

Countryside Homes Association Monthly Meeting Minutes for 10/14/09, 7:00pm CST

Meeting took place at Minsky's on Main.

Those in attendance:

Terry Rodeghier

Joe Grego

Jim Kraus

Kathy Arthur

Mario Vasquez

Kyle Kelly

7:05pm

Mary Needham from KC Young Audiences - KC Young Audiences is a Non-Profit group in the community that devotes their time and efforts towards providing local children with an outlet for the arts. They are located on the campus of St. Teresa's and are run by Mary Needham. Mary's goal in visiting us this week was to interface with the Board and look for ways to invite neighbors to participate in their Arts Programs. They offer scholarships to under privileged children as well as providing Art education. They are holding a Halloween Fun Night on 10/27/09 and all neighborhood children and their parents are welcome to participate. Additionally, they are holding a Taste Of The Arts Event on November 19, 2009 for anyone interested.

Mary and KC Young Audiences would like for our Board to be their advocates/proponents/ambassadors to the community in order to increase their visibility and participation from the neighborhood. In support of her efforts, we offered the opportunity for them to advertise in any of our materials for a small fee.

KCPD Pays An Unscheduled Visit - Officers Davis and Apple joined us briefly. In providing a brief update on crime statistics and occurrences in the area they reported that a majority of the recent crime activity includes burglaries and robberies. They also reported good cooperation between our hired security and the KCPD. Other than that, no significant news.

Proposal to Adopt a Standardized Meeting Format/Agenda – Kathy Arthur proposed that we adopt a standard meeting format. Her proposal is that we conduct each monthly meeting accordingly. More info to follow from Kathy in this regard but the basic idea is that we begin each meeting with a opening, a call to order, roll call, procedural follow ups, etc...While it was felt by some that a more formal process might not be necessary, no one was opposed. Kathy will send a template via email for us to consider and unless there are objections, we agree to formalize the process.

Communication of Information - It was also proposed by Kathy Arthur that we set up a separate email contact list for Community News Communication vs. the Community Crime Watch List that Kathy currently maintains. There was some debate on the need for a second list as the current Community Watch List is also used for non-crime related information including street closures, recycling dates, lost pets, etc. An agreement was reached that the Crime Watch list should be used for crime updates as well as general neighborhood/area related information including street closures, recycling dates, lost pets, etc. A second list will be created by our President, Terry Rodeghier, for the purpose of releasing Community News specific to Countryside Homes Association. An email will be sent to all of those neighbors whom are currently on the Crime Watch List asking interested neighbors to opt in to this new list. Additionally, it was suggested by Kyle Kelly that we amend the by-laws to allow us to send communication electronically rather than US Mail.

Historic Designation – According to Mario Vasquez, Brad Wolfe, who works for KCMO, had hired interns to complete the physical survey of the East Side of our neighborhood. Brad also submitted a Grant application to cover 60% of the cost of nomination documents to justify the inclusion of the east side of the homes association into the Historic District. The initial bid was \$4,000 to complete the nomination documents. Receiving the grant would reduce our cost to \$1,600 or so for his procedure. We will be notified of the Grant Request results in December of 2009. Once the grant information is received, we will then make a decision on how to move forward.

Westover & Wyandotte Islands – The neighbors have submitted a proposal for the design of the Westover Island which they (the neighbors) have maintained on a volunteer basis for many years. Terry Rodeghier will obtain proposals from three individual landscape/design firms in conjunction with and based upon the neighbor's plan. Our hope is to move the PIAC funds that were recently granted to us to renovate the decorative columns throughout the neighborhood and instead use the PIAC money to fund a bulk of the island renovation work. And then we'd use the HOA's beautification funds to re-furbish the decorative columns throughout the neighborhood. The reason for this is that the decorative columns are on mostly private property and PIAC funds cannot be used to renovate private property.

Dumpster Day – The Dumpster Day was a huge success. Thanks to Terry, Mario, Joe G, Jim Kraus, and Kevin Vaughn for helping. We checked each visitor's ID both to verify that they lived within the boundaries of the HOA and also to verify that they were current on dues. Two neighbors were turned away for being delinquent with their dues. One neighbor returned promptly with full payment and the second left without returning. Also, special thanks to Jim Kraus and Brookside Real Estate for sponsoring the 2nd trash dumpster.

51st & Main – Trees have been planted and gardens have been sectioned on the property owned by DST. They have allocated 32 gardening beds and are also constructing a tool shed on the property as well as a shelter. More details to follow when they become available.

Holiday Lighting – This subject was tabled due to time constraints.

Budget Items – We've collected an additional \$3,000 in dues this month. Thanks again to Jim Kraus who has personally collected dues from a number of delinquent residents. Our expenses for the month were primarily security. Unfortunately though, our expenses have exceeded our collections as our budget for the current year was based upon 100% participation from the neighbors in dues payment. Next year's budget should be adjusted accordingly to represent less than a 100% participation in dues payment.

Next Newsletter – Articles are due in by mid November. Keep in mind items for the April meeting.

Trees on 55th and 57th Streets – The trees have been over pruned and are not doing well. Many of the trees had interfered with the KCP&L power lines, thus the excessive pruning. On 10/16/09 there will be a meeting to evaluate how to remove the trees and what to replace them with. Also of concern: who's going to pay for the removal and replacement of the trees? It appears that 30-40 trees are involved. KCPL & KCMO are cooperating with this effort. We agree that we'll commit up to \$2,000 if necessary towards this effort in order to demonstrate that we have a vested interest. Kathy Arthur will attend the meeting with the hopes that KCP&L

and KCMO will pay the entire bill, but will offer to contribute on our behalf if necessary. If necessary, we will obtain the \$2,000 as follows:

\$450 – unused legal budget for 2009

\$200 – set aside for a second movie night

\$100 – set aside for the “call service” that won’t be used as we move to electronic info delivery.

\$700 – set aside and unused from the HOA tree planting program

\$450 – savings achieved from making the news letter electronic and saving postage and printing.

Total saved: \$1,900

Security Update – Many traffic violations have been cited. Questionable people are regularly stopped and questioned. Security officers have been asking people to close garages and doors. Suspected drug dealing has been identified at some residences. Continued problems with unlawful solicitors have been discussed. Oxford house is being watched. Kathy will distribute a report to the board members monthly pertaining to the actions of our hired Security force.

Superintendent of KC Schools – Superintendent of schools will be at an open meeting on 10/22 to discuss the state of the KC Public School District.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 2nd @ 7:00pm, Minsky’s on Main.
Joe Grego, Loyal Secretary, Countryside Homes Association.