistribution of wealth.
 - Jacinta – public school with similar plans have gone bankrupt
 - Thomas- Regardless of this amendment passing APS has plans to circumvent
 - Jacinta - The APS turnaround strategy is already in effect.
 - Jacinta-If E-SPLOST is passed Conley Elementary will 24 million for renovations

- The turnaround plan outlined by APS changes the neighborhood school to Venetian Hills from Conley
 - Darrick? What companies will be leading the turnaround strategy?
 - Kindezi and two other operators
 - Jacinta- Teachers have to reapply to their jobs
 - Outline of Academic Priorities was passed out to general body (has not been approved by the board)
 - All Washington Cluster Schools now have a STEM focus
 - Rebecca – Is there a STEM certification for the schools?
- 1385 RDA – Patrick – Beltline purchased & will knockdown the building so that it is turned into a trailhead
 - Patrick – Steffi and I are very committed about awareness of development
 - We never took an official vote to see how general body feels.
 - The development committee wants to engage the community to see what official stance is. Our stance will probably will not have an impact as the Beltline has already started the demolition process.
 - Darrick – Did we drop the ball to be proactive about this property with the Beltline?
 - The building was for sale with multiple offers before the Beltline purchased it. Upon learning that the Beltline would demolish the building, the president and the development committee meet several times with the Beltline to discuss saving the building. The Beltline decided not to save it.
 - Octavia- Beltline staff issued an apology about the way things were handled with building 11 and 1385 RDA.
 - Patrick – Made a motion to request the Beltline not to demolish 1385 RDA
 - Ms. Bonita seconded- 20 voted to approve; 1 abstention
 - Is the Fried Rice King Building for sale? Patrick-No.
- Sgt Vinson from Zone 4 – Crime is down 8% compared to last year
 - There was a burglary on South Gordon
 - No robberies or auto thefts
 - Please remove your car keys when you exit your vehicle
 - Remove electronics from your vehicle
 - Has the person been arrested that killed the Grandmother & her grandchildren? No
 - Any arrest made with gunfight that occurred? The officer responded he was not aware.
 - How many gunfights must occur before they shut these clubs down?
 - Officer – That would come from Homeland Security
- Treasurer Report
 - Kevin announce that he will no longer be the treasurer as he has accepted a position in LA.
- Membership
 - Rebecca-Always looking to boost membership & dues.
 - Need your support and time by joining a committee. Placed an order for 25 yards signs & coffee mugs are on sale.
 - Kellie Truelove – Will be managing the Westview Swag
 - Newsletters – Next newsletter will be going out in May that will offer info for summer events
- Public Safety
 - Darrick – No updates

- Youth
 - Catherine – No Camp for the kids this summer, but will like to refer them to odds and ends jobs.
- Development
 - Patrick – NC Zoning is currently being drafted by city planners and is slated to be put on the docket for approval in June.
 - Our NC zoning gets rid of all parking requirements to allow for commercial development.
 - Review of NC District ordinances. Send any edits to Patrick.
 - Proposed restriping draft/ plan from GDOT passed out to community to review.
- Motion made to extend the meeting by 10 minutes-17 voted to extend
- Garden
 - Abby submitted a grant to Seeds of Change grant to request to receive \$10,000 in grant funds
- In response to activity on the Westview Neighbors page a formal letter was submitted by Trimble family to the community for review. A formal apology was issued by WCO stating that the views listed on the Westview Neighbors page are not in any way the views of the WCO and that we do not condone the behavior displayed during this event. Representative from family spoke as well.
- Danielle – community liaison for Caesar Mitchell– Danielle@ceasarmitchell.com
- Ali Carter – Community Clean Up with AUC Center & Westview the day before Atlanta Streets Alive. Clean up is on April 16 from 10-2. Every 3rd Saturday is city recycling. Open for suggestions for additional areas to clean-please call 404-5486480.
- Recognition of new neighbors

Meeting adjourned at 8:00