

**West Salem**  
Neighborhood Association  
**Tuesday, January 5, 2010**  
*Minutes*

Josh Sutter began the meeting at 7:00pm. 14 people were in attendance, including the president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary.

**7:00 Greg Levoniuk**

**Treasurer Report**

Greg reported an operating account balance of \$3,087.52, with included payment for the WSNA website. The special account balance is \$205.

**Rick Henterly**

**Newsletter Update**

The January and February newsletter are combined each year, meaning the next issue will go out in early February. Rick is trying to solicit enough annual advertisements to make the newsletter self-sufficient this year. Advertisements will be paid up front to avoid the issues of 2009.

**Joann**

**Neighborhood Watch**

Automobile break-ins have decreased dramatically recently, probably due in part to greater vigilance by the community. Unfortunately domestic violence is up and concentrated in the Green Street/Cotton Street area. (Neighborhood Watch update: houses have been broken into on Granville between bank and Franklin, and on Green Street. Lock your doors, don't leave blinds open with valuables in full view, and watch for and report any suspicious activity).

**Josh Sutter**

**PCCI update**

A "Dine of the Parkway" event will be held again on January 25 with local businesses donating some of the money from their patrons to the Peters Creek Community Initiative. Also, a petition on the website Facebook has been started with the hopes of bringing a Trader Joe's store to the West Market (corner of Academy and Peters Creek).

**Josh Sutter**

**Washington Park Initiative**

Attempts are being made to purchase the land between Shuman Street and the Family Services building with the hopes of preserving it. The Initiative is trying to gauge the city's commitment to supporting this effort, but financially and otherwise. A meeting to discuss this project will be scheduled in the next 2 months.

**Josh/Carol/Joann**

**Housing Update**

A meeting with city officials on January 7 will be attended by Josh Sutter and others to discuss the rooming house standards, why the city approves homes that are seemingly in clear violation of city codes, and why it appears the city is reluctant to pursue rooming house owners and chooses to give them loopholes to escape changing their properties.

**7:20 Josh**

**West Salem receives "PRESERVE AMERICA COMMUNITY" status**

West Salem is one of 19 neighborhoods chosen to be a "Preserve America" community. We received a letter from First Lady, Michelle Obama, formally announcing that we had received this award. The Obama's will be in Greensboro in February, and WSNA officers are attempting to have the President and First Lady make a brief stop in our neighborhood.

Some of the advantages of this award are:

Receive letter of recognition, a formal road sign for the neighborhood, and the use of the official logo on all advertisements, events, newsletters and publications.

It gives the neighborhood access to numerous federal grants created to preserve the heritage of the community. This could possibly allow up to make improvements to Granville Park (handicap accessible, amphitheater, performing stage), install period street lamps, and do other community improvements.

**7:30 Josh**

**WSNA 2010 Goals and Suggestions**

Continue addressing housing issues in the neighborhood

Fundraisers with specific purposes – raising money/food/items for local food pantries and charities

Ensure a fully-booked "Music in the Park" season this spring and summer

Pursue the possibility of grant money from the "Preserve America Community" status for improvements

Do a "curb appeal – the block" approach to our neighborhood, either by using neighborhood funds to get local contractors involved or by using volunteers of the neighborhood. The intent would be to make improvements to the front of a few select properties in the neighborhood to bring up the appearance of the entire neighborhood.

Pursue options with assisting the former Trophy shop property on Granville at Academy to be community-oriented. With proper zoning, we could get some boutique-style shops with possibilities like a garden shop, coffee house, or small pub.

**7:55 Josh**

**Open Floor**

We need a dedicated social events committee chairperson who will have the support of a committee and is willing to be the leader. We'd like to have more neighborhood social events this year, but we need a strong committee to accomplish this.

We discussed the possibility of combining our Fall Festival with the Garden Tour this year. This is still up for discussion and open communications will be held with the Garden Club to ensure that we do not take away from their event.

**8:00 Josh Sutter**

**Adjourn**