

West Salem
Neighborhood Association
Tuesday, April 7, 2009
Minutes

Josh Sutter began the meeting at 7:10pm. 27 people were in attendance, including the president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. Molly Leight (city council representative) was also present.

7:10 Josh Sutter

Old Business Summary

Josh summarized last month's discussion of the West Salem Newsletter, where we talked about its role in the neighborhood, value to the residents, and constraints on advertising. Josh also reminded us that that neighborhood needs to have a focused 2009 mission with definite goals and needs/funds to achieve them.

7:12 Board of Advisors Election

Three nominees were proposed to fill the 3 openings in the Board of Advisors. All three were unanimously approved for the Board. Congrats to the new members!

7:15 Officer J.R. Lewis

Registration of West Salem Neighborhood Watch

Gina Mcclamrock, charged with organizing our Neighborhood Watch, introduced Officer Lewis. He began by summarizing the 96 police calls in our area for the past 3 months. He formally registered our Neighborhood Watch, then gave some details – we would be provided two free street signs for the group, and additional signs can be purchased for \$50/each. Yard signs are available for approximately \$7-10 each (Margaret Mills supplies them, 768-0404).

Officer Lewis then described the organization of the Neighborhood Watch. Gina will serve as the chairperson who coordinates meetings and communicates information to the neighborhood (through the listserv and other means). she reports to Bob Litaker, president of the Board of Neighborhood Watch of Winston. Block Captains will look after individual streets.

For general safety, Officer Lewis again reminded everyone to lock their houses and cars, use the non-emergency number whenever suspicious activity is observed, and call 911 if there is ever any doubt.

Officer Lewis can be reached at 336-773-7935, but he stresses that you should call 911 or the non-emergency line for time-sensitive issues – he only checks his voicemails periodically.

8:00 Bruce Bailiff, Code Enforcement Supervisor

Housing Initiatives Q&A

Josh introduced Bruce Bailiff, the Code Enforcement Supervisor for Winston's Department of Housing and Neighborhood Services. Mr. Bailiff had been previously given a list of questions prepared by our West Salem Housing Services Committee, and he brought responses to as many questions as he could.

Mr. Bailiff provided a great deal of information, and specific details can be obtained from Josh Sutter and the Housing Services committee. General information is as follows:

Use City Link @ 727-8000 to report violations – make sure your message has the address of only the property in question. This system is complaint-based, with properties with the most complaints receiving the most attention from the Housing & Neighborhood Services

Our local Housing Services contact is Amy Leneer, but all reports should still be made through City Link.

The Department is working hard, but many properties targeted by the WSNA are grandfathered-in under current regulations, are working with the Department, or are meeting minimum standards. However, even though the process is long for the Department, they do not stop or give up on properties – they continue to pursue them however they can.

A legal Rooming House can hold up to 8 people.

9:10 Josh Sutter

Gateway Proposed Plans

Josh summarized the issues surrounding the Gateway Ventures plan to conduct clearing of vegetation behind the Family Services building off Broad Street. The work would also include spreading a large pile of soil that is assumed to be contaminated with various wastes from the prior uses of the property. A Winston Salem Planning Board meeting is scheduled for April 9th for the rezoning necessary for this proposed plan by Gateway Ventures, as it was not in their original plan.

A group of individuals from both the West Salem and Washington Park neighborhoods have gathered to address this issue, keep the Gateway committed to their original plan of preserving as much of the natural space as possible, and

(Update – The Planning Board had a split vote of 4-4, so it proceeds to the May 5 city council meeting with no recommendation one way or the other. The City Council meeting is open to the public. Email Rick Henterly for details)

9:40 Josh Sutter

Easter Egg Hunt Reminder

The neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 11 between 2-4pm in Granville Park.

8:41 Greg Levoniuck

Treasurer Update

The special account still has a balance of \$225 (no change from last month). The general account will have a balance of \$564.14 after the check for the April newsletter production is cut.

8:43 Josh Sutter

Community Garden Update

Del Perry will hold planning meeting on April 17th at 6:30 at the Community Garden to discuss plot assignment. Free mulch is being sought from the community if it's available, but we will use the free City mulch if nothing else is available.

9:45 Sprigg Parker

Garden Club Tax-Exempt Status Update

The members of the West Salem Garden Club have decided to pursue their own tax-exempt status rather than merge with the West Salem Neighborhood Association at this time. They will review their options and see what best serves their organization, and then revisit with the WSNA later if necessary.

Upcoming Neighborhood Activities

1. April 21st – Urban Pioneer Meeting by Jeff MacIntosh at Krankies at 7:00pm
2. May 2– Peters Creek Community Initiative "Clean Sweep" at 9:00am
3. May 5 – City Council Meeting where the Gateway rezoning issue will be discussed

9:55 PM

Adjourn