

**Countryside Homes Association Monthly Meeting Minutes** for 1/13/2010, 7:00pm CST

Meeting took place at Jack Gage on Main Street.

**Those in attendance:**

Terry Rodeghier

Joe Grego

Kathy Arthur

Mario Vasquez

Jim Kraus

Mike O'Neill

Mary Kay

**7:05pm**

**Review of Minutes From Previous Meeting**

**7:10pm Mario Vasquez' Treasurer's Report** – To date we've incurred \$3,020 in snow plowing expenses. Our annual budget amount for this category is \$2,000. As a result, going forward we'll be more selective in choosing when and if to plow. Currently if we receive 4 inches or more of snow, the plow company contacts the HOA for permission to proceed. Additionally, if need be, we are prepared to pull \$1,500 from our reserve balance to cover any necessary plowing. Another option under consideration is to plow only the sloped streets on the East Side of Countryside, as the slopes create the potential for severe slippage and lack of traction. We'll take it as it comes.

**Safety Update** – There was a “Drug Bust” in the month of December at a home located on E. 54<sup>th</sup> Street and 3 people were arrested. It's alleged that the individuals were selling marijuana out of the home. In the meantime, at the time of this meeting we were still waiting on the monthly reports for November and December, provided by Officer Brett Parsons regarding our Enhanced Security Program. Also of interest is that UMKC is offering a complementary Self –Defense Course in January.

**7:45pm Communications Update** - Quarterly Newsletter for March is right around the corner and must be finalized by the end of February. Please have your articles ready at that time. Regarding the newly created Countryside E-Mail List, please refer your neighbors to Terry Rodeghier in order to add them to the list. Just to reiterate, this list will be used for the communication of Countryside specific information only including all future Newsletters and other communications.

**Social** – Annual Meeting Update – It was suggested tonight that we consider reserving the facilities at Visitation's Tighe Hall for the purpose of hosting our 2010 Annual Meeting currently scheduled for 4/13/2010. Mike O'Neill has agreed to contact Visitation regarding facility availability and Mario will visit with the school Chef, Mark Blanck, to find out more about food/beverage options and costs. Regarding the **Neighborhood Welcome Baskets**, this committee is running low on product and as a result we'll need to check with Pryde's Old Westport to see if they are willing to make additional donations. And in return...we'll offer free advertising in our communications materials.

**Island Maintenance** – Mario provided a rough draft of an Island Landscaping proposal for the Westover/Wyandotte Island. This rough draft has provided valuable information including the square footage of the plot. This may enable us to shop for the project on an “a la carte” basis. Island Westover & Wyandotte. More to follow....

Community Garden Plots – No New News in this area. Terry Rodeghier will call for an update. More info as it comes available.

**Special Projects** – KCPL/KC Parks Department/Countryside HOA Partnership – this group has convened to create a plan to remove and replace the 18 trees that are dying along 55<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Streets. The final details are that Countryside HOA will be contributing \$2000 towards the total project cost of \$4,000+. Our cooperation and financial commitment is the force that has allowed this project to go forward by bridging the cost gap between the Parks Dept and KCPL. The tree removal and replacement will begin after Jan 1, 2010, weather permitting.

**Expansion of Historic District** – An update of status was provided by Mario Vasquez. We have received a grant of \$7,500 for the purpose of conducting the due diligence necessary to expand the National Historic Registry to include the homes in our Association that are East of Main St. Additionally, we've also allocated \$4,000 of HOA funds for this same purpose. Inclusion in the National Historic Registry enables residents to receive Federal Tax credits for approved home renovations. **PIAC Request** – Terry Rodeghier received a call recently from the City of KC asking that he/we prioritize our PIAC request so that they may have the ability in reviewing our request to approve some of the items that we've proposed. Our top priorities were listed as follows:

1. Water & Power to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Street Island
2. Lights @ 52<sup>nd</sup> Street Park

**General Topics** –

Mario Vasquez is still working on obtaining a re-classification of our HOA as a charitable group, thus allowing for tax deductible donations to our group. In order to accomplish this we would have to amend our Corporate Charter.

Movie Night – We are considering contracting with a private firm to operate any future Movie Nights.

Adjourned: 8:30pm

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, February 3rd @ 7:00pm, Minsky's on Main.  
Joe Grego, Loyal Secretary, Countryside Homes Association.