

WESTWOOD PARK HOMES ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the February 8th, 2007 Board Meeting

Board Members Present

The board meeting took place at The Mixx. Present were Kirby Upjohn, Ann Nixon, Susan Hard, and Ann Schleihs. Additional block captains present were Joan Gastinger, Jack Heller and Janet Elie. Minutes: Ann Schleihs.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY

- In the past few months crime in Westwood Park has reached a critical high.

Numerous stories were shared from house burglaries and car break-ins to an alarming incident of a neighbor being held up at gun point for his vehicle.

The rash of crime goes beyond our neighborhood as well. Security has always been an important issue for the board. Over the years, our President, Kirby, has been in contact with KCPD. Historically, Westwood Park has had low crime, so as a result, police patrol for our neighborhood has typically been low, with the exception of a few incidents over the years.

HOW TO GET THE WORD OUT

- The group felt a written statement should be delivered to the neighbors. A letter would be needed to raise awareness, provide safety tips, and announce the security patrol topic for the WPHA April 4th Annual Meeting agenda.

WHAT TO DO NOW

-Keep your indoor/outdoor lights and radio on timers so it looks and sounds like someone is home. Many houses are dark in the neighborhood. Observe your house from the street--does it appear like someone could be home? The police and fire department have difficulty finding homes in the dark.

- Call the 911 for ANY suspicious activity. Take a detailed mental note of the suspicious person or persons. Provide descriptive information as to age, height, weight, clothing, ethnicity, facial hair, clothing, vehicle, license plate number and the direction they are heading.

- Keep doors locked, garage doors closed, and alarm set. Lock vehicles and get a Club to prevent car theft. Park vehicle (or a neighbors vehicle while

away) in driveway rather than street to give appearance there is someone home.

- Be in contact with your neighbors. As block captains, get the word out when something happens. Look after each other.

- Pick up newspapers in the yard, and your neighbor's yard when they are away.

- Kirby will ask the city about having neighborhood watch signs posted.

- Criminals hang out near houses under construction, appearing to be service repair workers.

- Crime happens in the broad daylight, after people leave for work, as well as all hours of the night.

WHAT ABOUT HIRING EXTRA SECURITY? - NOTES FROM PRESIDENT KIRBY

- The following information is directly from Kirby's recent conversation with Brent Parsons, a Verona Hills resident.

- Security patrol is staffed by off-duty KCMO police officers. Patrol uses a KCPD car when available (so far 100% of the time). This means the patrol is in direct radio contact with KCPD, can summon assistance and can summon helicopter assistance.

- Rate is \$30/hr. minimum four-hour shift. Minimum commitment is 2 nights per week - \$240/week.

- Currently Stratford Gardens, Greenway Fields and Romanelli West use the service by combining/sharing patrols. They now have neighborhood coverage 6 nights per week for 4 hours per night.

- Ideally, if we joined, WPHA could be part of a foursome of associations and have 7 nights per week coverage with 4.5 hours per night or extended weekend coverage.

- MAJOR PROBLEM: We happen to be the only association in the HACCD that is part of the Central Patrol Division. Remember, we were re-assigned several years ago without any advanced notice to the neighborhood. I protested because (a) I didn't want us to be the only HACCD association in the Central Division and (b) I knew that at the southernmost tip of the Central Division we would never get any

service. That has proved to be the case and now our being in the Central Division may interfere with our being part of the HACCD-managed security patrol.

- Annual cost \$12,480 = monthly cost of \$1,040. If half of our members paid the extra fee, it would be about \$7-8/month or \$96/year per household.

NEWSLETTER

- The board is in search of someone who would be willing to take over the neighborhood newsletter duty. After the next newsletter, Susan had requested to have that responsibility passed on. Susan's hard work and dedication with the newsletter is greatly appreciated!

NEW BUSINESS

- Neighbor, Doug Gamble, has announced he is running for the 4th District at Large. The board agreed to have HACCD provide neighborhood address labels for an announcement letter.

-A Candidates Forum for 4th District Council candidates will take place Thursday, February 15th, 7:00-8:30pm at Second Presbyterian Church at 55th and Oak.

-To further promote its A Million Lights campaign, the city is giving residents who live in neighborhoods participating in its Neighborhood Improvement Program free compact fluorescent light bulbs. Visit <http://www.marc.org/newsreleases/kcmo013107.htm> to learn more about the city-wide effort.

-The Annual Board meeting is on April 4th. Topics include security patrol and election or re-election of board members.

NEXT MEETING

-Thursday, March 8th, 6:30pm. Host Kirby Upjohn.

- WPHA Annual Meeting at Pembroke is the evening of April 4th.

- New meeting policy reminder: person hosting is responsible for calling or emailing the board members. Please let everyone know the weekend prior to meeting. Contact numbers: Kirby Upjohn 931-8959, Ann Schleihis 561-6340, Chuck Stewart 913-384-1600, Ann Nixon 561-6125, Dave Hardin 668-9580, Susan Hard 531-1950, Glennis Walker 960-3830, Lindsay Wood 756-5956. Meetings will generally be on the first or second Thursday of the month.