



Board Meeting Minutes

Nov. 7, 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: Mary Scholbe, Jim Anderson

The November 7 2024 meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Amanda Rhodes. Rhodes stated there were no guests present. Rhodes requested any changes to the October minutes other than what was shared by email by Alison Baker. Richard Murray motioned to pass the minutes. B Michael McFarland seconded. The motion was approved.

Rhodes noted there is a summary of the WPHA board election in the meeting packet.

Financials:

Gaye Tillotson shared that memberships were at 253 total as of the October meeting and there are now 268. That includes 85 diamonds, 97 platinums, 70 golds. Some monthly subscribers converted to annual. Murray shared a year over year comparison that this time last year this time there were 235 memberships with 64 diamonds, 72 golds, 96 platinums.

Security:

Melissa Quearry reported large attendance at CPAC with over 25 people. The neighborhood CIO and several police officers from our area were present. There were discussions concerning efforts in Brookside and Waldo where property crimes are still up. Police ask that people not intervene or confront criminals, but that people do try to "be a good witness" - take note of details of the people involved and/or the crime. Anything that people can offer in terms of evidence, e.g. camera footage or otherwise is helpful. Police officers are being asked to do proactive patrols and to do work in visible locations rather than back at the precinct. Some patrols are collecting data to see trends of suspicious activity. Sideshows and racing have been addressed with new laws passed which allow arrests. There was discussion of how HOAs and community organizations can bond together to share information in real time and help tell police who is doing what. It is possible this information could be used to create a database. Juvenile justice is being reviewed in terms of mission as it is escalating. Officials stated that community members shouldn't hesitate to call about nuisance things; the police want the records even if they can't get a person to the scene. The meeting overall focused on what people can do, current status of incidents, and police response.

Murray asked if anyone approached Quearry about how WPHA could network. Quearry responded that no one approached her. Quearry stated that the sharing of information seemed to be more focused on businesses sharing about suspicious people - spreading the word quickly rather than only contacting police.

Mary Scholbe asked if there was a way to let the neighborhood know about workers in the area to know if they are legitimate workers. Murray responded that he can look at the city website to see if they have made announcements and that the WPHA can share via email if there is solid, useful information. Rhodes noted that residents may also ask for info via 311.

Membership:

Murray reported increased membership numbers from last year. LYBNT (Last Year But Not This Year) emails went out and were our most successful LYBNT effort to date in spurring membership. All gifts for diamond memberships are in. Murray will organize volunteers to put together bags and send an email to ask people to pick up and distribute.

Beautification:

See report in the packet. Sarah Schlachter and Justin Hutman updated decor in urns, though squirrels are now attacking pumpkins, so they will be updated soon with other holiday decor. They also planted perennials in the Terrace island. Murray suggested considering alternative plants or material for the very small island on 75th where there are currently daylilies.

Murray noted that the stretch of 75th street sidewalk from Ward Parkway to State Line is very overgrown. Murray shared that resident Blake Haywood previously mentioned he would get some friends to do some clean up; Murray will follow up. Schlachter will ask WPHA's lawn care company what they would charge to clean it up.

Communication:

See report in packet. McFarland thanked everyone for looking at newsletter drafts to find small errors.

Events:

Murray reported on numerous events. Dumpster Day was a huge success, that the specific hour for Diamond members worked well this year, and that Diamond members appreciated the early availability. There were 52 total loads/drop-offs, from roughly 40 people. Murray noted that the event is easy to administer and that next year a larger dumpster will be reserved earlier (in the summer) to ensure availability. Baker requested we ensure next year's Dumpster Day does not coincide with the KC Marathon; Murray noted that Dumpster Day was unexpectedly rescheduled due to volunteer availability.

Fourth Friday in October was a successful event with a soup and sandwich meal that was a hit. There were 27 attendees. Rhodes and Murray plan to work the November 22 event and will duplicate the October strategy. Hutman stated that we could use some more games, many adults played kids games with the kids. Murray requested a list of 5 games that would add value. Volunteers for the December game night are still needed.

Rhodes sent by email a formal report on Neighborhood Night Out. Please contact Murray with questions.

Holiday Homes and Caroling will take place in December. Baker will need access to the membership roster; Baker will email Rhodes around December 1 to get access to assist judging. Caroling has not had RSVPs yet from emails sent to previous participants. Baker confirmed she has what she needs from a budget perspective for these events. Baker will reach out to Murray and Rhodes to access the storage unit.

Murray asked for comments on the proposed 2025 events calendar. Rhodes confirmed that the events committee reviewed many sources to avoid conflicting events with local schools and events. Baker noted that Holiday Homes dates 2024 were shared via email and that potential Sunday dates for 2025 Caroling may conflict with Hanukkah. Hutman stated that Friday would be an option since it's not a school night; Baker responded that it's hard to get people out on weeknights. This topic was tabled for future discussion.

New

Business:

The Strengthening the Health of the Neighborhoods Program October meeting had a presentation from Greg Lombardi with Neighborhood Legal Support. One of their projects is the Lykins neighborhood redevelopment effort - addressing blighted, abandoned properties to improve safety and quality of life. Those interested in more information may visit his website; he is interested in finding other neighborhoods for similar projects.

The November meeting will have another KC Health Department training, though no topic is yet specified. There will also be info on the 2025 Strengthening the Health of the Neighborhoods, such as structure, monetary support, and application process. There may be a tight turnaround on the application to participate; the WPHA Board may need to discuss it by email.

The December session will be a celebration of projects.

New

Director

Orientation:

Murray conducted new director orientation for Hutman October 27. The format included a packet of information, reviewing bylaws, meeting details, and budgets. Hutman will be on Communication, Events, and Beautification Committees.

Rhodes mentioned upcoming events including a November 8th 6th district meeting 9-10am at Arts Asylum, with an online option through Teams. There is also a November 13th networking event at Social hosted by WABA. Hutman, Rhodes, McFarland will attend. Anyone else seeking to attend the WABA event should notify Murray for advanced registration.

Rhodes shared that she requested that past Board member Alex DeMasi share previous PIAC applications. Rhodes will ask for volunteers to help with new PIAC submissions in mid 2025 and asked that people take note of areas that could be submitted. Murray stated that working on PIAC applications means submitting the application and speaking at a meeting to convince the committee to approve our area. Scholbe asked if PIAC was only for sidewalks or if it could be used for sewers. Murray responded that it is definitely for sidewalks, also things like speed bumps, stop signs, etc. Sewers are likely through Water services. Murray stated that 311 submissions are very effective for getting attention to problem areas, especially if multiple households/people submit. Murray stated that five years ago, the city assessed our neighborhoods needs costing \$6m and fixed the three easiest areas.

Scholbe requested another notice be sent regarding leaves being blown into streets and gutters. Murray noted that the WPHA makes announcements about leaf clean up cyclically.

Rhodes announced the next meeting date as December 3. Hutman and Schlachter shared they will be absent.

Murray motioned to adjourn. Hutman seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

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