



Board Meeting Minutes

April 7, 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, Justin Hutman, Andy Hyland

Board members absent: Vice President Amanda Rhodes, Alison Baker, Melissa Quearry

Others present: Linetta Thurman

The April 7th, 2026 meeting was called to order by Richard Murray at 7:01pm.

Murray asked for revisions or feedback to the March minutes. B Michael McFarland motioned to approve the minutes, Andy Hyland seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Financials

Gaye Tillotson shared that the credit card bill this month was mostly for administrative items and some communications items. Tillotson asked about receipts related to the long term residents event. Murray stated that Sarah Schlachter would be submitting receipts for the succulent plant gifts and buttons. Tillotson noted there were 253 memberships (as listed on document in packet) as of early April. With a few new memberships since then, we are at about 256-258. Murray stated that this total is down year over year, but the money is the same due to increased membership rates.

Murray will set a day and time for the finance committee to meet and will let the rest of the board know because all are invited to attend. Hyland asked about the goal of finance committee meetings and Murray responded that they review budget status in detail and will discuss the impact of grant funding. Murray shared that there is a likelihood that the WPHA will run a significant deficit (over \$1000).

Security

Melissa Quearry submitted a report for the board packet.

Membership

Murray stated that we've extensively used the LYBNT (Last Year But Not This year) list to solicit memberships. We are likely attracting recent sign-ups through events and personal interactions.

Beautification

Schlachter referred to the report in the packet. Tillotson asked about charges for extra work; Schlachter will inquire about any additional cost beyond regular work to incorporate into financial planning.

Communication

McFarland referred to the report in the packet.

Hutman shared that he has updated the back end of the WPHA website to the most recent version of the software possible. This update has changed the look of the site in some small ways which Hutman will share with Communications for review. Hutman reported that he may purchase a plug-in tool that will assist with full production website migration to the upgraded site. Once the migration is done, there can be a review of the look and feel of the site, and Hutman can work on projects like an online database.

Events

Spring Festival

Murray noted there will be a full report on the event soon. There were 123 attendees and one membership was taken on site. Murray stated that a few features were pared back due to potential poor weather such as our plinko and cornhole games. He observed that the bouncy house was very popular and that the petting zoo had a new variety of animals but was still popular with families. The Easter Bunny was very animated and a hit with kids.

Murray stated that he will not be chairing the Spring Festival event again in the future. He will participate as a volunteer, but he will not manage the project plan. He noted that a new lead for the event will need to be identified prior to setting the next events calendar next fall and someone from the Board needs to have a presence in leadership on this event due to the expenses. He shared that he has a project plan template which would be helpful for organizing. If no one volunteers to organize the event, the Board can discuss changes. Spring Festival was noted as our only family-forward event.

Harvester's Food Drive

Murray shared that the event organizer, Nancy Bader, has her volunteers lined up for the event. He noted that her work involves many emails and many volunteers to get the tasks completed: assemble bags, bag drop-off, bag pick-up, bag receiving. Prior to Harvester's sending a van to pick up food, there was a caravan of vehicles to take the food to Harvester's.

Murray stated that this will be the last year that Bader will organize this event and that taking it over would be a significant commitment. Murray asked that people consider who may be interested in participating and stated that the Board may decide to let this event fall off our calendar, especially since we have seen less participation in the past few years.

Murray stated that 2027 will be his last year managing Neighborhood Night Out and that 2028 will be the year he comes off the WPHA Board. Murray would plan to continue managing Thirsty Thursdays throughout that time period. He is sharing this information to provide as much notice as possible for planning and for people to consider their interest in leading these events.

New Business:

STRONG grant (Violence Prevention Fund)

Murray shared that there has been a lot of unclear messaging about distribution of funds, amount of funds, and management of events. At this point, the amount of the STRONG award is unknown. WPHA is planning to use the money for one event - Neighborhood Night Out. The event will be adjusted to meet the needs of the funding requirements and to meet the level of funding.

6th District

Murray noted that there had been informal discussion of hosting a 6th district council candidate forum for the at-large candidates ahead of the primary in August. McFarland would organize the event, work with candidates, emcee, generate questions, etc. The WPPC would host the event at no cost. The timing of the event would likely be June. Murray asked if this would be of interest or value to our neighborhood. Schlachter stated that with no cost, this made sense to pursue and Hyland agreed that with McFarland willing to organize, it would be a good event. McFarland will communicate updates or needs about this event to the Board.

Murray asked for additional questions and announced that the next meeting is May 5. Schlachter moved to adjourn, Hutman seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

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