**Harrison West Society Meeting ~ February 21, 2024**

**Members present**: Tim Price, Lydia Cumming, Michael Metz, Julia Cumming, Brian Johnson, Diane Pluckett, Ken Christopher, Bob Mangia, Chris Ruder, Ruth Donher, Frank and Kristin Yankovich, Kathy Burns Hill, Bill Hill, Becky Davis, Diane Cumming, Mary Mertz, Merica Fountain, and Travis Young. Guests present were Amanda Ford and Justin Goodwin, City of Columbus Division of Parking, and Jim and Lisa Cray,

**Call to order:** Tim Price, President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM at 515 W. 5th Ave. Quorum present. Introductions were made.

**Minutes**: Bob moved, seconded by Diane, to approve January minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

**Speakers Amanda Ford & Justin Goodwin – City of Columbus Division of Parking**

Amanda and Justin reviewed the Parking Permit Process. The process has been changed from being granted bock by block to avoid pushing the parking problem to another street. To get permit parking, a neighborhood association such as Harrison West Society must request a parking study. The City will do a count of cars at different times of the day to document peak demand and the drivers of the parking problems. They also can study safety issues. They no longer do “permit only parking” because these are public streets and people need visitors. There are various ways to restrict parking. The least restrictive permit, which may solve the parking problem caused by the hospital workers, is 3-hour parking limit during the work day and no restriction on nights or weekends. (Long term guests can get a temporary permit.) Any multi-family units built after 2008 will not be allowed to get a street permit for their residents, which should help encourage those residents to pay for the parking provided by their units instead of parking on the street for free. If there are not enough spaces for the residents due to variances, the market will balance itself out. The permit fees pay for the parking permit program to make it self-sustaining.

If Harrison West Society were to request the parking study, the first step Amanda would take is to work with Tim to set up a large public meeting to identify the problem trying to be solved. Then 2 small working groups would be established to see what compromises can be achieved. Businesses are always at the table because they need to have parking for their customers. There would be another large public meeting to present and approve the plan. Once the plan is finalized, there would be 6-8 months on the back side to do the permits and signs. This will not be a fast process. There will not be immediate relief for the people on Vermont and Michigan.

There was much discussion about the parking problems on Vermont and Michigan and where to establish the boundary of the study. There was a concern that if the entire neighborhood was not studied, then the homes south of Third would get the overflow. Frank moved, seconded by Bob, to start the parking permit process for Harrison West, excluding Gowdy Field. All in favor and none opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

**President’s Report** [president@harrisonwest.org](mailto:president@harrisonwest.org): Tim reported that the next Executive Committee Meeting will be held at Hyatt House at 633 W. Fifth Ave at 7pm on 3/6/24.

**Treasurer** [treasurer@harrisonwest.org](mailto:treasurer@harrisonwest.org): Michael Metz reported current balance is $4,492.82.

**Parks and Greenspace Report** [parks@harrisonwest.org](mailto:parks@harrisonwest.org)**:** Bob announced we missed our chance for the Jazz Series because the grants for that type of program have passed. If anyone would like to try for 2025, please contact him and he will provide the information. He encouraged folks to check out the improvements happening at the new Perry St. Park. Also, monthly park cleanups will start next month. Speaking of park cleanups, please clean up after your pets!

**Membership** [membership@harrisonwest.org](mailto:membership@harrisonwest.org)**:** Julia reported that 43 individual and households have renewed their membership so far. If you join or renew between now and March, you will be entered into a raffle drawing. It also takes 45 days for voting privileges of new members to kick in, so don’t delay!

**Block Watch** [blockwatch@harrisonwest.org](mailto:blockwatch@harrisonwest.org): Chris reported there were no crimes from January 21 – February 21. Everyone cheered.

**Communications** [communication@harrisonwest.org](mailto:communication@harrisonwest.org): Lydia reported the newsletter was sent and announcements were made on Facebook, and the website has been kept up-to-date. She encouraged anyone new to sign up for the newsletter mailing list through the HWS website.

**Short North Foundation**: Julia reported that the grant application for permanent art or historical display is now posted on the Short North Foundation website. There is a link to the application on the HWS Society website. Grant applications are a minimum of $10,000 and must be supported by Harrison West Society. Please help spread the word about this great opportunity for Harrison West.

**Social**: Tim asked if there would be interest in doing another Bingo Drive for At Home on High. Donations include word search or large piece puzzles, anything OSU or City of Columbus, ground coffee, candles, small gift basket type items, etc. It was decided to take up the collection during the March meeting.

**Open Forum**

There was a discussion on the homeless camps on Olentangy River. Questions were raised on when Columbus will fix the broken concrete island on 3rd and when they will fix the RR crossing at 5th Avenue.

The next HWS meeting is Wednesday, March 20th at 7:00 p.m. Bob moved, seconded by Ken, to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.