

WESTWOOD PARK HOMES ASSOCIATION
Annual Meeting Minutes - April 5, 2011

Board Members Present

The 89th Annual Board Meeting took place at Pembroke Hill's cafeteria. Present at the meeting were Aryn Roth, Ann Nixon, Kirby Upjohn, Todd Bruce and Ann Schleihs. Minutes: Ann Schleihs.

Refreshments and Socializing

At 7:00pm neighbors began to gather and socialize with the meeting starting shortly after. About 25 neighbors attended. Cookies, tea and coffee were provided compliments of Pembroke.

BOARD PRESIDENT INTRODUCTION - Aryn Roth

- Aryn welcomed neighbors to the annual meeting and expressed how important it is to have people who care about their neighborhood. Aryn read this relevant quote by Jane Jacobs, writer and urban theorist, "A competent community builds on the gifts of its people. Our security comes with how many neighbors we know by name and how often we are visible to our neighbors." The term "Eyes on the street" was coined by Jacobs in one of her books about public safety.
- Aryn mentioned she was glad to see so many home improvements going on in our area.

APPROVAL OF THE 2010 MINUTES

- The annual and monthly board meeting minutes are available online at www.ha-kc.org, along with the Westwood Park board roster, newsletter, bylaws and treasurer's report. Information for all the Homes Associations of Kansas City (HAKC) can be found on the website as well.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Kirby

- A treasurer's report handout detailed expenditures for the 2010 year. Kirby gave a financial picture of the association highlighting the typical big expenses such as island maintenance, fountain upkeep, administration, directory, newsletter, annual picnic and postage. Island upkeep accounted for roughly 60% of the overall expenses.
- The homes association should have enough reserves for two years of operating expenses. Kirby pointed out that over the years the reserves have been replenishing, but the association has a ways to go.
- Due to the high cost of printing and postage, a neighbor question the feasibility of sharing newsletters, announcements and the directory electronically. Kirby stated that none of the HAKC are doing electronic directories. In general, people are not comfortable sharing contact information and email. Also, there are too many people in our neighborhood that are not set up for receiving the newsletters via email. In the WPHA bylaws, some announcements such as the annual meeting must be sent regular mail.

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION - Ann Nixon

- The Ed Holland fountain island, Holly island, 51st Street island, Ward Parkway bridge beds and now Westwood Park are all maintained by Westwood Park Homes Association.
- Ann announced she found a new landscaping crew. Ron Sanell, the owner, has already started work on the islands and plantings. Ann and all the neighbors agreed he does good work. She

emphasized that his pricing was very reasonable as well. Neighbors asked if Ron also does work for homeowners, which he does. His number is 913-526-0515.

- Ann, along with the neighbors, thanked Martha Nagley, who lives by the 51st Street island, for continuing to maintain the island's beautiful flowers for everyone to enjoy year after year.

WESTWOOD PARK UPDATE - Aryn

- The new park lights were installed in March. The path is nicely lit in the evening. The lights were another PIAC funded project.

- Joe Montonari of West Plaza Neighborhood Association has poured new concrete caps on the brick surrounding the old shelter.

- The old shelter in the park is long overdue for a new roof. Ann N. and Aryn are in the process of discussing affordable solutions with contractors.

- The water fountain by the playground is expected to be repaired and turned on.

- Westwood Park has a Facebook page. Neighbors are invited to "like" the page for updates about the park and neighborhood.

BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES - Joan Gastinger

- Joan and Kirk Gastinger hosted a meeting in March for the neighborhood block reps. Joan has graciously organized the block reps roster since 2005. There are currently 21 block reps. 3 more are still needed.

- Neighborhood news and events feed through the block reps and then shared with neighbors. It's the most efficient system the neighborhood has to sharing news quickly.

ELECTION OF BOARD DIRECTORS

- Ann S. and Ann N. will remain on the board. New term dates are 2014. Terms are three years.

NEW BUSINESS

- Some people inquired about crime activity in the neighborhood. There were several recent incidents mentioned that involved vehicle break-ins, a stolen vehicle and even expensive wheels stolen off a vehicle. Kirby noted that crime in Kansas City in general has gone down. However, crime involving vehicles has continued to rise. The message to neighbors was to avoid leaving valuables in their vehicle, lock doors. Also, having outdoor house lights on was strongly suggested. Visit www.kcmo.org/police or www.crimereports.com for city updates.

- The neighborhood yard sale is Saturday, June 4. The following Saturday, June 11 is scheduled to be dumpster day for trash and yard waste.

- Neighbors can check the city's website www.kcmo.org to learn more concerning city issues or inquire.

MEETING CLOSE

- Aryn concluded the meeting and thanked those who attended. Watch future newsletters for more neighborhood information. The board looks forward to seeing everyone at neighborhood events throughout the year.
