

WESTWOOD PARK HOMES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the November 10th, 2009 Joint Board Meeting with West Plaza Neighborhood Association.

Board Members Present

The board meeting took place at Montanari Fine Jewelry business (owner Joe Montanari). Present at the meeting from Westwood Park Homes Association were Aryn Roth, Teresa Larson, Nina Kim and Ann Schleih. From West Plaza Neighborhood Association were Joe Montanari, Julie Tenenbaum, Marlene Toms, Ed O'Donnell, Rie Clark, Brad McCormack and John Toms. Minutes: Ann Schleih.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

A NEIGHBORLY WELCOME!

- West Plaza Neighborhood Association thoughtfully invited Westwood Park Homes Association to their board meeting. Host Joe Montanari graciously welcomed our board to his jewelry store with warm greetings and cookies. A wonderful meet and greet opportunity to network with our neighbors to find ways of improving the neighborhood we all enjoy and call home.
- Throughout the meeting each association exchanged information about how their board functions--such as dues, number of homes, board member's duties, special events, newsletters, etc.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

- West Plaza made major landscape improvements to 46th & Jarboe and Roanoke. The work was a voluntary effort on behalf of Joe and Ed to beautify the location which much success. The story of their dedicated efforts is featured in their newsletter.
- Westwood Park explained how Ann Nixon has over the years spearheaded the improvements in our neighborhood starting with the fountain and continuing with stone markers.

COMMUNICATION

- Both associations are committed to improving the communication with each other.
- West Plaza provided everyone their recent six-page newsletter. The content included membership information (completely voluntary with a door prize!), holiday safety, garden report, historical Battle of Westport, neighbor recognition, financial report, and two pages of advertising. Very well done!
- The boards will communicate via email, exchange newsletters, plan joint events and perhaps have another joint meeting next year. Included are the emails of all the board members for both associations.

FUTURE JOINT EVENTS

- Everyone in attendance was greatly in favor of having events in 2010 that involved both neighborhoods.
- Dates were set for a joint yard sale on Saturday, June 5th and a "Free for All" the following weekend, Saturday, June 12th. The Free for All is an opportunity for neighbors to get rid of their unwanted items at a free giveaway open to anyone. According to Julie this has been done in other neighborhoods with much success. Donations are almost all gone by 11am! Swinney was suggested as the location of the event. For effective advertising, handouts could be given to people at the garage sale to attend the Free for All the following weekend.
- It was suggested that Dumpster Day perhaps follow within a short time to avoid neighbors leaving items at curb side for too long.
- Another suggestion was Movies in the Park for neighbors and friends to enjoy on a nice summer evening. According to Aryn, the movies can be arranged through KC Parks and Recreations. The movie would be free. Guests would bring a lawn chair and blanket to Westwood Park. Concessions can be sold to help pay for the event.
- The boards would like to touch base in January to confirm dates and perhaps set future event dates.

WESTWOOD PARK PROGRESS

- Jimmi Lossing attended a recent meeting with West Plaza reporting that construction should begin soon in Westwood Park.

SECURITY

- Crime watch signs have been posted. Aryn mentioned there are about a dozen signs. West Plaza is also interested in having signs posted.
- Joe emphasized that the best crime deterrent is having attentive neighbors. Having the boards network and host gatherings will hopefully encourage neighbors to get out and meet each other and look out for each other.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Going green is certainly a direction both boards are encouraging to neighbors and as future events are planned. For example, several people shared glass recycling locations around the city.
- Swinney Dual Language Elementary School, our only neighborhood public school, is also the only dual language school in Kansas City. Rie is the principal at Sweeney. Someone on the board suggested an "adopt-a-school" program.

NEXT MEETING

- Next monthly WPHA board meeting will likely include the annual holiday lights judging. Future date TBA.

WESTWOOD PARK

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