**Harrison West Society Meeting ~ March 20, 2024**

**Members present**: Lisa Cray, Diane Cumming, Julia Cumming, Lydia Cumming, Kaitlyn Donnelly, Holly Higgins, Eloise Inglesi, Jim Tennyson, Bob Mangia, Robert Mason, Michael Metz, Tim Price, Chris Ruder, Kathy Sherry, Kristin Yankovich, Frank Yankovich, Travis Young, and Merica Fountain.

**Call to order:** Tim Price, President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM at 515 W. 5th Ave. Quorum present. Introductions were made.

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

**President’s Report** 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 4/3/24.

**Parking Study Update:** Tim reported that the public study has begun as a result of the vote taken at the previous meeting. Harrison West Society will be a pilot for a new expedited process due to the urgent need on the affected streets. One change from what was discussed in the previous meeting is the study will be done in phases. Phase 1 is the concentrated area from Harrison Ave to Perry St., and 5th to 3rd. (Phase II will be the remaining areas, excluding Gowdy Field). Columbus Division of Parking has contacted the vendor to do the parking count from the hours of 5 a.m. to 8 a.m.; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. They will complete the study before Ohio State semester ends on April 25th. They will use 20 ft. as the length of parking spot to estimate capacity. One benefit of phases is it will show how parking is affected in other streets in Harrison West once those streets have restricted parking. On the other hand, unrestricted streets could experience overflow from people willing to walk farther distances to save on monthly parking fees until Phase II is completed. The second change is Columbus Division of Parking will come back to our group and present their ideas what sort of parking restrictions will meet our needs for a vote by the Harrison West Society, instead of creating committees, to reduce the number of meetings needed. Ultimately, they will present 2 proposals, maybe 3.

**Nominating Committee:** Tim asked for a volunteer to chair the nominating committee. That person would receive nominations for the officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) to be presented at the next meeting in April. Nominations will remain open until the meeting in May, which is when the vote occurs. It is best to make sure the person is OK with being nominated. After some arm twisting, Robert Mason cheerfully accepted this responsibility.

**3rd Annual City Cleanup on April 6th from 9 – 12 PM:** Although it could be nice to join this event at Goodale Park to learn how they do it, the members discussed the need for cleanup in the Harrison West Neighborhood. It was also suggested to meet at Zenos afterward to celebrate. The starting point will be Harrison West Park at Oregon and 4th. Bob will try to score free clean up stuff from his contact at Columbus, but be prepared to bring your own garbage bags, gloves and trash picker upper claw. Members will be asked to deposit the garbage they collected in their own garbage bin, but if you don’t have space – we will find space in another cooperative neighbor’s bin. Watch for an email/Facebook post/website announcement for details.

During the discussion, it was decided that the homeless camps on Olentangy River needs to be a separate topic. Dealing with an active homeless camp and cleaning up after a homeless camp is abandoned are not simple or straightforward and there is a lot we don’t know. Becky offered to find a speaker that could help educate us on why people are homeless and what we could do to help.

**Raffle Drawing for Renewing Members:** As promised for renewing members, names were drawn at random and $25 Lucky Gift Cards will be given to Nathan Timpe and Dominic DiCostanzo. As a consolation prize for those who did not win, Tim announced that Luckys has offered a behind the scenes tour prior to opening, which should be lots of fun. Details to be determined.

**Monthly Reports:**

**Treasurer** treasurer@harrisonwest.org: Michael Metz reported current balance is $4,796.60.

**Parks and Greenspace Report** parks@harrisonwest.org**:** The first park cleanup is Wednesday, March 27th at Harrison Park (meet at the Gazebo) from 5:30 p.m. – 7 pm. Let Bob know if you can adopt a flower bed. As always, please clean up after your pets!

**Membership** membership@harrisonwest.org**:** Julia reported that 52 individual and households have renewed their membership so far. She brought the membership list so people could check their contact information.

**Block Watch** blockwatch@harrisonwest.org: Chris reported 1 assault in Gowdy Field, and 1 assault, 2 stolen vehicles, 1 burglary and 1 domestic violence in Harrison West.

**Communications** communication@harrisonwest.org: Lydia reported the newsletter was sent and announcements were made on Facebook. She noted that details about the Earth Day Recycling Drive, April 19th from 12 – 2, is on the website and the event will include a food truck!

**Short North Foundation**: Julia reported that no grant applications have been received yet on the Short North Foundation website. The members expressed a preference for a historical marker or sign. Many people are interested in learning about the history of their neighborhoods as evident by the show, Columbus Neighborhoods. It was decided to continue the discussion about developing a historical sign at the next meeting and possibly forming a committee.

**Social**: Tim collected the prizes for the Bingo Drive for At Home on High. There will be a summer party in place of one of our meetings similar to last year. It was suggested we have a booth at Comp Fest.

**Open Forum:** April 29th is street sweep! Look for Gnomes in Goodale Park.

The next HWS meeting is Wednesday, April 17th at 7:00 p.m. Julia moved, seconded by Bob, to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.