

Westwood Neighborhood Association Meeting
Tuesday, April 22, 2008
Hanawalt School

1. Call to Order: President Brad Sammon called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM. In attendance: Brad Sammon, President, Sharon Murphy, Des Moines Neighbors Liaison, Barbara Bell, Beautification Committee Chair, Margo Hutcheson, Beautification Committee, Rob denHartog, Membership Chair, David Barzen, Immediate Past President, Vicki Heiken, Treasurer, Jeanette McGreevy, Publicity Chair, Amy Zuck, Social Committee Co-Chair, Thomas Kisch, Secretary.

The general membership portion of the meeting began at 7:00 PM. Neighbors and guest speakers were in attendance for this portion of the meeting.

2. Approve March 25, 2008 Minutes: Rob denHartog moved the minutes be approved as written. Sharon Murphy seconded the motion. All approved.

3. Presentation by Des Moines Police: Lieutenant Todd Dykstra introduced himself, Senior Police Officer Ben Ihde, and Sergeant Larry Davey.

Lt. Dykstra explained that Chief Judy Bradshaw has recently expanded the Neighborhood Based Service Delivery Program to include all units of the Police Department. He, Officer Ihde of the Traffic Unit, and Sgt. Davey of the Narcotics Unit are assigned to the Westwood neighborhood. Although members of the Detective Unit have not been assigned to specific neighborhoods, this unit may be contacted by calling 283-4869. Non-emergency situations may be reported by calling 283-4811. (Emergencies may be reported by calling 911.) Neighborhood crime statistics may be viewed on the Internet at <http://mapping.dmgov.org/crimeview/>.

Lt. Dykstra's team is available to attend neighborhood association meetings. Brad Sammon will send an e-mail to Lt. Dykstra letting him know Westwood's schedule of quarterly general membership meetings for 2008.

Officer Ihde provides traffic control services for the west side of Des Moines. He may be contacted to patrol a specific street at a requested time or to ask for the "speed trailer" to be set up on a specific street. His work hours are 12:00 noon to 8:00 PM. He may be contacted at 515-271-4672 or by e-mail at bjihde@dmgov.org. (Contact by e-mail is recommended.)

The "speed trailer" records data showing top speed, low speed, median speed, and time of most traffic. A printout showing the data is available for viewing. Neighbors expressed concern about the speed of traffic on Grand Avenue and 51st Street. Amy Zuck will contact Officer Ihde about setting up the trailer on Grand Avenue.

Sgt. Davey is with the Neighborhood Area Resource Coordinating (NARC) Team. His team works with neighborhoods and rental property owners / managers to prevent crime and enhance the quality of life in neighborhoods. He may be contacted at 515-283-4846 or by e-mail at lddavey@dmgov.org.

There will be a Public Safety Recognition Day on Saturday, May 17 from 8:00 AM until noon. The event is offered in conjunction with the Des Moines Farmers Market and will take place on the Court Avenue River Bridge. Also, this year's National Night Out is on August 5th. Sgt. Davey's team is available to work with neighborhood associations which are planning to hold events. Lastly, Sgt. Davey encouraged everyone to visit the Police Museum on the 2nd Floor of the Police Station. There is no admission fee.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance:	\$6,430.89	
Deposits:	\$ 50.00	New Members
Expenses:	\$ 246.44	Great Prairie Printing
Ending Balance:	\$6,234.45	
5. Membership: The association has 118 members. These include individuals, families, and one business.
6. Publicity Committee Report:
 - A. Newsletter Advertising: Rob denHartog reported that no additional advertisers have yet been recruited for the newsletter.
 - B. Newsletter: Rob denHartog moved that the deadline for submitting articles to Jeanette McGreevy for the July newsletter be May 26. Barbara Bell seconded the motion. All approved.
7. Beautification Committee Report:
 - A. Garden Tour: Barbara Bell reported the ticket price for admission to the 2008 Westwood Garden Tour on Saturday, June 14 will be \$10.
 - B. Westwood Great Perennial Divide: Barbara Bell reported the event will take place at her home, 304 52nd Street. Plants may dropped off on Friday, May 2 from 2:00 – 7:00 PM. Plants may be picked up on Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 AM until noon.

C. Walnut Creek Gateway Community Garden: Margo Hutcheson reported that compost will need to be purchased for delivery to the garden, as none is available from the City of Des Moines. It will be spread over the garden site on Saturday April 26. Neighbors are invited to help with the spreading from 10:00 until noon. Planting will occur on Saturday, May 3 from 10:00 until 11:00 and on Sunday, May 4 from 1:00 until 2:00. Neighbors are invited to help with the planting during these times.

8. Social Committee Report

A. Jazz in July Concert: Thomas Kisch attended a meeting with Metro Arts on April 21 as the Board's representative. Tracy Levine, Director of Metro Arts, and Brian Porter, Chair of the Metro Arts Jazz in July Committee, spoke to the attendees. Mr. Porter shared information that may be used by neighborhood associations in planning their respective events. Ms. Levine shared a schedule of events and locations, selected from the applications received by Metro Arts. Westwood's event is scheduled for July 11 at Greenwood Park, Sylvan Theater.

9. Newsletter and Historian Chairperson Positions: These positions remain open on the Board.

10. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on May 20 at Hanawalt School.

11. Other Business: None

12. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.