

Windsor Heights Neighborhood Association

Board meeting minutes from Sunday, December 9, 2007

Hosted by Dave Jenison

Attendees: David Lange, Dave Jenison, Joan Wieder, Pat Moran, Stacey Long, and guests Nancy Rambo and Cindy Chamberlin

Membership Committee

The meeting opened with a report from Nancy Rambo, chair of the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee does not support a voluntary dues structure of any kind. They feel that having only paid memberships will keep the organization viable. The Membership Committee continues to support annual dues of between \$10 and \$15 per person.

There was much discussion that centered upon our existing by-laws and how to best communicate to our members that there is a real need to change the amount of the dues from what is currently listed in the by-laws. Feedback from citizens indicates that the current \$30 membership fee is the biggest detriment to increasing our membership. Pat recommended that we tell the membership (via email and also postal mail) that we are proposing a lower dues structure and that this proposal will be voted on at the January 20, 2008 general meeting.

David Lange moved that we propose a \$15 a person annual membership fee for individuals and that the Business annual membership fee will be \$30. This proposal is in accordance with our current By-laws, Article 10, Section 1 and Article 11. Pat Moran seconded the motion. All board members present voiced a "yes" vote to this proposal. It was noted that a quorum was present.

We need to send this statement out to the membership in December 2007 and also in January the week of the 13th. Nancy Rambo offered to call or to write to those members without an email address on file to notify them of the proposed dues amount change. Nancy will coordinate this activity with our board secretary Sandy Davidson.

In consideration of the voting rights membership fee we agreed that we would oversee the Neighborhood Watch organization as a separate, ad hoc committee. Neighborhood Watch meetings will be held separate from the WHNA meetings, but generally either immediately before or immediately after the WHNA meeting because we anticipate lots of people will be interested in both. The intent is still to use the WHNA's org structure (i.e. the board) to oversee the incubation of the Neighborhood Watch group. We will evaluate the Neighborhood Watch after a year's time and assess whether it should split off to a freestanding organization.

General Membership Meeting

A date and time for the meeting was announced: January 20, 2008 at 5:30 pm at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church. The Neighborhood Watch meeting will follow immediately after, from 7:00 – 8:00.

Cindy Chamberlin, Social Committee Chair, entertained a discussion regarding the best foods to serve at this meeting. She recommends snacks and drinks only. The board agreed with her recommendations and also her idea to save a potluck dinner for the April general meeting.

Agenda for the General Membership Meeting

The board suggested ideas for the program for the January 20th meeting. Pat Moran distributed a list of suggested goals and we spoke of their pros/cons.

In addition to Pat's suggestions:

1. David proposed adding the Windsor Heights Ice Cream Social night. The date of Sunday, August 24th will be announced at the January, April and July general meetings. At the same time, we will solicit hosts for this citywide event.
2. Dave Jenison proposed a goal of developing signs for the city streets, metal permanent signs that mention the Windsor Heights Neighborhood Association.
3. Community-wide exchange of volunteer services.
4. Free Clinic staffed by a doctor and/or a nurse.
5. Continue to attend City Council Meetings.
6. Sponsor a recognition for our volunteer fire fighters.

Pat will prepare a list of suggested plans/goals that will be distributed at the meeting.

Plans/goals for 2008

1. Hand out to the membership a suggested list of goals.
2. Invite the membership to comment on these goals.
3. Invite the membership to come forward with additions to the list.

Treasurer's report

Nominating Committee Chair should ask for volunteers to serve on the board

Audit Committee Chair should be introduced

David will work on drafting a more formalized agenda and present it for discussion within the next couple of weeks.

Agenda for the Neighborhood Watch meeting

Logan Carlson from the Windsor Heights police department will be contacted by either David Lange or Dave Jenison. We will communicate with him our desires to have an informative program the night of January 20th. Perhaps we can invite someone from the City of West Des Moines who has knowledge of many of the details of this program.

Other Topics

We talked briefly about some unintended ambiguities and conflicts in our by-laws that make them somewhat difficult to interpret. We didn't formally assign a project, but it would be a good idea for all of us to review those by-laws for the purpose of identifying unintended ambiguities and conflicts so they can be clarified and/or corrected.

We decided not to combine the Community Service and Social committees at this time. Our hope is that lower membership fees will generate more members, some of who can be recruited to these committees, especially the former.

Next board meeting

January 13th at Windsor Heights Hy-Vee, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm.