**MINUTES WRCL QUARTERLY MEETING - DRAFT**

Walden's Ridge Civic League

7:00 PM, April 17, 2025 - W R Civic League Auditorium

The Quarterly Membership Meeting of the Walden’s Ridge Civic League was called to order at 7:06 PM, following a Volunteer Appreciation BBQ Dinner in the Auditorium. Attendance at the dinner was about 30 volunteers.

The Invocation was read, and the Pledge to the Flag was led by President Mark Dwyer.

Roll call: Present were President Mark Dwyer, Vice-president Carolyn Longphre, Treasurer Neal Cox, Secretary Karen Stone, Johanne Albright, Kent Kersten, Vicki Love, and Roxie Thornton. Absent was Rita Smith Irvin

Minutes of the January Quarterly Meeting as posted on the website were approved.

The Treasurer’s Report by Neal Cox was discussed, approved, and filed with the Secretary.

Reports:

FACILITIES - Mark Dwyer – The air conditioner was making a lot of noise, and Superior Heat and Air put in a new hard start capacitor in the compressor. They say the unit will probably not last long. We need to budget for a replacement unit.

The $8,000 Mitsubishi mini-split heat/air unit for the Prop Room was discussed again since money for the unit was requested from the Town of Walden. The WRCL Annual Report and request for donation from Walden were presented for the Board to examine and filed with the Secretary. The Annual Report is available for public inspection.

The Highway Patrol building soil test has still not been done. The new roof is scheduled to be installed at a cost of $2,935.

Mark has scheduled a meeting on Saturday, May 10 at 9:00 AM for potential workers on the new siding. They will tear off some of the shingles and develop a plan for the project. The picture of the original building is to be used as a guide.

EVENTS – Karen Stone - *Tell It on the Mountain* storytelling Friday April 4, 2025, was sparsely attended and expenses exceeded revenues. Attendees seemed to have a good time, and the Storytellers asked to come back next spring. We are to set a date and program with them. The board discussed possible new formats to attract more people. Jed Mescon, the DJ for the event, had suggested we turn it into a Saturday morning Storytelling Breakfast with children invited to come in their pajamas and have cereal and listen to stories. The Board thought this was a good idea. Karen will discuss the idea with the Cleveland Storytellers Guild to see what they think.

The *Birthday Bash* is scheduled for June 7, and Carolyn Longphre agreed to chair the event again.

GARDENS – Johanne Albright said that the trees in the newly cleared natural area were planted by Sam Edgeman whose property abuts ours. Johanne will try to determine the value of his donation so Karen can send him a tax letter.

Johanne conferred with Melissa Nimon, landscape designer, who suggests we should prioritize curb appeal and focus on the area between the Women’s Guild building and the Auditorium, separating the parking area from the pavilion lawn with something like hydrangeas. She suggested Memorial Trees as a fundraising option.

Johanne presented a proposal from John Stone for his Eagle Scout project to clean up the foundation of the old Scout cabin. Johanne suggests we accept the proposed stage to be constructed over the foundation. The Board will vote on details of the proposal at the next meeting. Nimon was highly in favor of the proposed floor/stage idea.

Old Business:

A request to Town of Walden for a donation of $12,000 was completed with help from Neal, Karen, and auditor Kristina Sanders who donated her time to help be sure everything was presented in an acceptable and accurate way. Sanders was very clear in stating that we must employ a properly trained treasurer who can complete all the financial records in the future following generally accepted accounting principles. The Town promised to donate $5,000 of the $12,000 requested. They also indicated that, if everything goes well with matching funds from Hamilton County, the Town may be able to donate the balance of the $12,000 requested.

New Business:

The Tivoli Theater is under renovation, and they have agreed to donate 200 of the seats they are removing. Thanks to Karen and Mark for initiating a request for the seat donation. Karen will check with Ethan Holden at National Register of Historic Places to see if replacing our old gray seats (probably installed c. 1946) with the newer red-velvet seats will jeopardize our application for inclusion on the Register.

A volunteer sign-up sheet was distributed so that Board members can think and plan about securing volunteers for the *Birthday Bash* on June 7, 4 PM – 8 PM

Communications from Members:

Grace Hughbanks of Scriptorium Hall remarked that she would like to rent the Prop Room on an
on-going basis during school terms if the new heat/air unit can make utilities affordable for her business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

● **DISTINGUISHED SPONSORS** of all four of our seasonal events are: Ascension Living Alexian Village, Coca-Cola, Davis & Hoss, William Decosimo, Dialed-In Chiropractic, Ray Fehr & Associates, Flipper Bend, Food City, Hutton & Smith, Superior Air Systems, and Walden Commons.

● **Sponsors of individual events** are: 517 Subs, Allstate Petersen Agency, Area Podiatry, Chattanooga Jewelry Company, Elder’s Ace Hardware, Eyes on the Mountain, Genie Robbins, Good Kinsmen, Harry’s, Method Medspa, Oddstory Brewing, Poole Wealth Management, Powell & Associates, SM Athletic Club, SM Pharmacy, Steve Eddinger of Farmers Insurance, Southern Star, Truist Bank, and Webbco Graphics.

● **Supporters of WRCL with gifts in kind**: Blue Bell Creameries, CMC Chris Martin Construction, Coca-Cola, Dollar General, Poole Wealth Management, Pruett’s SM Market, SM Lions Club­­, SM Pest control, SM Nursery, Sprout Construction, Walden Plumbing, and Waldenhouse Publishers.

**Next Quarterly Membership Meeting Thursday, July 17, 2025, 7:00 PM**

Respectfully submitted, Karen Stone, Interim Secretary