

Westwood Neighborhood Association Board Meeting
March 13, 2007, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Pal Joey's

1. Call to Order

President Brad Sammon called the business meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 7:10 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

2. Review / Approval of February 20, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Rob den Hartog moved the minutes of the February 20, 2007 business meeting be approved as written. Barbara Bell seconded the motion. All approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: \$7,459.09

Expenditures: None

Deposits: None

Current Balance: \$7,459.09

4. Membership Committee

Rob den Hartog reported the association's membership is now 116. In reviewing the membership list, Rob discovered a duplication; thus, the total is one less than reported at the February meeting.

Rob has been in contact with Kyle Larson, Assistant City Planner (515-283-4164), regarding obtaining a list of all addresses for every household in the Westwood neighborhood. He received this list on March 9; a copy was shared with the board. This listing will be compared to the association's membership list. Discussion was held about sending a postcard to nonmembers, inviting them to join. Consensus of the board was to proceed with this mailing.

Rob moved and David Barzen seconded a motion to again offer the "early bird" discount for joining the association between May 1 and June 30 for next year's membership (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008). The discount of \$5.00 would apply to family or single memberships. All approved the motion.

5. Signage Committee

Barbara Bell and Margo Hutcheson reported the committee reviewed potential locations for placement of neighborhood signs on Saturday, March 10. Nine potential sites were selected. Barbara faxed the neighborhood map showing the designated sites to Aaron Johnson, with the city's Traffic and Safety Department, today.

6. Des Moines Neighbors

Vicki Heiken reported that she has not yet received a bill from Des Moines Neighbors for this year's membership dues. They were last paid in April 2006. Brad Sammon will follow-up.

Sharon Murphy plans to attend the next Des Moines Neighbors' meeting, which will be held on Thursday, March 22.

7. Beautification Committee

Barbara Bell has spoken with Marti Huber about being chairperson of this proposed committee. Marti is willing to do so. Brad Sammon moved and Barbara seconded a motion to form this new committee and appoint Marti as the chairperson. All approved the motion.

The association plans to proceed with establishing three neighborhood gardens this year. One will be at Hanawalt School, with Jennifer McKibbin taking the lead in maintaining the garden. One will be at the south end of 44th Street, with Marti Huber taking the lead in maintaining the garden. One will be at the corner of 56th Street and North Valley Drive, with Mark Melton taking the lead in maintaining the garden. Barbara Bell and Margo Hutcheson will contact neighbors who may be interested in planning the gardens.

Discussion was held about ordering oak saplings (about 12" tall) that neighbors could purchase and plant in their yards. The cost of 50 pin oak saplings and 50 red oak saplings would be \$130 (or, \$65 for each set of 50). Consensus of the board was to proceed with this purchase. Neighbors may offer a voluntary donation to take one (or more) for planting.

8. Social Committee

Consensus of the board was that David Barzen and Brad Sammon coordinate organizing the neighborhood ice cream social that will be held in June.

Rob den Hartog reported that he has been in contact with Tracy Levine, Executive Director of Metro Arts, about sponsoring a Jazz in July concert at Greenwood Park. Applications for sponsorships will be mailed in late March. Ms. Levine suggested the association consider offering food, beverages, and events for kids in conjunction with the concert. Consensus of the board was that Rob coordinate applying for and planning this event. Donations will be requested to defray the cost.

David Barzen will contact Sondra Newkirk to determine whether she is interested in coordinating activities for the 2007 neighborhood homes tour.

9. Advisory Committee

Discussion was held about establishing an advisory committee for the board consisting of recent past presidents of the neighborhood association. Brad Sammon will contact the past presidents to determine their interest in serving on this committee.

10. Neighborhood Scrub Day

The Waterbury Neighborhood Association will serve as the lead association for this year's Scrub Day activities in our area of Des Moines. Brad Sammon will coordinate our association's participation in this event.

11. Terms of Office

The bylaws for our association require the officers of the Board of Directors to serve one-year terms, who then may be elected to serve up to three consecutive terms in that position. (Article 6, Section 3 - Board of Directors) Discussion about the length of terms current board members will serve so that terms are staggered was tabled until the next business meeting of the board.

12. Old Business

Rob den Hartog reported that he received 21 responses to the e-mail he sent to members about allowing ice cream trucks to sell ice cream in the neighborhoods throughout Des Moines. Of those responding, 18 favored allowing the sales and 3 opposed. Rob reported these results to the City Council.

13. New Business

Rob den Hartog moved and David Barzen seconded a motion that neighborhood businesses eligible to join the association be charged \$50 for membership. All voted to approve the motion. The bylaws define eligibility as those "...who own or operate businesses or other organizations located within the boundaries of the Association." (Article 4, Section 1 – Membership and Voting)

Rob den Hartog moved and Brad Sammon seconded a motion to allow Crystal Clear to advertise in the neighborhood newsletter for one year without cost. This is in appreciation for the donated labor in printing each edition of the newsletter. (The association pays the cost of the paper.) All voted to approve the motion.

Rob den Hartog moved and David Barzen seconded a motion to print a Certificate of Appreciation for Tom Rosborough's work in creating the new neighborhood logo. The certificate will be presented to Tom at the ice cream social in June. All voted to approve the motion.

14. Next Meetings

The next business meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on April 10, 2007 at the home of Barbara Bell. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

The next general meeting of the association will be held on April 17, 2007 at Pal Joey's. Attendees may purchase beverages and snacks. A member of Brian Clark and Associates will be the featured speaker. This firm designed the Walnut Creek Bike Trail that is now open in our neighborhood and will be expanded further this year.

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

