

Sherwood Forest Association

Annual Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2011

Attending: Archived Roster.

Pat Nolan, President, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Opening Business

Secretary's Report:

Christie Boeder, Secretary, offered to read the 2010 annual meeting minutes, declined by those attending. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The minutes were mailed with the meeting notice and are available online. Motion to accept the 2010 annual meeting minutes as written passed.

President's Report:

Pat Nolan reported on 2010 Association activities:

- The Chilly Fest was well attended and enjoyed good weather; despite the frigidity of the week preceding. There was hot chocolate, skating and treats.
- There was no 4th of July children's activities since many years past and it's been suggested this could be considered again for 2011. Need a coordinator.
- The 2010 Garage Sale was very successful. 25 homes participated (was scheduled the last week of September) with lots of traffic. Signage was provided as well as maps and advertising arranged by the Association.
- Pat thanked the many volunteers for their help with these various activities this past year.

For 2011 events, discussion ensued concerning a garage sale. It was suggested the date be changed to the 2nd weekend in September. The feeling being that this is past most summer vacations and out of town summer weekend activities. The Association will tentatively schedule the 2011 Neighborhood Garage Sale for September 9, 2011 contingent upon it not conflicting with any major holiday.

- Another Chili Fest to be held in January 2012.
- Minnetonka Night Out for Neighbors (see report later in minutes).
- Speeding is also a perennial concern and the Association will pursue contacting the city to request a speed trap. It has been a couple of years since it's been done.

Officers were elected for 2-year terms at last year's meeting so no need for officer elections:

- Pat Nolan, President
- Son Nguyen, Vice President
- Christie Boeder, Secretary
- Wayne Bren, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report:

Wayne Bren, Treasurer, presented a summary report of the SFA financial position for 2010. The Profit/Loss statement was available as a handout. The year ended with a loss of \$2.95.

- The SOS annual business renewal form has been filed with the state.
- The IRS filings have been made and are up to date
- The Financial Report is on file for member inspection.
- Renewals dropped to 92 in 2010, which is a concern. Wayne has calculated we need 90 household memberships (approximately \$1,800 a year is needed to ensue our expense/income breaks even).
- There are 149 emails registered with Constant Contact (our email service). All of these are active email accounts but obviously don't match Association membership totals.
- Wayne mentioned only 79 of the emails sent announcing the Annual Meeting were actually opened – how many are going into a Junk folder? Are being routed as 'spam'? That's an unknown.
- Attendees reminded to sign the roster for the evening for a record of the annual meeting attendance.

- Signing up for the Association email is simple and available on the website.
- There was discussion about how do we publicize to neighbors the benefits of membership in the association and what it manages/provides/takes care of; i.e., what do the membership funds cover?
- Association costs include: the entrance lighting, electricity, bulb replacements, website hosting, event organization and other items as detailed on our membership registration form. Discussion ensued concerning the need for a brochure that might better highlight the benefits of neighborhood association membership. There were no volunteers to create one – volunteer needed.
- All neighborhood homes were mailed a membership application/renewal form by Wayne. He will be anticipating opening a lot of envelopes (hopefully LOTS of envelopes). It was suggested all those in attendance encourage their neighbors to send in their memberships.
- It was pointed out how low the participation is by residents residing west and south/north off of Hilloway Road after the sharp western turn of the road towards Plymouth Road. This is a perennial issue as to whether the association funds should be spent on mailings to these homeowners considering the low interest. There were individuals in attendance who live off Byrnes Road, however. No decision was made to make any changes at this time. There were also individuals who indicated their willingness to walk and deposit flyers in mailboxes to keep costs down. It was also mentioned that there would be those of us willing to reply on email notifications only to cut mailing costs. Pat indicated the need to make sure we keep the work Wayne does to be as efficient as possible. The idea of an ‘opt out’ option will be explored.
- Wayne does mark in the database those who have volunteered as volunteers and will add to that list. Names were passed to him of those in attendance willing to be called upon.

Ongoing Business:

Front Planters:

The front planters continue to be maintained by Amy Norelius. The winter spruce tops have been removed and summer plantings will be in place soon. A very big thank you to Amy. The Sherwood Forest Garden Club used to manage the planters but this garden club is no longer as active and only one member of the club continues to live in the Forest. So the transitioning to a resident occurred a couple of years ago.

Lighting:

Wayne reported that the front spotlight was totally rebuilt this past summer with all wiring redone, waterproofed, re-landscaped by Clem. Wayne also mentioned the Association may want to look at redoing the planter lights; it would mean replacing the existing fixtures attached to the framework as the ironwork was built for the current planters many years ago. No consensus going forward.

Road Construction/Roadway Plantings Update:

Sharon Whiting made a presentation about the need to continue watering and caring for the new plants with 3 main objectives:

- **Keep Weeds down**
Dandelions (pull the tap root).
Garlic Mustard (also need to pull the tap root, do not lay them down as they can continue to grow, nor throw in the garbage until they are dead).
- **Keep Deer/Rabbits away**
- **Keep Watering as needed**

Leave current fencing in place to discourage the deer and rabbits (or consider spraying for deer/rabbits). Do continue to water those plantings near your home. The current ‘captains’ are being asked to continue to oversee the areas they’ve been helping with. The city did re-seed the roadway edges as the original prairie mixture laid did not do well, however, there is still some potential for wildflowers to develop. It takes time. Do adopt an area near you! The city will not be helping any longer with upkeep.

Neighbor Diane Meyer shared a recipe for Garlic Mustard (she had handouts!) and reiterated that it is very tasty. Harvest it when it’s young as older plants are ‘tougher’. Also, Sharon had a display of garlic mustard and a ‘Thank You’ board to all those who helped last summer with maintenance of the new plantings!

Also, there were questions about downed trees (winter damage) along ponds and we were reminded that only the Twin Ponds near the east entrance are common property and qualify for city maintenance. All other wetland/ponds are private property and responsibility of the homeowners whose lot lines include any of these ponds. Not always an easy situation if a resident finds downed trees and limbs unsightly. There was discussion about if a downed tree/limb encroaches on the roadway and falls within the city's right of way that those could be reported to the city for action.

Upcoming Business:

Minnetonka Night For Neighbors by Darlene Berzins (Park Ridge Drive West neighborhood block captain)

Scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 on the Lakeview Drive West cul-de-sac. Since watch groups have priority, she will be requesting a city vehicle/fire truck. More information will be forthcoming. Additionally, Darlene reported some of the statistics shared at the recent Block Captain meeting for Minnetonka she attended on April 12, 2011.

- Main complaint is concerning speeding
- 3,500 speeding tickets were issued in 2010
- 3,700 answered calls
- 1,000 tickets for no seat belts
- Coyote sightings were discussed; don't feed them, secure your garbage, leash your dogs (especially small dogs as they can be victims of coyote attacks) and notice there aren't as many raccoons or feral cats in the neighborhood.
- Solicitors (for profit) are required to be licensed and carry an ID. The city does not endorse any solicitors. If you post a sign on your residence for 'do not solicit' they are not allowed to approach. Charitable solicitors do not require licensing.
- Darlene does have a 'new member packet' available (assembled by the city) which should be given to new neighbors. This packet would also benefit from a Sherwood Forest Ass'n brochure!

New Business:

Members Questions, Comments and Concerns

Hans and Linda Cederblad spoke of their concern with the current water levels in the ponds along Park Ridge Drive West after the road construction/storm water management changes. Their feeling is that the level is too low and this is early in the year. Hans has spoken to Will Manchester from the City and would to solicit support from SFA to pursue investigating whether the current level is adequate. He will put his concerns in writing and get them to Wayne Bren so the Association can formally submit the concern to the city for action. There was a significant amount of conversation on others' similar concerns and observations.

There also was a question about the sandbags and whether they should be removed. Sharon Whiting will check on that but there were comments from several residents that they understood they were to remain in place for a couple of years for erosion control for the next 2 to 3 years.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Pat Nolan at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Christie Boeder, Secretary