

**Westwood Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
April 10, 2007, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
304 52nd Street**

1. Call to Order
President Brad Sammon called the business meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 7:05 PM. In attendance: Brad Sammon, President; Barbara Bell, Vice President; Vicki Heiken, Treasurer; Thomas Kisch, Secretary; Rob den Hartog, Membership Committee Chair, Margo Hutcheson, Signage Committee Co-Chair, Sharon Murphy, Des Moines Neighbors Liaison, Marti Huber, Beautification Committee Chair, David Barzen, Social Committee Co-Chair, Heidi Barr, Historian.
2. Review / Approval of March 13, 2007 Meeting Minutes
Brad Sammon moved the minutes of the March 13, 2007 business meeting be approved as written. David Barzen seconded the motion. All approved.
3. Welcome New Committee Chairs
President Brad Sammon welcomed our two new committee chairpersons. Heidi Barr is our neighborhood Historian. Marti Huber is chair of the Beautification Committee.
4. Treasurer's Report
Beginning Balance: \$7,459.09
Expenditures: 135.00 Printing April 2007 Newsletter
Deposits: None
Current Balance: \$7,324.09
5. Historian Update
Heidi Barr has organized copies of past newsletters, newspaper articles, and pictures regarding the Westwood Neighborhood Association into a 3-ring binder. Any neighbors having historical information about the neighborhood may provide it to Heidi or to Barbara Bell.
6. Membership Committee
Rob den Hartog reported the association's membership remains at 116.

It was the consensus of the board that any neighbors paying new membership dues between now and July 1, 2007 will be considered members of the association for the remainder of this membership year and for next year's (i.e., through June 30, 2008).
7. Signage Committee
Barbara Bell reported the city has agreed to install seven (7) pole signs of our new neighborhood logo.

Six of the signs will be placed close to the intersections of Grand Avenue and 44th Street, 49th Street, 51st Street, 56th Street, 58th Place, and 63rd Street. The seventh sign will be placed on North Valley Drive. Barbara has purchased an eighth sign that will be displayed at neighborhood events. The Traffic and Safety Department will install the signs within the next two weeks.

Barbara has also talked with the Parks and Recreation Department about installing a smaller version of the neighborhood logo sign on the Walnut Creek Bicycle Trail. The city's decision about this request was not known at the time of this meeting.

The yard signs (aka "sandwich-board" signs) with the new neighborhood logo have been ordered. They will be placed at intersections on Grand Avenue announcing neighborhood association meetings.

8. Des Moines Neighbors

Sharon Murphy attended the Des Moines Neighbors' meeting on Thursday, March 22.

On April 10th, the Des Moines Register rolls out three websites relating to neighborhoods. Our website is www.desmoinesregister.com/west. The reporter assigned to our area is Frank Vinluan, who can be contacted at 284-8211 or fvinluan@dmreg.com. The website may be used to promote our neighborhood.

Des Moines Neighbors has a current fundraising project collecting used ink cartridges and cell phones. Any neighbors having these items for donation may bring them to a Westwood Neighborhood Association meeting and Sharon will take them to the next monthly meeting of Des Moines Neighbors.

The Neighborhood Summit will be held September 6th and 7th at Embassy Suites. It was consensus of the board that representatives from our association will attend this summit.

Information about this year's Scrub Day is available on the City of Des Moines' website www.ci.des-moines.ia.us/departments/PW. (Then, click on SCRUB on the left side of the screen.) No yard waste will be accepted at any of the neighborhood sites this year.

9. Beautification Committee

a. The neighborhood will maintain three gardens this year. Jennifer McKibbin will take the lead in maintaining the garden at Hanawalt, Marti Huber will take the lead for the garden on 44th Street, and Mark Melton will take the lead for the garden at 56th and North Valley Drive.

Mark, Margo Hutcheson, and Kris Sutton reviewed the site at 56th and North Valley Drive on Sunday, April 8th. Because this area is wooded and undeveloped, the committee decided to use natural, drought / deer resistant plants from existing gardens rather than annual flowers. Next year, native species, from seed or purchased, will be added.

Marti Huber questioned whether the association should consider also planting gardens on Grand Avenue. After discussion regarding the feasibility of expanding the number of gardens beyond three at this time, Barbara Bell moved the board table any expanded garden projects for the time being. Brad Sammon seconded the motion. All approved.

b. Because of the recent below normal temperatures, the Westwood Great Perennial Divide is postponed until May 4, 2007.

Plants may be taken to Judy Lonning's home at 5131 Robertson Drive from 2:00 – 6:00 PM. They will be available on May 5th from 9:00 to noon for pick up.

c. Brad Sammon has ordered 50 red oak saplings and 50 pin oak saplings. They will arrive between April 15 and May 30, though most likely close to May 1. Brad will have a sign up sheet at the April 17 general meeting for neighbors who are interested in selecting up to three trees.

d. Brad Sammon is our neighborhood chairperson for Scrub Day. With Waterbury as lead, Westwood, Salisbury Oaks, Ingersoll Park, Linden Heights, Waveland Park, and Waveland Woods are joining together for this year's event. It will take place on August 25 from 7:00 AM to noon at Roosevelt High School's north parking lot.

10. Social Committee

a. The next Westwood Neighborhood Association general meeting will take place on April 17 at Pal Joey's. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM. The featured speaker is Jim Host from Brian Clark & Associates. Brian's firm designed the Walnut Creek Bicycle Trail.

b. Brad Sammon will contact neighbors who may be interested in coordinating the 2007 Westwood Homes Tour. The event will take place on December 9, 2007 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Brad will make an announcement at the general meeting.

c. The annual Westwood Ice Cream Social will take place on June 10th at David and Kristy Barzen's home, 420 51st Street. David and Brad are co-chairing this event. It was consensus of the board that the business which provides the entertainment may place an advertisement in the neighborhood newsletter at no cost.

d. Rob den Hartog has contacted Metro Arts about sponsoring a Jazz in July concert at Greenwood Park's Sylvan Theatre. The board expressed a preference for having a concert in the early evening of July 7, 14, or 8. The committee working on this event will meet at 7:00 PM on April 25th at David & Kristy Barzen's home. Any neighbors wanting to assist with this project are welcome to attend.

11. Next Meeting

The next business meeting will take place on May 15 at Hanawalt, beginning at 7:00 PM.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

