

WHHA Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, November 12, 2013, 7:00 pm.
Country Club United Methodist Church, Brookside

In attendance: Mark Forsythe, Lisa Duncan, Tom Usher, Marty McDonnell, Pierce Patterson, Tom Porto. Absent: Eric Youngberg, Virgil Larson, John Rich.

Tom Usher welcomed attending neighbors to the Annual meeting and introduced the WHHA Board members. He noted that Ellie Callison has assumed WHHA's media role; and Tim Sady will become caretaker of WHHA's website.

Our guest speaker was David Johnson, an advocate for KCMO's new streetcars. He explained the routes to be constructed, and that four electric streetcars had already been purchased. The streetcar stops will have level loading platforms and passengers will be allowed to bring bicycles on board. Operation is slated for Fall 2015, and there will be no fare to ride them. Residents have shown a strong preference for expansion in the Brookside and Waldo area. David said an increase in home prices in close proximity to the routes is anticipated, which would help in any assessment fees.

New Business:

Mark Forsythe made a motion that annual dues be increased from a base of \$12 to \$30. Tom Porto seconded. Discussion followed. Sue Scholl stated that elderly neighbors could find the increase a struggle. Mrs. Sady noted that senior citizens can't be grandfathered in to pay only the current amount as it is not in WHHA's charter. Others agreed that this minimal increase is a small amount for anyone affording to live here, and that dues hadn't been raised since the 1980's. Tom Usher noted that our funds are minimal enough not to take on larger neighborhood improvements and we could benefit from greater protection as well- the dues increase would make a healthy difference. Pierce stated that many board members have been using their own resources along with their own time to maintain and beautify our public spaces. Tim Scholl asked that the vote be taken; it passed. The dues increase will be noted in the next newsletter.

Tom Usher reminded neighbors of the Planning Committee's efforts and continuing improvements, and introduced the other board members on the committee: besides Tom, Pierce, Eric, and Virgil participate. Goals for 2014 include common public area ongoing maintenance, dead tree removal, and exploring a traffic- calming landscape option at Huntington and Wornall's east intersection.

Election of new Board members; Mark Forsythe moved that all incumbents be re-elected. Marty seconded. Tom asked for nominations from the floor. Pierce spoke on Virgil's behalf as he was absent, Lisa spoke on Eric's behalf for the same reason. All incumbents were elected.

Tom Usher gave John Rich's treasurer report. Lisa moved to approve the annual budget and Mark seconded. A question arose concerning the new dues increase becoming surplus. Mark suggested the Board table this issue so the budget can be revised to show

the increase, and take the subject up next month's board meeting. Tom Usher agreed. Marty moved to table the budget and Mr. Callison seconded.

Old Business:

Updates on 51st and Brookside location and the proposed Whole Foods store: the project continues to be in the designing phase.

Updates on Bryant School: the city has taken it off the market due to the potential re-use as a school.

Water sewer line insurance: the city offered an insurance program to residents this fall, discussion followed as some residents didn't have full knowledge.

Discussion over the recently- removed traffic signal at 59th and Wornall led to cross walks: most complaints concerned lesser walkability in the area. Since several cross-walks have been removed, the addition of cross-walks may help. Others commented on speeding cars seeming to increase due to the absence of the signals. Captain John Trainor had been Beth Antrup's contact when dealing with area traffic issues, Lisa will locate the appropriate contact information to share.

Mark moved to adjourn as it was after 9 pm, and Marty seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted- Lisa Sanford Duncan, Secretary