



Board Meeting Minutes

Oct. 1, 2024

Waldo Area Business Assoc.

7222 Wornall Rd, KCMO 64114

Also held via G-Suite Conference Call

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

Board members absent: Drew Rogers

Others present: Jim Anderson, Nancy Bader, Don Martin

The October 1, 2024, meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Richard Murray. Murray asked Nancy Bader to begin the meeting with board election results. Bader reported that the WPHA 2025 Board election period lasted for 20 days, from 9/9 to 9/20. 91 ballots were distributed; 85 electronic, 6 paper. Of 91 distributed, 24 were received; 23 were electronic and 1 paper ballot for a 26% response rate. Bader reported that this rate was the highest in a long time. Bader announced the Directors elected: Alison Baker, Justin Hutman, B Michael McFarland, Richard Murray, Melissa Quearry, Drew Rogers, Sarah Schlachter, and Gaye Tillotson. Bader then called for any votes from those present at the meeting. No votes were taken.

Bader then asked the Directors to elect their new officers. Bader announced those running for officer positions and asked if anyone else would like to be considered. There were no requests to be considered. Bader announced that she would announce the candidates, their positions, and ask for any votes in opposition. With no votes in opposition, the following Directors were elected to officer positions: Amanda Rhodes, President; Richard Murray, Vice President; Sarah Schlachter, Secretary; Gaye Tillotson, Treasurer. Murray thanked Bader for conducting elections and said he hoped she will help again next year.

As the new President, Amanda Rhodes began the meeting at 7:07pm.

Rhodes introduced guests in the room, including Tiffany Moore, Chair of Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council, substitute teacher at Hale Cook School and member of the Steering Committee for the KC bond initiative. Don Martin, a long-time neighborhood resident, was also a guest.

Rhodes requested corrections to the minutes and acknowledged corrections sent by email by Alison Baker. Rhodes noted Murray's name was misspelled in various places. Murray motioned to pass the minutes, Melissa Quearry seconded. The September minutes were passed unanimously.

Finance Committee: Gaye Tillotson noted that the financial report shows figures through the end of our fiscal year and that it doesn't reflect new dues for the upcoming fiscal. Tillotson reported that dues for next year are coming in nicely. Murray asked why grant money from the Strengthening the Health of the Neighborhood program was not included. Rhodes responded that grant info would be available for the next meeting. Rhodes inquired as to the charge for \$76.97 and Tillotson shared it was for a Connect Four game purchased from Costco. Murray stated that this cost should be moved to equipment. Rhodes inquired as to the difference in number on the Mums sale report and Financial report. The difference was due to fees from Zettle. Tillotson reported that the WPHA credit card bill will be due and much of the costs are from Trivia night.

Rhodes asked for questions and noted that there would be a Finance Committee meeting after WPHA's Dumpster Day. She noted that any members are welcome and they usually last one hour. Rhodes will email to schedule the week of October 21 or after.

Security Committee: Melissa Quearry reported that the CPAC meeting was busy and lasted 2 hours with much discussion regarding juvenile crime. Quearry reported that the legal system has challenges for juveniles and there are few options when they are offenders. Leaders at the meeting advised that people be vigilant, neighbors work together, secure your cars and to not leave guns in cars.

Membership Committee: Murray reported that we are deep in the current membership drive. Over 80 memberships have been received so far, a record for this time in year. There have been 80 diamond memberships and few gold memberships. B Michael McFarland will soon order diamond gifts, which are branded portable first aid kits. In addition, sticky notes and pens will be ordered for welcome gifts. Murray will notify Baker when diamond gifts are ready to distribute.

Beautification Committee: Sarah Schlachter stated that the Mums sale was successful and referred to the report in the packet. This fall and winter, beautification will plant new perennials in the Terrace island and look at seasonal displays. Tillotson asked about the quantity of non-member sales. Schlachter reported that there were very few and that this may be attributable to not advertising on the Waldo Facebook group as had been done last year.

Communications Committee: McFarland referred to the communications report in the board packet. The newsletter will be drafted today and tomorrow. McFarland will ask people to review it before it goes out. Murray mentioned connecting with neighborhood resident Judge Justine to be featured in the Better Know KCMO section of the newsletter. McFarland replied he had not reached out yet, but may be able to for next month.

Events Committee: Murray reported that the Fourth Friday Family Fun night was sparsely attended with fewer than 15 people. Jovitos catered the event with pasta & bread. The food was well received and significantly less expensive than previous events. Jim Anderson noted that a large event at Hale Cook the same night may have affected attendance. Quearry reported that volunteering at the event went well. Volunteers for November and December game nights will be solicited later this year.

Murray shared that he will have a report on Neighborhood Night Out for next month's meeting. He noted there were more than 100 attendees and two vendors. He noted that the event went very smoothly.

Murray shared that Dumpster Day will be moved to Oct 19 and there will be two marketing emails to let people know of the date change. WPHA typically takes 10-15 memberships at the event.

Murray noted that Halloween Homes judging will take place.

New Business

Strengthening the Health of Neighborhoods

Rhodes reported that the Strengthening the Health of Neighborhoods program had its 6th session, featuring KCPD community interaction officers (CIOs). There was discussion of crime similar to what was reported in the CPAC meeting. Attendees learned about the CIT team (mental health). Murray shared that enrollment is up at KCPD Academy with 15 in the current class. KCPD is incentivizing current officers to make referrals for officers in other jurisdictions.

KCNAC

Murray shared that KCNAC held its Annual Meeting and elections. There were many resources there specific to residents (rather than to HOAs), though HOAs can disseminate. The biggest takeaway from this meeting was the shift to priority based budgeting coming to City Council.

Tiffany Moore, KCNAC Chair, explained that in the past incremental budgeting was used. As the total budget changed, the difference was uniformly applied to all budget items. This did not allow for evaluation of programs. Priority based budgeting asks the community where to spend money, however, this can lead to lopsided priorities and requires attention to equity and engagement. Moving the budget in this direction is consistent with other municipalities.

Murray stated that there is a business plan that explains how funds are distributed and encouraged all board members to review it. WPHA plans to share business plan information over time through the newsletter.

Moore shared that the next KCNAC meeting will be in Northeast Kansas City with speakers from the American Heart Association and AARP. They will discuss language on the ballot initiative concerning senior programming.

Hale Cook Modular Classroom

Baker summarized a community call which took place concerning Hale Cook School's desire to add a learning pod to their grounds. KCPS described this pod as a temporary use building, which will have a one-year permit, though extensions may be considered. It will have electricity, but no plumbing. Moore stated that iSPARKS (STEM curriculum) and Spanish classes are likely to be taught in the pod. Long-term plans for the pod, Hale Cook space, and deferred maintenance would be addressed after results of KCPS bond initiative. If a special use permit were extended, the neighborhood would be notified. The City Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Adjustments have final say.

KCPS Bond Initiative

Moore reviewed the general obligation bond to support KCPS which will be on the ballot in April 2025. Currently, KCPS relies on Jackson county property taxes to fund schools. The bond will have specifically crafted language to give voters confidence in how funds will be used but allow flexibility. KCPS is the only district in the metro that doesn't have an ongoing capital bonds program. State money primarily goes to charter schools.

Moore explained that passing the bond would allow action on the KCPS Blueprint 2030, which explains what is planned for each building. Hale Cook has \$2.5m in deferred maintenance and repairs; improved bathrooms are high on the list of needs. Moore stated that Blueprint 2030 is intended to align priorities and efficiencies.

Jim Anderson asked about the stigma of some KCPS schools such as Paseo and Center and if the spending would help with stigma. Moore responded that the intention is that folks will be encouraged to be involved and be proud of their improved facilities - some stigma is hearsay and is not felt on campus at the schools.

Justin Hutman asked why how or why STEM classes when chosen to be moved to Auxiliary building. Moore replied that Hale Cook has no space purpose-built for STEM. The new learning pod will be the first opportunity for teachers to build their own room. There will be a district-wide meeting up north, please attend and ask more questions.

McFarland asked why more money from the state doesn't go to schools. Moore responded that it was her opinion that charter schools have a powerful political lobby. Find more info on the Bond at www.kcpublicschools.org/bond.

Rhodes reminded the group that the November board meeting is on Thursday because of election day on Tuesday; she will send a reminder. Murray noted that future meeting requests will come from Rhodes.

Murray motioned to adjourn the meeting. Schlachter seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 8:03.

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