



Board Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2026

Waldo Area Business Assoc.

7222 Wornall Rd, KCMO 64114

Also held via G-Suite Conference Call

Board members present: President Richard Murray, B. Michael McFarland, Secretary Sarah Schlachter, Justin Hutman, Vice President Amanda Rhodes, Alison Baker, Melissa Quearry, Andy Hyland

Board members absent: Treasurer Gaye Tillotson

Others present: Linetta Thurman, Nancy Bader

The May 5th, 2026 meeting was called to order by Richard Murray at 7:00pm.

Murray asked for revisions or feedback to the April minutes. Alison Baker noted an incorrect word in an early paragraph. Hutman motioned to approve the minutes, Amanda Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Financials

Murray reported that funds are accounted for with regard to the Spring Festival, with no further expenses expected. We received 5 new memberships, 3 are diamond level, bringing membership total to 253. Rhodes noted that income from Spring Festival, such as mimosas, was not reflected in the report. Murray will share this with Gaye Tillotson.

Murray updated on the Finance Committee meeting which was attended by Murray, Rhodes, Tillotson and B Michael McFarland; Sarah Schlachter was traveling. He shared that there is a strong possibility that the WPHA will have a deficit this year, though this depends on how security patrol expenses come in and on spending for Neighborhood Night Out. The Finance Committee plans to monitor expenses closely in real time and will consider changes to events as needed. The Committee is waiting to see if there will be a decrease in security patrol charges during World Cup activities when police will likely be unavailable to do patrols. In anticipation of some budget cuts, the Kona Ice event was updated as TBD in the latest newsletter.

Rhodes reported that the WPHA investment account balance is a little under \$17,000. Our money manager has suggested moving funds into a different fund that is similar in composition to our current investment, but slightly more aggressive. The current Treasury bill matures in August so we could move funds at that time. Andy Hyland asked about the composition of our current investment versus the proposed change. Rhodes noted that we are able to pull our money from the account at any time. Murray shared that there is nothing in our bylaws that stipulates that we invest funds or how funds should be invested. Please contact Rhodes with questions.

Security

Melissa Quearry stated that there have been no security meetings, but that our new Community Interaction Officer (CIO), Samantha Parkhurst, would like to come to a WPHA board meeting. Murray confirmed that she can come to any meeting and Quearry will invite her to one soon. Baker asked if Officer Hanriot was still our CIO; Quearry explained that Hanriot was not ever our CIO, he is our contact for security patrol and vacation watch. Quearry noted there is a report in the packet regarding crime in our neighborhood.

Membership

Murray stated that we have received three new diamond memberships since last month; they will receive their diamond bags soon. He noted that this time of year is quiet in terms of membership until our next renewal period. We may get memberships from Thirsty Thursdays or from newly moved-in residents.

Beautification

Schlachter reported there was a plan to put in fake flowers in the urns, but they do not appear to be strong enough to stand up to our often windy conditions. The committee will put in ferns closer to summer. Murray asked if we are using the same ferns. Schlachter replied that the original ferns have been used for two seasons and are quite faded; new ferns were purchased last year.

Communication

McFarland referred to the report in the packet.

Hutman reported that he needs to deliver screenshots of his website progress for review and that this quiet period for membership would be a good time to pursue website work. Murray asked about using the site to sell items like shirts. The group determined it would be worth using the site to advertise items rather than sell directly. Murray noted he'd like to get rid of our merchandise; we can start selling and/or raffling at events like Thirsty Thursdays.

Events

Harvester's Food Drive

Nancy Bader reported that this year's food drive, held in April, was notably more successful than last year; the food collected increased by almost 300 pounds for a total of 2,020 pounds. Bader complimented Murray's organization of the collection drop off point. As Bader is stepping down as chair of the event after six years of management, there was a call for a new chair to take over the event. Bader announced that resident Sarah Young will be the chair for next year, Bader will meet with her for training this month. Bader noted that there are typically around 20 volunteers who assist with bag distribution and bag dropoff in addition to the volunteers at the dropoff point. Bader expressed appreciation for the neighborhood's support of the event and Murray thanked Bader for her leadership and for growing the event.

Garage Sale

Murray announced that the neighborhood garage sale event is this weekend. The Board and WPHA has little to do with this other than advertising.

New Business:

STRONG Grant (Violence Prevention Fund)

McFarland shared that full project applications are due this Friday and we are applying for the full amount - \$10,500 (rather than a previously announced max of \$7,500). Our proposal will include our Thirsty Thursday and Kona Ice events as well as Neighborhood Night Out. Rhodes noted that STRONG meetings have been on varied days and times with a variety of programming. She shared that a website for violence prevention is being developed and will include data on specific areas with violence incidence and the ability to perform detailed searches. McFarland noted that neighborhood advocacy to maintain funding for this program helped save it from budget cuts. Quearry asked about applicant acceptance into the program; Rhodes stated all applicants were accepted to the program, which includes about 20 neighborhoods. Rockhill and Waldo Towers are our nearest participating neighborhoods. McFarland stated that there may be future incentives for collaborating with other neighborhoods.

Hale Cook Design Advisory Team (DAT)

Murray announced that the Hale Cook School Renovation budget was increased by \$2.5m to over \$14m total. Despite the increased budget, cost of material increases have led to project cuts including HVAC and window updates. Redesigns of the cafeteria and playgrounds stayed in the plan.

Murray shared that the district is talking about another bond initiative in the next 3-4 years to continue efforts to update buildings and potentially address budget shortfalls in the current bond initiative.

McFarland asked about the timeline for the Hale Cook project. Murray reported that permits are in and approved and the project is due to start on time this summer. He also noted that the updates at Troost Elementary School are in progress so that it can house Hale Cook students next school year. Murray noted that the WPHA should prepare for and try to mitigate construction parking in the neighborhood and closure of the playground.

Moving forward, Murray will share any substantive updates to the Hale Cook project with the board.

6th District

McFarland reported that the primary for the 6th District At Large seat is not until April 2027, so there is no need to have a candidate town hall event this summer. McFarland is working with known candidates to identify any other candidates who have filed. McFarland would like to have the event in December so it can be part of our work within the STRONG grant if logistics allow.

Murray asked for other topics or questions and announced that the next meeting is June 2. Hutman moved to adjourn, Baker seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52.

Meeting notes submitted by Sarah Schlachter, Secretary, Board of Directors