Westwood Neighborhood Association Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2008
Pal Joey's

1. Call to Order: President Brad Sammon called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. In attendance: Brad Sammon, President, Joe Kobes, Vice President, Barbara Bell, Beautification Committee Chair, Sharon Murphy, Des Moines Neighbors Liaison, Thomas Kisch, Secretary.

2. Approve June 17, 2008 Minutes: Barbara Bell moved the minutes be approved as written. Brad Sammon seconded the motion. All approved.

3. Membership / Treasurer Report: No report for this meeting. Discussion was held about expenditures the association has recently encountered, particularly relating to the newsletter. Joe Kobes suggested that perhaps a vendor could be found who could format the newsletter at less cost. Brad Sammon will discuss this with the new newsletter editor, Amy Mackrell.

4. Publicity Committee Report: No report for this meeting.

5. Beautification Committee Report:

A. Garden Tour Final Report: Barbara Bell submitted her report to the board, summarizing attendance and proceeds from the June 14 Westwood Garden Tour. Attendance totaled approximately 100 guests and gross proceeds totaled $1,046. (This included the sale of tickets, bottled water, and neighborhood photo cards.) Funds from the tour have been contributed to local flood relief ($400, which were matched by Principal to total $800); and, are available for costs related to the Jazz in July concert and Walnut Creek Gateway Garden.

The next tour is scheduled for 2010. However, the Founders' Garden Club and Master Gardeners will also conduct tours that summer. Discussion will need to be held regarding the optimum time to hold the next tour, along with more widespread publicity and possible joint venture (including the annual Great Perennial Divide) with another neighborhood association.

B. Boarded-up House in 300 Block of 51st Street: Brad Sammon explained this house is not habitable. There are disputed easements on two sides and no work has been done for ten months. Safety concerns assessed by City inspectors have resulted in a snow fence being placed across the open garage. Sharon Murphy will bring concerns about this property to the attention of Des Moines Neighbors and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

C. Report on Home Improvements in Progress in the Neighborhood: Barbara Bell reported there are 14 homes in the neighborhood where improvements are being made. Barbara plans to send each homeowner a card in the behalf of the board, expressing its appreciation for these improvements which enhance our neighborhood.

D.. Walnut Creek Gateway Community Garden: In Margo Hutcheson's behalf, Thomas Kisch provided an update to the board concerning delivery of mulch to the Walnut Creek Gateway Community Garden by Mulch Mart and a Sales Receipt for the cost, $210.36. The Treasurer will be asked to issue a check to Margo for reimbursement of this cost.

Margo will be submitting a summary report, receipts, photos, and maintenance log to Teva Dawson, City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation, for payment of the Lillian Swartzell grant to Westwood.

6. Left-Over A&E Ice Cream: Brad Sammon reported he has the ice cream that was not sold at the Jazz in July concert. Those interested in purchasing any of it "at cost" may contact him until July 20 and from August 1 to August 3. The ice cream that remains will be available at the Neighborhood Ice Cream Social on August 3.

7. Westwood Neighborhood Fund Raiser: No report regarding the status of sales of the neighborhood photo cards was available at this meeting.

8. Social Committee Report

A. Jazz in July Concert: The Treasurer will be asked to issue a check to Roxi Copland for the agreed upon cost of $1,000 for the Roxi Copland Band's performance at the July 11th concert.

B. Ice Cream Social: Brad Sammon reported the Westwood Neighborhood Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday, August 3 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM at Greenwood Park (near the tennis court).

9. Nomination Committee: Barbara Bell reported the committee has begun its discussion of nominees for Board of Directors' officer positions regarding the 2008 / 2009 term (October through September). Further meetings will be held.

10. Board Meetings in August and December: In the past, the board has not held a meeting in December. Discussion was held about whether a meeting should or should not occur in August. Thomas Kisch moved that a meeting not be held in August. Sharon Murphy seconded the motion. All approved. The next board meeting will be held in September 2008.

11. Signage: Brad Sammon reported that seven signs promoting the Jazz in July event were taken by the City when streets were cleaned shortly before the concert date. Brad has retrieved five of them, two are missing. Neighbors are asked to let Brad know if either of these are seen being used by someone advertising non-neighborhood events.

In the future, the neighborhood signs will be placed on non-city property with approval of the home owner. (City property is the area between the curb and sidewalk.)

12. Meeting Locations: Brad Sammon requested the board's approval to schedule next year's meetings at Hanawalt in September, November, January, February, April, and May; at Merrill in October for the Annual Meeting; and at Pal Joey's in March, June, and July. Also, Brad requested discretion to choose an alternative location if a conflict exists with the schools. Joe Kobes moved the board approve Brad's requests. Sharon Murphy seconded the motion. All approved.

13. Other Business: Sharon Murphy informed the board that our neighborhood's Scrub Day will take place on Saturday, August 23. It will be held from 7:00 AM until noon at Roosevelt High School's north parking lot (Chamberlain Street, between 42nd and Polk Blvd.).

12. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.