

West Salem
Neighborhood Association
Tuesday, February 3, 2009
Minutes

Josh Sutter began the meeting at 7:00pm. 13 people were in attendance, including the president, treasurer, and secretary.

Josh Sutter

Summary of January 2009 Meeting

Summary of officer election results was related:

President: Josh Sutter
Vice-President: Steven Shafer
Treasurer: Greg Levoniuk
Secretary: Rick Henterly

Summarized bylaw updates incorporating new term lengths and limits – will be posted to website
Officer eligibility requirements will be discussed next meeting, goal is to avoid conflict of interest

Rick Henterly

Granville Park Bulb Planting Summary

Bulbs were planted along the sidewalks and bridges throughout Granville park in time for the spring. Due to the cold weather, the remainder of the bulbs will be planted once the ground has thawed. Sprigg Parker will coordinate contacting volunteers and scheduling the planting. Del suggested that some bulbs be planted at the corner of the community garden by the garden sign.

It was noted that the Granville Park lights are turning off at 11pm rather than staying on all night. Carol volunteered to contact Tim to follow up on the change in the light schedule.

Josh Sutter

Updates

Summarized ongoing West Salem street closings due to construction and repairs

Two of the seven Board of Advisor positions are currently open; attendees were asked to submit their nominations before the March 2009 WSNA meeting. Mike Anthony, Patricia Olmstead, and Irma Jackson were nominated for the positions. Chris Leak will be contacted to see if he would like to be nominated as well. A suggestion was proposed to make special emphasis to reach out to interested persons who will bring more diversity to the WSNA leadership roles.

Greg Levoniuk

Treasury Report

The WSNA account has a balance of \$544.73. The “special events” account from the grant has a remaining balance of \$225.

Housing Initiatives Update

The rooming house registration deadline has passed with only five property managers having signed up. The potential fine for non-compliant owners is \$100/day. Currently the Initiative is pursuing over 15 suspected rooming houses in the community. Neighbors can anonymously report violators to westsalemconcerns@yahoo.com. Code violators should be reported immediately for safety and reduction of community nuisances. West Salem friendly investor, Jeff MacIntosh, has purchased 1005 Franklin for rehabilitation, and the early results are encouraging! They are currently looking for historical photographs of this property to use during the construction. Apartments located on Mulberry and the alley at Piedmont Baptist are adding much trash and litter to the neighborhood and must be addressed, either by fining the property owners or with littering citations. Rats were raised as concern among some neighbors who have noticed a recent increasing in their appearances. Peter's Creek/Academy Commercial section also a contributor to trash and conditions that lead to blight.

Peter's Creek Community Initiatives Update

The Initiative is working with local businesses to improve the overall quality of the commercial property spaces along Peter's Creek and the neighborhood. Poe Street is in talks to be closed permanently and have a restaurant or similar business be built. The Trophy Shop at Academy and Granville was being leased to church groups due to zoning restrictions, but the owner has it listed for sale. The PCCI has interest in this site, as well as others for a community center, which said some available space could be used by the WSNA or benefit its residents through community events. Trader Joe's is being looked at as a possible tenant for the West Salem Shopping Center. A West Salem representative is encouraged to be part of the Initiative's Board of Advisors, a group of 15 people that represent the community and non-profit groups. The next meeting of the Initiative will be February 23, 2009 at the Green Street Church. All are welcome to attend.

WSNA Fundraisers

Fundraiser ideas were requested from the attendees, and many ideas were suggested. West End requests members to pay \$20/year but then rewards them with "coupon" books for community savings. Another restaurant raffle, similar to that done with the Celtic Café gift certificate, was suggested. A community Yard Sale in the Moravian Church parking lot was proposed where neighbors would donate items that would all be sold to raise money for the WSNA. This event could be coupled with a bake sale, or other activities like children's play events such as inflatable bounce houses, for a "Carnival-like" atmosphere. West Salem T-shirts were another great idea, with many options including having people pre-order to prevent overstock, having local artists create designs, a design contest, etc. Music in the park has historically been a large expense for us, and it was suggested that we look to the School of the Arts or other local musical talent that may not require the \$400 stage. A suggestion was also offered to have several groups of different musicians playing at once in different areas of the park. We also discussed having local businesses (Burke Street, for example) donate items/food that would then be sold to raise money for the neighborhood. The past success of the Cottage Garden Tour makes it an attractive option to bring back in the 2009 Winter Season.

Items for Meeting, March 2009

Representatives from the new Baseball Stadium will be in attendance to discuss detailed stadium features and partnering for community activities, including possible fundraising opportunities.

Community Garden: Del Perry requests the community garden to be included for discussion on the March meeting agenda.

Neighborhood Watch:

Due to waning coordination, the Neighborhood Watch has fallen short of previous benefits provided to members and area residents. With recurring crime issues and more serious recent occurrences, there is an immediate need to reinforce these activities. In the interim between the March meeting, efforts will be made to find individuals to step up for coordinating roles and Neighborhood Watch activities will be a point of emphasis at the March meeting.

Easter Egg Hunt celebration:

With Easter approaching Sunday, April 12th, efforts need to get underway if event is desired this year. Volunteers sought and preliminary activity planning to take place at the March meeting to ensure a successful event.

Please Note: Upcoming Neighborhood Activities

1. February 10, 2009: Police Community Meeting: at the First Alliance Church
2. February 19, 2009: West Salem Garden Club meeting, 6:30 PM, Green Street Church
3. February 22, 2009: Winston-Salem Neighborhood Alliance Annual Meeting at the Edwards Building Auditorium at the Children's Home in Winston Salem
4. May 2, 2009 – Peters Creek Community Initiative "Clean Sweep"
5. Citizens' Police Academy – Registration deadline March 2, starts March 17th

8:30 PM

Adjourn