WARD PARKWAY HOMES ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2026

Waldo Area Business Assoc.
7222 Wornall Rd, KCMO 64114
Also held via G-Suite Conference Call

Board members present: President Richard Murray, Treasurer Gaye Tillotson, B. Michael McFarland, Secretary Sarah Schlachter, Vice President Amanda Rhodes, Alison Baker, Melissa Quearry

Board members absent: Justin Hutman

Others present: Jim Anderson, Officer Parkhurst

The June 2nd, 2026 meeting was called to order by Richard Murray at 7:00pm.

Murray asked for revisions or feedback to the May minutes. Andy Hyland asked that his attendance be updated to present. Melissa Quearry clarified that Officer Hanriot was never CIO; he continues to be our contact for security patrol & vacation watch. Murray asked for a motion to approve the minutes; Amanda Rhodes motioned, Quearry seconded, the minutes passed unanimously.

Financials

Gaye Tillotson stated that we are a bit low on funds. Murray shared that the money from the grant has not yet been approved; Murray will follow up. Tillotson announced that we received two more memberships and that the credit card bill arrived today and was likely admin, storage, and insurance. Total membership stands at 253 plus the two newest additions.

Security

Quearry shared that the Metro Patrol Meeting will be July 30 at 6pm at Metro Patrol. WABA Security meetings will be canceled due to poor attendance and rescheduled after the World Cup for a different day and time slot.

Murray introduced Officer Parkhurst as our Community Interaction Officer. Officer Parkhurst was asked about activity relating to the World Cup. She stated she will work 48 days straight to cover shifts and with some teams coming into town now, the work is starting now. She expects some unruly behavior - mostly due to bars being open extra hours - and for traffic to be bad. She noted that Fan Fest will be very well staffed and lots of work has gone into it. Fan Fest hours are 12pm-12am for days when there are matches in KC, for US Men's National Team match days, and for certain other high profile match days. Overall, she anticipates the event will be good for our city. Quearry asked about the status of the new jail facilities; Parkhurst said it’s not ready, so people will not be held.

Officer Parkhurst reported that crime statistics for our neighborhood show things have been quiet with just 4 recent incidents of theft around the same residence on W 71st Terrace. Those incidents were reported online, stating things like clothes and shoes were stolen. Officer Parkhurst believes these reports should not be considered alarming.

Officer Parkhurst stated she has been our CIO for 21 months. She has 21 years of service as a police officer with 17 years on patrol, and taught DARE recently until that program was cancelled.

Membership

Murray announced nothing to report. Membership activity will get busy again in a few months.

Beautification

Sarah Schlachter announced ferns were installed in the urns, though she noticed the one on the 75th street island was missing and presumably blew away in a recent storm. She has more and will install another.

Communication

B Michael McFarland referred to the report in the packet. McFarland thanked people for their newsletter edits; the final version will go out Friday.

Events

Murray stated that there is a planned event with Kona Ice Truck this month and this event would cost at least $500. Given Tillotson's report on funds, Murray proposed moving this event to be part of Neighborhood Night Out (NNO) where it would get more engagement and be paid for differently. Murray stated that the event normally gets walk-up activity but we often don't meet our cost minimum and give people extra tickets. Baker asked if there were funds in the NNO budget to support this Kona Ice Truck. Murray shared that Kona Ice will replace any other sweet treat that we normally offer at NNO. Baker asked if moving this offering would help our overall budget, Murray replied that moving it to NNO will allow it to be paid as a line item under the STRONG grant rather than our WPHA funds. McFarland will announce in the WPHA newsletter that the event will be moved to NNO (not cancelled) and send at least one separate reminder/notification by email closer to the originally planned event date. The Board agreed to move this event, so it will not be an expense in our budget this year.

Murray stated that the typical cost of a Thirsty Thursday event is $450-$500. He noted that many of our members who attend are platinum and diamond level members who do not have kids, so these events give them more value for their membership dollars as opposed to kid-oriented events. He also noted this event has been a recruiting tool. McFarland shared that the WPHA's full proposal for the STRONG grant was submitted and included all three Thirsty Thursdays to be included as "Summer Socials" to be covered by grant funds. There is no word yet on proposal approval. Pending STRONG funding updates, Murray proposed the Board review these events individually ahead of their planned dates to consider budget status. Hyland asked if these events are successful enough as recruiting events to pay for themselves, Murray responded that they are not.

Murray shared that he is unable to host the June 11 Thirsty Thursday/Summer Social and asked for volunteers to cover hosting. Schlachter said she would likely be able to cover the hosting duty and will confirm. McFarland noted that attendance records requirements will be more rigorous for events paid by the grant; they will want demographic information. The grant will provide a template for event registration. There will also be some advertising materials to be presented at any grant-funded event. These details relating to the June Thirsty Thursday/Summer Social will be discussed in more detail offline ahead of the event.

Murray announced that high level discussions about NNO planning will start next month. McFarland and Rhodes will be highly involved in planning to ensure the event meets grant-funding requirements.

New Business:

STRONG Grant (Violence Prevention Fund)
McFarland shared that our full and detailed proposal for funding was submitted. Our proposals include funding requests for our Thirsty Thursday/Summer Social events, NNO, and any expenses for a District 6 candidate forum if it takes place before year end. McFarland noted there is a report on STRONG grant activity in the board packet.

Rhodes added that STRONG grant organizers are trying to get more information about funded event attendees in order to establish data to support future program funding and growth. She also noted there are links in the report regarding a historian's efforts to document the program and to the KC interactive crime mapping effort.

Hale Cook Design Advisory Team (DAT)
Murray advised that he was contacted by the KCPS District to ask that the WPHA communicate Hale Cook construction information to our neighborhood and others such as Tower, and to field resident questions. Baker clarified the function of WPHA in this request; Murray stated that the WPHA was being asked to centrally disseminate information as well as centrally receive questions and comments to share with the school district. Schlachter asked if we have any option to opt out of our participation in this role and noted that our organization serves members rather than all residents in the area. Murray confirmed that we may not serve in this role if we choose. McFarland shared that he saw value in being a conduit for the info, but that the WPHA should have no stance or perspective on the information. Murray stated that we could require the District to provide an email address for people to ask their questions directly to the District. Rhodes stated she felt we should not be responsible for working with adjacent neighborhoods. Hyland stated he was comfortable with the WPHA providing information, but not with facilitating conversations. The Board agreed that it will offer two dates (June 17 and 18) for a one hour zoom meeting to further discuss the District's request.

Murray asked for other topics or questions. Tillotson mentioned that there was confusion with our insurance; she was notified of a 25% increase in our premium, but the billed amount didn't reflect that increase. The Finance Committee will meet to review and share options for next steps with the Board concerning payment. The Board will vote by email.

Murray announced that the next meeting is July 7. Baker moved to adjourn, Rhodes seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48.

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