West Hill Neighborhood Organization

February 28, 2023 Meeting

Board Members Present: Tom Crain, Raina Gonzalez-Homs, Emma Grosjean*, Melanie Mohler, Kat Novak*, David Swirsky, Sam Wandtke, Fran Wilson

Others Present: Jim Zwisler

*attended virtually via Google Meet.

Swirsky called the meeting to order at 6:36pm. Roll call was taken.

Swirsky motioned to approve the January 2023 meeting minutes. Novak seconded. All voted in favor.

The four part-time contractor positions and applications were discussed. Swirsky shared that there are currently ten applicants, with people applying to multiple positions. It was decided that the applications would close on March 12. All applications received before then will be uploaded to the Drive by Swirsky and any board member that would like to review the applications may do so and leave comments by March 15. Interviews will be scheduled with applicants that WHNO would like to interview beginning March 16. The goal is to bring the names of candidates for recommendation to hire to the March board meeting. Wandkte and Swirsky will conduct interviews, while Mohler and Grosjean may help with interviews if they are able to. Mohler will create a table to show which applicants applied for which positions and will create a list of interview questions that board members can contribute to.

Once the contractors are hired, it will be decided if committees of board members or individual board members will work more closely with the contractors.

Swrisky presented the West Hill flier designs from Chris Harvey. There was discussion on further edits to the flier. Wilson will discuss these changes with Harvey. There was also discussion on having Harvey design a magnet (a magnet design was included in the quote that Harvey initially provided). Wandkte suggested keeping the magnet simple and only including the WHNO logo or new arrow sign and the QR code. A deadline was set for the March board meeting to have a final flier to approve. Swirksy asked if the board wanted to work with Harvey on designs for other items the board had discussed such as banners and buttons.

Grosjean received confirmation from Let's Grow Akron and Leaf that they are interested in being involved in the Plant Swap event, although she's not yet sure how they will participate. She is still waiting to hear back from Gypsy Grace & The Vintage Goat. Grosjean created fliers for the event in Canva and asked for feedback. Grosjean asked about another idea for a food truck or partnering with another local restaurant. She will also reach out to Rubber City Reuse and Wandkte will contact Heads Up Flower Garden about participating. Crain will reach out to Elaine Chin about opening on that Saturday (Chin's Place is currently closed on the weekends). Saturday, May 6 was the suggested date.

Mohler suggested a Krispy Kreme fundraiser for potential funding, noting that this would not raise substantial funds, but could be a good way to earn a few extra hundred dollars. She mentioned the different fundraising options they have, including day-of and virtual sales. She mentioned it could be done during the Plant Swap or at another time and this could be something that the Fundraising & Grant Writing contractor would oversee.

Swirsky said that there are a number of bus passes remaining to pass out. After the meeting, Wandtke will take some to distribute at Baho Convenience Store. Wilson suggested passing them out at the motel and the laundromat as well.

Mohler, Wilson, and Swirsky will meet with Western Reserve Community Fund on March 6. Mohler and Swirsky met with Bounce on February 21 to discuss establishing an Aspiring Entrepreneurs program in West Hill. They are working to schedule another meeting to review the licensing for this program.

Swirsky requested changing the funds from Huntington to be used to potentially purchase housing. Swirsky is continuing conversation with the Summit County Land Bank regarding the property at 279 Rockwell Ct; however, the Land Bank wants to see if WHNO has the funding before selling it to the organization.

There was further discussion on some recent houses for sale in West Hill and mention of the housing committee.

Wilson sent an invitation to LaTonda Mobley, the new Great Streets Administrator, to attend next month's board meeting.

Swirsky noted that the Akron Community Foundation arts grant is due April 1. He wants to apply for $10,000 for public art. Grosjean suggested public art somewhere on W Market closer to downtown.

Mohler motioned to adjourn at 7:57pm. Swirsky seconded. All voted in favor.