



# WESTOVER HILLS

neighborhood  
association

## Monthly Meeting Minutes– May 9, 2023

Location – Westover Hills United Methodist Church Chapel

**Welcome** .....VP Tom Tichenor started the meeting at 7 pm. First business was to recognize retiring board member Miles Keller with a card and gifts for his service to WHNA as immediate past president. It was also noted that Miles has served in many other board positions in past years. Thanks Miles!

### Guest Reports

**Police Department Update** .....**Lt. Andorfer**

Lt Andorfer noted that warmer weather brings crime. One violent crime- robbery at Jahnke and Forest Hill- occurred earlier in the year but no other violent crimes have been reported since. Theft of motor vehicles has seen the biggest crime increase. These occur mostly on Sunday nights around 3-5 am when thieves walk the neighborhood and pop door handles. It is recommended not to leave any valuables in parked cars, especially titles and spare keys. Don't leave anything in view in car. Once thieves get something, they come back. Let people know who are working at your home to keep cars locked and remove valuables. Starting to see more thefts of catalytic converters. Midas will paint converters for free if you ask. This is especially true for high clearance vehicles. Recycle companies have been advised not to accept painted catalytic converters (although there is no law regarding painted converters). Every jurisdiction is painted a different color. Do not leave title in car!

Question regarding speed control. Few officers want to engage in speed control activities. Speed trailers and officer presence are techniques being employed to raise driver awareness and change behavior. It is also possible to collect data on traffic numbers and speeds. If our neighborhood wants to get this data collected, we can ask Lt Andorfer to set this up.

**4<sup>th</sup> District Report .....Kristen Nye/Timmy Siverd**

Kristen provided an update on the planned meeting with the Richmond DPW regarding traffic calming at WHES. The meeting is scheduled for May 25th at WHES. City Traffic Engineers will share plans for raised crosswalks in front of WHES as well as for bike lanes. There will be time for questions. DPW has been reworking plans based on previous feedback. DPW will post an updated report on-line on May 14. There will also be another survey to encourage public dialogue and time for questions. Question: Will attendees have opportunity for input at the meeting? Answer: Yes.

Westover Park is the park behind WHES. The section by tennis courts is neglected. The mayor put 750K in the city budget to re-imagine this park. This will include fixing the restrooms. A Matching Grant has been applied for and several neighborhood associations, including WHNA, submitted letters supporting the match. If the match is received, there could be \$1.5M to upgrade the park. The city is working with Jonathon Young since the park area is under school jurisdiction. This city proposal will come together in June/July timeframe.

A special use permit (SUP) has been submitted for 5219 Forest Hill Ave proposing to create an assisted living facility for 7 residents. SUP process: developer to come before the neighborhood and collect feedback. WHNA officers will contact the developer to set up a meeting and give feedback. Question? What are space requirements for 7 people in assisted living. Answer: Don't know but the proposal has to be reviewed by the city planning department. SUP's eventually come before city council for a vote and city planning department will also be involved. Melissa Butler commented that this has happened previously near the nursing home on Forest Hill Ave. The Tree house is the most recent SUP requests. WHNA will be involved in this SUP as it goes through the application process.

Kristen reminded us that 4th district ice cream social will be on June 11 in Forest Hill Park.

Tom Tichenor asked about the Richmond 300 Plan- Kristen explained that this is a plan formulated a couple years ago. It is a framework for what Richmond development could look like in future. The plan address the question of how growth should happen. Kristen suggested inviting someone to come from the planning department to talk about the Westover Hills part of the plan.

Art Project at Forest Hill and Jahnke. There is still interest but interest slowed down with Covid. This is a project in which WHNA can become re-engaged.

**School Board Report .....Jonathan Young**

School leadership update: WHES principal is leaving to spend more time with her family. Assistant principal will be new principal effective next year. Jonathan says

that schools are not well when considering indicators such as suicide assessments, confiscated weapons, etc. Jonathan introduced a 10 point plan to address wellness from pre-K to 12. Social media is the biggest threat to the schools. No 1 priority is limiting access to secondary student's phones. Also proposes extending school day 30 minutes just for play. Goal is to increase number of students walking and biking to school by 5x. Refuse to tolerate the intolerable. For ex: If a student brings a weapon to school, they are not allowed to come back to school.

**Home tour Report.....Secretary Melissa Butler**

Great turnout!!! On Friday 167 tickets sold. At end of Sunday 340 tickets sold. There were 18 sponsors for over \$5000. Total income \$11,500 with \$9340 profit. We are looking forward to deciding projects to fund.

**WHUMC Report .....Nicole Timms & Erin Thomas**

Nicole and Erin provided an update on community activities including starting a boy Scout troop. The physical church structure has great potential for classes. The space is being reimagined as hosting classes for adults and children. Looking for people in the neighborhood who have skills they would like to teach. Neighbors are encouraged to let WHUMC staff know. They are happy to accommodate. WHUMC will have a presence at the neighborhood picnic with kids activities. The church wants to be a hub for the community.

**Neighborhood Updates**

**Merchants .....Bruce Gould.**

Bruce's Merchant report was published in the last newsletter. There were no questions for Bruce.

**Beautification .....Robert Kelly.**

Robert updated everyone on beautification plans for Saturday, May 13 from 8-12. This effort will be in partnership with Forest Hills Neighborhood Association and Dodson Development. Dodson is providing \$100, volunteers, and early morning refreshments. There is no rain date planned. Volunteers will tidy plantings at the two Westover Hills brick markers, plant annuals, apply mulch, and some new bushes will replace some of the older ones.

**WHNA Picnic May 13, 4-7pm (Rain Date May 14) .....Brienne Zambriczki.**

Brienne was not able to attend but send a report indicating that they have enough volunteers. Attendees were reminded to purchase tickets online and also pay their membership dues at the same time! It will save time at the entrance.

Food will be provided by O'Toole's, a new band will appear this year "Cheap Comfort" (a band mate lives in our neighborhood). "

**WHNA Yardsale 8am-12pm.....Louise Freedman.**

Louise reported that the Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, June 3, in cooperation with

other neighborhood sales in surrounding area. A charity will be available to remove unsold items.

**July 4 - Kids Parade and Fireworks.....Carrie Rogers & Will Chapman**

Neither Carrie nor Will was able to attend. Road closures need to be planned: signature collection should begin soon. Would be great to know if city forms have been obtained by Carrie or Will. Those willing to volunteer to collect signatures should contact Fran

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.**

**Upcoming Events:**

May 13 - WHNA Picnic 4-7pm (Rain Date May 14)

June 3 - WHNA Yardsale 8am-12pm

July 4 - Kids Parade and Fireworks

**Reminders:**

June 13 - WHNA Monthly Meeting

July 11-WHNA Monthly Meeting