

WHHA Annual Meeting  
Thursday, November 6, 2014, 7:00 pm  
Country Club United Methodist Church, Brookside

Board members in attendance: Lisa Duncan, Marty McDonnell, Tom Usher, John Rich, Eric Youngberg, Tom Porto.

WHHA residents created a good turnout for the annual neighborhood meeting. There were refreshments and good conversations as we got down to business.

Elections:

President Tom Usher welcomed gathered members of WHHA at 7:05 pm and began the meeting by introducing current board members and announcing vacant board positions needing to be filled. New neighbors agreeing to fill the positions are Sandy Leeds, Lynn Peterson, and Tim Sady. Eric moved that we adopt all candidates as board members; there were multiple seconds and the motion carried.

Tom explained what PIAC grants are and how they have enabled the Board in the last five years to manage reconstruction of the Huntington Island sculpture, the islands' new stone wall and landscaping, the new playground and lighting at Triangle Park, and various landscaping improvements and tree plantings. Eric Youngberg is our grant writer submitting for PIAC grants, and the board is grateful for his expertise. The board also recognized recent board member Virgil Larson, who implemented much of the landscaping upgrades, produced the newsletter, and has done much of the recent tree and landscaping maintenance and watering. The board recognized recent board member Mark Forsythe's efforts as well; Mark takes care of WHHA's facebook page and emails neighbors regarding snow ordinances, trash pick up dates, and other updates.

Finance:

John Rich presented WHHA's financial report and budget. He explained HA- KC's role in our association and record our finances for us. The newsletter has been on hiatus pending a new person to produce it, but the line item remains. \$1,500 is also to be added to Capital Improvements as a line item change. Tom Porto moved to approve the budget as amended to show that change and the motion carried.

WHHA is named after the historic John Wornall House, and gives Wornall House an annual \$500 donation. Janelle Sjue, a past board member and neighbor from Wornall House's board, was present to accept it and elaborate on Wornall House activities with the public. A historic preservation architectural firm, Susan Richards Johnson and Associates, is doing their landscape plan. Eric also serves on Wornall House's grounds committee.

Tom Usher presented other topics and updates:

- Planning:

Tom is head of the Planning Committee and described their efforts for Triangle Park's maintenance. WHHA spends \$2,500 annually to ensure Parks and Rec Dept. does extra mowing, pre-emergent, and aeration to maintain good condition for park users.

- Bryant Elementary School status: KCMO is postponing a decision in the usage of the existing school building pending a master plan study. They will hold future community meetings where neighbors can voice opinions and get feedback. Academy Lafayette is currently pursuing the Southwest High School building for Fall 2015, and not Bryant Elementary.

The evening's presentation was given by WHHA board member Eric Youngberg. Eric is a senior relationship manager with Neighborworks America, who's focus is affordable housing and community development and preservation. Eric's topic was WHHA's Historic Homes and Noted Architects. Eric remarked that Kansas City, Missouri has the highest percentage of architects, engineers and designers per capita in the nation. Clarence Shepard alone designed 600 houses in the area. Several architects' residential designs were noted for beautiful detailing and features such as an attached garage. The presentation featured many of our homes, and Eric provided sources for owners to research their homes further, stating that tracing water permits can show records of original ownership.

Janelle asked how we as a community can protect our architectural history. One method is to apply for historic district status, another is for overlay ordinances. For instance, Brookside shopping district requires business owners to be local, does not allow additional parking to be constructed, and adheres to maximum sizes set by their ordinance. Eric suggested that WHHA should create an overlay district. The association to our north; Countryside, has expanded their historic district and is now monitored by Landmark Preservation.

#### Q and A Session:

- Carolyn Helmkamp mentioned the difficulty in crossing Wornall at 59<sup>th</sup> street since the stoplight was removed over a year ago. It was advised to discuss this matter when the new councilperson had been elected.

- Sidewalks: many of our existing sidewalk sections are in need of replacement. Some neighborhood options to pursue: self- finance on a per block basis. Or Bulk purchase agreements, something that Countryside recently did. Mark Forsythe explained that the city worked a program in 1985- 87 to replace all the sidewalks, financing individual homeowners. The city may revisit that again if we propose the option.

- Trees: Eric is our resident tree expert, and he answered a question regarding ash tree density, which is 28% overall and 44% on Brookside Blvd. with a high percentage on Wyandotte. The emerald ash bore is a threat to all ash trees. The aggravating sweet gum trees that were mass planted in the 1970's have a 50 year life span, which is a good/bad situation, notes Mark Forsythe. Eric urged neighbors to plant new trees now in anticipation of losing both ash and sweet gum trees in the near future.

- Mark Forsythe mentioned that our existing streetlamps are aging and will eventually need replaced. The existing style is above tree canopies, and doesn't provide good path

lighting for sidewalks and streets. He suggested exploring the option for traditional lamppost styles with KCMO or applying for a PIAC grant to help fund replacements that better fit the neighborhood.

Neighbor Jim Van Neenan moved to adjourn at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted- Lisa Sanford Duncan, Secretary