

Walden's Ridge Civic League Report to the Town of Walden April 19, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to report this quarter's activities at the Walden's Ridge Civic League.

The *CSO String Quintet* presented a winter community concert that was very well received. CSO musicians will return for another concert in the fall. At the quarterly meeting following the quintet, the membership approved amendments to the by-laws to make them more inclusive and to reinstate a Board of Trustees. Trustees elected are Karen Stone, Ben McGowan and Andy Brockman. Changes to the by-laws mark a return to the original intent of the Civic League organizers who devised the trustee system for maintaining clear title and control of the facilities. The trustees will hold title to the property until a 501(c)(2) title holding company is established to manage risk and handle rental activity.

At the end of January, an enthusiastic crowd listened to stories told by members of the Cleveland Storytelling Guild. The audience delighted to see the children listening attentively to two rounds each by five storytellers. The kids were so inspired, they put on an impromptu joke telling session afterward. *Warm Stories & Hot Cider* was quite a success, and we look forward to another storytelling event soon.

Our soccer field is open on a first-come first-served basis to any players on Walden's Ridge. Since February, *Soccer Shots*, a young children's soccer program focusing on character development, has enjoyed the field every Tuesday and Saturday. Soccer Shots will continue renting the field through the current season and fall.

The *Mt Opry* hosts excellent popular musicians and attracts bigger and better crowds on the 4th Saturday every month. As their organization grows and prospers, they are increasing their support of the Civic League. Both the Mt. Opry and the Civic League look forward to an increasingly beneficial relationship for years to come.

Our next quarterly meeting is this Thursday, April 21, at 7 PM. Then on Saturday, April 23, we are having a *Basement Cleanout Party* starting at 9 AM. We will clear the basement, level the floor, dig and pour small concrete footings for support posts, and shore up a stringer of the stairs. When the work is done, we will chip in to buy a pizza lunch and socialize. Of course, everyone is invited to both the quarterly meeting and the Cleanout Party.

Tennessee Senators Bo Watson & Randy McNally and Representatives Patsy Hazelwood & Cameron Sexton honored the Civic League with a Senate Proclamation recognizing the organization's important contributions and celebrating 100 years of service. The Proclamation followed a Certificate of Recognition from the State of Tennessee last summer. Both recognitions are great encouragements for the board to persevere in their revitalization efforts.

Through the winter and spring, the Board of Directors worked diligently to prioritize WRCL needs. The auditorium is in serious need of new siding, gutters, and French drains to preserve the integrity of the building and to minimize dampness in the basement. We closely scrutinized and analyzed all assets and liabilities of the property. Bob Franklin of Franklin Architects helped with evaluations. Contractors capable of solving identified problems were invited to bid on projects, and board members invested many hours in meeting with dozens of experts. From this work, the Board created a plan of action and has begun to implement the plan.

Policies and Procedures plus Rental terms are now established. Budgeting and formal reporting systems are in place. A concerted effort is underway to raise revenue. A professional skilled at grant writing has volunteered to pursue opportunities. We have met with the Town of Walden Budget Committee on three occasions and have made a formal request for financial support from Walden. We are very grateful to the Committee for their conscientious attention, and we appreciate your patience and invitation to apply for assistance.

Thank you for your interest in the Walden's Ridge Civic League as it continues to rebuild and serve the community. We have come a long way and are optimistic about the future. Next time we will report on further progress and tell you about our exciting plans for the *Second Annual Birthday Bash* in June, *Nature Fest* in September, *BBQ Cookoff* in October, *Music Festival* in November, and celebration of a *Very Opry Christmas*.

Karen Stone, President