

WESTWOOD PARK HOMES ASSOCIATION  
Minutes of the April 4th, 2007 Annual Meeting

Board Members Present

The 85th Annual WPHA meeting took place at Pembroke Hill's cafeteria. Present were Kirby Upjohn, Ann Nixon, Lindsay Wood, Susan Hard and Ann Schleih. Minutes: Ann Schleih.

Dessert and Socializing

Westwood Park neighbors enjoyed some conversation prior to the start of the meeting at 7:00pm. About 60 neighbors attended. Desserts, coffee and sodas were provided.

BOARD PRESIDENT INTRODUCTION - KIRBY UPJOHN

- After some opening comments, Kirby introduced the board members and awarded each person working gloves as a symbol of gratitude for all the "good work it takes to help keep our neighborhood a desirable place to live.
- Kirby also mentioned the board's "silent partner", Joan Gasting, our fearless leader who has organized the block representatives' effort.

APPROVAL OF 2006 MINUTES

- The minutes from last year's meeting were included with the meeting agenda. A motion was passed for the minutes.
- Monthly board meeting minutes are available online at [www.haccd.org](http://www.haccd.org), along with the Westwood Park board roster, newsletter, bylaws and treasurer's report. Information regarding the Homes Association of the Country Club District (HACCD) and any of the other 32 homes associations can be found on that website.

TREASURES REPORT - DAVE HARDIN

- The treasurer's report from last year's meeting was also included with the meeting agenda. A motion was passed for the treasurer's report. Dave covered the basic expenditures. This information can be found on [www.haccd.org](http://www.haccd.org).

BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES - JOAN & KIRK GASTINGER

- With Joan's leadership, the neighborhood now has block representatives dedicated to being the liaison between the board and the neighbors. Getting the word out appears to be effective. In the case of this meeting, attendance is the highest in years.
- Currently there are 18 block representatives. Some blocks still need representatives, or even co-reps. Volunteers can contact Joan. Meetings are biannual.
- A subcommittee of the block reps has been designated to research more on traffic calming options. Kirk covered some details of the process which begins with a study. 75% of the neighbors on a designated street would need to sign a petition to begin a study.

- Nearly all neighbors in attendance were in favor of traffic calming, traffic diverters or some enforcement. The study should cover an area large enough to cover the problem areas--especially Westwood Road and 50th Street. 51st Street and Wyoming Street, among others were also mentioned as having problems with speeders, particularly during the morning and evening rush hours.
- Partial cost of the study could be covered by the city. The undertaking with the city is expected to be a slow process.

#### WESTWOOD PARK FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS - KIRBY UPJOHN

- Jimmi Lossing, a landscape architect from the KC Parks & Recreation Department, is our designated park revitalization person. Kirby was pleased to announce that two PIAC (Public Investment Advisory Committee) funds have been granted.
- The first PIAC in the amount of \$200K will cover the cost of two new shelters, located at the NE and SW corners of the park. The existing old shelter will eventually be removed. A sketch of one of the shelters was passed around the room. Shelters are scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.
- Another PIAC of \$250K is designated for the trails and regrading the land. Thanks to Richard Farnan for submitting the second request. Work on the new looped pathway is expected to begin in 2008.
- The baseball field and off-leash dogs are still unresolved issues.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY - KIRBY UPJOHN

- The hot topic for the evening is the recent incidents of crime. Historically, Westwood Park has been a very safe area. Since last winter there has been a rash of burglaries and some alarming incidents of residents being held at gunpoint. This outrage for a safer neighborhood pulled the neighbors together to discuss options for better security.
- Two neighbors shared the details of being held at gunpoint in front of their homes.
- Kirby's handout on private security patrol outlined a cost effective strategy to have off-duty officers in police cars patrol the neighborhood for at least four hours each evening. Assuming that half the homeowners pay, the cost would be about \$90/year per household. The plan is to piggyback with three other neighborhood associations--Stratford Gardens, Greenway Fields and Romanelli West. One police officer would cover the four homes association areas.
- Crime happens at anytime, day or night. Call 911 for any suspicious activity. The need to know your neighbors was reinforced with these discussions.
- A suggestion was made to contact Pembroke Hill to possibly help contribute or collaborate on the additional patrol.
- Alternative ways were discussed to communicate news to neighbors: automated phone system, a virtual program, a designated website, or an email list (which some block reps have).
- Kirby asked for a show of hands in favor of looking into the additional private security. Almost all neighbors approved.

#### ISLANDS AND STONE MARKERS - ANN NIXON

- Ann briefly covered the plans for installing more designated stone and wrought iron markers. Construction for a stone marker at 49th and Mercier will begin this year. Three signs are planned for along 48th Street. Thanks to Ann N. for coordinating the construction of these attractive markers, an effort that is several years underway.
- The island fountain will be needing some repair. The two park benches will also be replaced due to one that is broken.
- Some annual flowers will be added to the islands. Kudos to Ann Nixon, Susan Hard, Martha Nagley all the neighbors who help with maintaining the plantings and islands throughout the year. Thanks to Susan for the lights that grace the fountain each holiday.

#### ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS - KIRBY UPJOHN

- Motions were passed for Kirby Upjohn, Lindsay Wood and Susan Hard to maintain positions on the board for another term, through 2010. Terms are three years. No additional neighbors at the moment volunteered to join the board. Even if the board does not have new members, there is always a need for people to volunteer with neighborhood projects and events.

#### AWARDS PRESENTATION - SUSAN HARD & KIRBY UPJOHN

- WPHA takes pride in the well maintained properties and a show of holiday spirit. Susan presented Home of the Month and Holiday Lights winners with a frameable document listing the homeowners names.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- New property assessments are expected to arrive soon. There's a limited window of opportunity to contest.
- A neighbor made a request for a new directory. Included could be advertisements for local professionals.
- Kirk Gastinger briefly talked about the 10,000 Rain Gardens Initiative by city government and local residents. The idea is to trap and cleanse storm water runoff before it enters the municipal sewer system, such as Brush Creek area. See [www.kcmo.org](http://www.kcmo.org) for more information.

#### MEETING CLOSE

Kirby concluded the meeting and thanked those who attended. Watch future newsletters for more neighborhood information. The board looks forward to seeing you next year!