



Board Meeting Minutes

Jan. 7, 2025

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, Secretary Sarah Schlachter, B. Michael McFarland, Melissa Quearry, Alison Baker, Justin Hutman, Drew Rogers

Board members absent: none

Others present: none

The January 7, 2025 meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Amanda Rhodes. Rhodes noted for the record that the meeting is being held on Google Meets due to recent inclement weather. Rhodes noted the December meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum as multiple board members were unavailable; this cancellation was approved by poll vote.

Rhodes requested any changes to the November minutes. There were no changes requested. Richard Murray motioned to pass the minutes. Alison Baker seconded. The motion was approved.

Financials:

Gaye Tillotson shared that the November and December finance reports were in the board packet. She also noted that Rhodes had provided an update on the investment account. Tillotson stated that nearly all the Strengthening the Health of the Neighborhood grant money has been spent. She shared that membership total sits at 275, up from the previous report of 272 members.

Murray reported that the Events committee will likely start paying deposits for the Spring Festival, so those charges will begin to appear on the credit card. Tillotson noted that charges currently showing on the credit card are for GoDaddy, Storage, G-Suite/Google Meets. Tillotson reported reimbursing Linetta for December game night expenses and will reimburse Sarah Schlachter for beautification expenses.

Security:

Melissa Quearry reported that the CPAC meeting was short and that on the meeting day, it was announced that the police would be dropping charges against the second juvenile charged in murder of Shaun Brady. Individuals are instructed to reach out to the youth/juvenile court system with questions, concerns, or thoughts.

Quearry shared additional CPAC updates including: general crime is down, arrests are up, homicides are down, shootings are up, and property crime is a continuing issue. She shared that the police did a sting operation to catch people stealing Amazon packages and that there was a break-in at the blue building where packages and a cart were stolen. The CPAC meeting covered ongoing issues with speeding and traffic, including pedestrians being hit by vehicles; they are looking at traffic calming on Troost as it is a wide and open street.

Membership:

Murray reported that all diamond gifts have been distributed and received. As future diamond members join, their gifts will be distributed ad hoc. Murray noted that membership is strong this year; we could clear 300 members as we tend to get another 25-30 in the upcoming time period. Baker asked what the current member total is. Murray responded that it is 275: 85 Diamond, 112 Platinum, and 78 Gold.

Beautification:

See report in the packet. Schlachter reported that she will ask Red Roses Lawn Care about cleanup on 75th between Ward Parkway and State Line when the weather improves.

Communication:

See report in packet.

B. Michael McFarland stated that an e-notice went out this morning that trash collection for this Thursday was continuing as planned. The city announced this afternoon that trash pick up would be canceled, so McFarland will send an update that collection is in fact cancelled. McFarland noted that he had shared the draft events postcard by email for feedback, with a goal to have it sent out to members this month.

Events:

Murray provided an update on the last two months of Fourth Friday Free Family Game Night. November was the strongest month with 41 attendees not associated with WPHA (45 with WPHA). In December there were 38 non-WPHA attendees (42 with WPHA). Attendees were informed that December was the last game night being sponsored by WPHA and that moving forward, WPPC will lead the event. It will transition to a pot luck format and will be less formal in terms of food and signups, but the WPHA will continue to advertise the event. WPHA's future level of engagement will depend on grant/program opportunities. Murray shared that the WPHA is letting the WPPC borrow the board games that WPHA purchased with grant money for the Family Game Nights. The games are marked as belonging to WPHA. All other supplies purchased by grant were put into storage and the small amount of leftover consumables will be used at future WPHA events.

Baker reported the Holiday Homes and Holiday Caroling events were a lot of fun. She shared that judges enjoyed picking winners for decorations, though the best block award was a difficult decision and judges visited blocks twice to work through a tied vote. The holiday homes award signage was picked up from yards ahead of inclement weather. Baker reminded the group that some funds were spent for food and for spotlights for the signs.

Baker shared that Holiday Caroling was a smaller group, perhaps impacted by a Chiefs game occurring at the same time. There were 9-10 singers. The group had some food at the WPP Church before singing to blocks on Summit and Jefferson. Baker noted that this was the first time caroling on the east side of Ward Parkway since before COVID, and that this may have affected participation by residents on the east side.

As a means of encouraging participation in future holiday homes contests, Baker plans to request the 2026 budget to include block party money to be given as an award to the winning block. She

noted that this money had been in the budget previously but had not been requested or spent in recent years.

New Business:

Strengthening the Health of Neighborhoods

Rhodes recapped the final two meetings of the program. The November meeting had two presenters, James Watts from the Black Archives of Mid-America which is located near 18th and Vine area and has space available for event rental, and Dr. Marvia Jones, Director of the KC Health Department, who discussed designing, implementing, and evaluating the program's events. The December meeting was a celebration of the 2024 events.

Rhodes shared that there was preliminary information on the 2025 program, but there will be more information as program changes are finalized. Rhodes noted that the board may need to do a poll vote in 2025 regarding participation depending on timing of program sign-ups and WPHA board meetings. Murray shared that there is a WPHA resident who is interested in participating and attending the program if we decide to do it again. This person would fill one of two spots. The program is a big time commitment.

KCNAC Special Meeting

Murray reported that the special meeting was intended to discuss the KCPS bond initiative and Hale Cook outbuilding, but it covered other topics instead. The meeting was well attended and there was intense discussion through the online format. Tiffany Moore's term as KCNAC President is ending and KCNAC is interested in recruiting people to keep the Council going. Murray shared that Moore may solicit WPHA interest in participating. Baker asked if we could use the newsletter or other WPHA modes of communication to share information; Murray responded that the newsletter has shared KCNAC and bond initiative information previously.

Hale Cook Trivia Night sponsorship

Rhodes reported that last year, the WPHA served as a sponsor for both the fall Hale Cook fundraising event as well as their winter trivia event. This year, Hale Cook raised sponsorship levels for the fall event and the WPHA executive committee decided to serve as a School Sponsor for the trivia event only. At this level, the WPHA will be mentioned in the school newsletter, fundraising flyers, Hale Cook social media and at the event itself. Rhodes noted that this sponsorship decision is better aligned with our budget.

Rhodes also noted that the WPHA will have a table at the trivia event which will allow us to interact with our residents who also attend the event. Murray shared that he is aware of at least one other table of participants who are residents in our neighborhood.

Rhodes asked for new business. There was no additional new business and no questions.

Rhodes announced the next meeting date as February 4. Rhodes will send a calendar invite. Murray shared that WABA has purchased the business physically next door to their current location. There will likely be active construction in the space as WABA expands into that space, please be mindful and wear proper footwear.

Baker motioned to adjourn. Justin Hutman and Murray seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

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