

WESTWOOD PARK HOMES ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the November 18th, 2008 Board Meeting

Board Members Present

The board meeting took place at Aryn Roth's home. Present at the meeting were Aryn Roth, Kirby Upjohn, Lorrie Keefer, Nina Kim, Carl Mahoney, and Ann Schleih. Minutes: Ann Schleih.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

BARBECUE SUCCESS

- The annual barbecue was again a success. The weather was favorable, the food was satisfying, and the neighbors enjoyed a wonderful evening. Kudos to the board for all their work.
- Financially, the board almost broke even which is the goal. Not renting a tent and having the auction items really helped offset the cost.

PROBLEM PROPERTIES

- A legal notice has been posted at 5050 Ward Parkway, the abandoned construction property. Carl has followed through on this process with the city manager of vacant properties, Nate Pare. The investment owner lives in California has been unreachable. Fines are accumulating, permits are not allowed, and no work can happen until a responsible party responds to the notice. A lein may eventually be necessary. The property cannot be sold until the fines have been settled. A realtor has inquired about the property.
- The former tenant at the problem property on Liberty has moved out and the owner has posted a rental sign. Surely a big relief for the neighbors.

WESTWOOD PARK PROGRESS

- City contracts are being finalized. The next step is the bidding process so no work is expected until spring 2009.
- There was a discussion about how the PIAC money is being managed by the Parks and Recreation department which appears to not be a fair situation since a managing fee is tacked on each year. So a delay in the park project can prove to be quite profitable for the Parks department.

STREETS AND SIGNS

- After a year of persistent calls, Aryn finally got a response from the city to fix the dangerous street curb hole at 47th and State Line. She stated it was a lawsuit waiting to happen.
- A request has been filed with the city to post no parking signs on one side of Bell Street. The street is a very narrow street and can be impassable at times.
- There was a request for a warning sign or flashing lights at the 50th & Ward Parkway bridge. Apparently for drivers waiting at the stop light heading North, visibility from Westbound traffic is blocked by the landscaping and wall. Stop lights already exist.

SECURITY ISSUES - Aryn

- A neighborhood Property Crime Reduction Group meeting took place earlier this month at the Plaza Library. A crowd of attendees discussed neighborhood security and the very serious catch and release problem. Aryn attended, as well as neighbor, Betty Crumpton, who has been active with this issue. The judicial system cannot handle the high number of criminals. In addition there's not enough space in jails and prisons. Criminals with property crimes are being let go only to be allowed on the streets within hours and free to continue repeating crime! A very serious problem. Betty has been working with this group helping to research options that can be used to better handle this complex issue of city-wide crime.
- In October, Aryn and Ann S. attended the neighborhood crime watch training session at the East Patrol Division. Our hope is eventually to receive crime watch signs that can be posted in our neighborhood.

- Aryn received a request to reconsider the use of private patrol. The overall success of the WSC services appeared to be good, however not a high enough percentage of the neighbors paid their fair share to justify continuing the service.
- Solicitors have been in the neighborhood again. Neighbors are asked to not open doors for anyone they do not know.
- The board felt it would be a good idea to have No Soliciting signs available to neighbors. To save on postage, these signs/stickers can be mailed with the January annual bill. A solicitor can be arrested in violation of KCMO City Ordinance Sec. 50-8.5 even if they are unaware that a sign is posted.
- The board was in favor of the next newsletter focusing on security.

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION & PHONE ALERT

- Nina will continue to explore what can be done to create a reliable email distribution list to the entire neighborhood.
- The board is considering a neighborhood phone alert systems. These are available for a fee.

ANNUAL ALL BOARDS MEETING

- Our very own Kirby again did a fabulous job as the emcee for the All Boards Dinner at Hallbrook Country Club earlier this month. Her insightful and witty awards are an annual favorite.

NEXT MEETING

- Next monthly board meeting is scheduled for December, date TBD - 6:30pm at Aryn's house. Look for an email confirmation regarding future meeting dates. Meetings are subject to change or cancellation.