



WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

Neighborhood Association

Washington Heights Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

March 15, 2007 – 7:00 pm

St. Sebastian Gathering Place
1747 N. 54th Street

Present

Ken Reed
Sarah/Anthony Lipek
Dan/Patti Stotmeister
Michael Rosenberg
Lawrence Poggenburg
Mary Jumes
Jim Bigger
Paul Barsch
Jon Rupprecht
Vivienne Tait
Wendy Slusar-Mischler
Marty Radocha
Anne DeLeo
David Faust

(continued)

Lyn Rivera
Sheldon Walker
Carol Wernette
Bill Dummer
Debbie Knepke

Excused

Maribeth Celek
Jim Grote
Dan Schley
Kristin Leguizamon
Michelle Mitten
Michael Ward

Absent

Tom/Pepper LaMothe
Ross Torsrud
Clintel Hasan
Chris Mandel

I. Introduction and Greeting - President

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm

- A. Approval of agenda, Carol moved, Bill 2nd, approved
- B. Approval of minutes, Mary moved, Dave 2nd, approved

II. Reports

A. Youth Representative – Michelle Mitten & Clintel Hasan

- 1. Mary read the Highlights of Michelle's emails (Bowling Event is moving forward, BookClub has added a second book aimed at younger children) (see attached).

B. Executive Committee – Paul Barsch

- 1. Debbie is going to ask her boss to be our guest speaker at the Annual Meeting (speak about volunteerism).
- 2. Michael Rosenberg met with the Executive Committee to review what changes should be made. Thank you to Mike for tackling this task for us. (see attached). A lengthy discussion ensued discussing some of the changes (basically cleaning up some of the grammar, restructuring the Executive committee's terms & duties, increasing the number of at-large reps to compliment the number of committees we have, incorporating the "Standing Rules"
- 3. Bill moved to delay the By-Law discussion because he had a report to give And needed to leave. Ann 2nd, so moved.

C. North Avenue BID Report – Sheldon Walker

- 1. Sheldon was absent & did not email a report.

D. Senior Report – Bill Dummer

- 1. Bill attended the "Rethinking Neighborhood Revitalization" seminar (see attached).
 - a. Fixing bad housing is not a solution. Working with the people to form relationships is a better approach.
 - b. A healthy neighborhood is one where people come together to manage problems before they get out of hand.
 - c. Suburbs tend to feel "safer" because they are less diverse. People who choose to live in the city like the diversity.

- d. Doing one on one's tend to bring change more quickly. Bill would be happy to engage in this if it is necessary.
 - e. Supporting businesses that support the neighborhood is an approach several other areas are doing.
 - E. Vliet Street Business Representative – Dan Schley
 - 1. Dan was excused & Mary read his report (life on Vliet is good, Four Corners & Lucky Star are opening soon, the pizza place is in the works, Art Walk planning is occurring). (see attached)
 - F. Washington Heights Rainbow Association – Jim Bigger
 - 1. Easter Bonnet Brunch is April 1st, 12-2pm @1902 N. 51st Street.
- III. Committee Reports
 - A. Block Watch & Safety – Marty Radocha
 - 1. 2020 N. 49th Street was broken into. Measures are being taken to prevent further theft.
 - 2. April 26th is the Annual Block Watch Meeting at the 3rd District Station.
 - B. Finance & Special Events – Carol Wernette
 - 1. We are on budget.
 - C. Housing & Appearance – Jim Grote
 - 1. Jim was excused. Paul spoke with him. We need volunteers for the Neighborhood Clean-up on April 21st, starting on 47th & Vliet at 8am. Maribeth is trying to coordinate bus bench installation on this day. Some students from St. Sebastian will be painting one of the benches.
 - 2. Still need a house for the Great Unveiling
 - 3. Adopt a Trash Can idea was mentioned.
 - D. Membership – Mike Ward
 - 1. Mike was excused. Mary asked for volunteers for the next Membership meeting. We are doing 2 huge mailers – one to previous member, one to the current membership. Vivienne, Paul, Lynn, & Jon all volunteered. Membership will be contacting them when we get closer to the meeting date.
 - E. Nominations – Debbie Knepke
 - 1. Odd area reps will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Please recruit.
 - 2. Debbie asked for some help. Paul, Michael R., & Mary all said they would.
 - F. Newsletter – Vivienne Tait
 - 1. Matt quit quite abruptly as our graphic artist. Marty's wife's co-worker stepped up.
 - G. Website – Kristin Leguizamon
 - 1. Kristin was excused. Mary had Carol deliver a list of WHNA member's emails to her.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Easter Egg Hunt – Mary Jumes
 - 1. We're buying a bunny suit.
 - 2. Registration is on March 24th @ Washing Park Senior Center, 10am-2pm.
 - B. Area Meetings
 - 1. Reports
 - a. 1 had 24 people in attendance, went well. We discussed the Urban Ecology Center, bushes on Washington Boulevard. A request was made for Block Watch Captain info.
 - b. 5 had a small, but pleasant, turn out.
 - c. 7 had eight people. Received suggestions for a home improvement seminar, bowling event for adults, soccer league.
 - 2. The areas that haven't had their meeting should make sure to spread the word. A flyer is coming out shortly on which you should attach your meeting info. (see attached).
 - C. Annual Meeting (see II.B.)
 - 1. Sarah recommended Marcus White. We thought maybe he would want a table this year & could speak next year.
- V. New Business
 - A. Volunteer Recognition
 - 1. Everyone should email lists of people who have volunteered since the last Annual Meeting to Mary

VI. Area Reports

1. Fred's was robbed, again.
2. Houses are selling.
3. Keep eyes open for graffiti, clean-up on Earth Day. Sarah is going to rough draft a landlord letter for us to send to absentee & bad landlords.
4. Nothing
5. Nothing
6. A property received an accepted offer in 10 days.
7. Nothing
8. Police activity on Hawley Road.
9. Need to talk to Alderman Murphy about parking restrictions.

VII. Miscellaneous

A. By-Laws

1. The discussion about the changes was re-opened.
2. Mike moved to accept the changes & present them to the membership, Anne 2nd, approved.

B. St. Sebastian is having a blood drive on March 30th 1:30-6:30pm.

VIII. Adjournment

1. Anne moved to adjourn, Mary 2nd, adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jumes