

**Woodmont Country Club
Membership Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2009**

Board Members Present: Michael Fuller Steve Swank
 Brian Jacobson Edie Staiger
 Carlotta Smith Kelli Devitte
 Adrienne Worah Evelyn Meyers

Board Member Absent: Nancy Kennedy

President Michael Fuller called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The meeting was held at Woodmont Elementary School.

Roll Call (Edie Staiger): A quorum of 26 families was present.

Approval of Minutes: Copies of the May 28, 2008, Membership Meeting minutes were distributed to attendees. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

President's Report (Michael Fuller):

- **Recognition of New Members:**

Michael Fuller introduced Redmond and Kristy McDonough. They purchased the McCarty home at 27015 10th Ave. So. They plan to move in within the next three months.

- **Introduction of Board Members and Their Duties:**

Michael introduced each Board member and their duties.

- **Dascenzo Matter**

Michael reviewed the facts of this matter. At the May 28, 2008, General Membership meeting, the Board was instructed by a vote of the membership to notify Lew and Donna Dascenzo to remove that part of their deck which is on Woodmont property within a specified time limit or, as an alternative, to have the Board consider issuing a conditional license with a specified time limit. On September 20, 2008, President Michael Fuller issued a letter on behalf of the Board asking that the Dascenzo family submit a plan to the Board outlining the modifications to be made. The response from the Dascenzo family was that they continue to desire a "quiet title". On December 23, 2008, in accordance with an option granted to the Board by the WCC membership, President Michael Fuller issued a letter to the Dascenzo family on behalf of the Board offering a conditional license. The Dascenzo family, through their attorney Brian Snure, once again countered with a "quiet title" proposal. The Board has no authority to grant such a title as per the motion passed at the May 28 General Membership meeting. The Board's attorney, Sue Sampson, advised that WCC impose a license. President Michael Fuller issued this letter dated March 20, 2009, imposing a conditional license. The Board is unhappy with the Dascenzo's deck being on club property; it covers approximately 50 square feet. WCC could litigate, but this would be an expensive process. The license stops the process of adverse possession.

A question was raised by a club member, "Could the Board file a lien on that property?" Michael replied that our attorney said no. The action taken was the best option.

The Board was asked for any further remarks; none were made.

- **Al Smith Stairs/Drainage**

The Al Smith stairs are located in lower Woodmont at the bottom of a path to the beach (near 270th). Erosion from a broken pipe had threatened to cause damage to the stairs, thus posing a danger to pedestrians taking that route. In past discussions, the City of Des Moines denied responsibility for repair. Michael pointed out to the City that the water drains from the street. The City fixed the problem by installing a new drain and also repaired the steps.

Treasurer's Report (Edie Staiger):

Edie presented the 2008 – 2009 Treasurer's Report. She explained one of the items on the report – Charter Research. She, along with Nancy Kennedy and Carol Belland, are sorting and organizing past written materials and records of the Club. Their goal is to have a recorded history of the Club.

New Business:

Josh Clemans presented his proposal for his Eagle Scout project. He would like to replace the bench on top of the stairs at North Beach and do maintenance on the other bench. He was asked by one of the Club members if he would install a box for doggie waste pick-up bags. Josh will do this, possibly on both benches. We appreciate Josh's involvement and his contribution to our Club!

Committee Reports:

- **Maintenance – Brian Jacobson:** Brian asked that members contact him if they notice any trail steps that need to be repaired. He announced that the **Spring Cleanup** date is **April 25**. Along with cleaning up the plaza, he would like help with digging a trench along the storage shed to divert water flowing from the hill, which is causing damage to the shed.

- **Social – Kelli Devitte:** Kelli announced several dates for the coming months:

Kids Parade – June 27, 11 a.m. The theme will be the Merry March of the Leprechauns and Their Friends, and Rick Devitte's band will entertain us (contact person is Janet Sorby).

Three Potlucks will be held. Watch for details in the Newsletter (contact person is Nancy Kennedy).

Fathers' Day Brunch – June 21, 9 – 11 a.m. at the Plaza (contact person is Nancy Kennedy).

Ice Cream Social – July 12, 7 p.m. at the Tennis Court (contact person is Nancy Kennedy).

Movie Night – August 29, 8:30 p.m. at the Tennis Court.

A club member expressed appreciation for the dates being announced—helps in getting them on their calendars.

- **Trees – Brian Jacobson:** Brian reminded the Club members that we have a tree policy and a process for Committee review before any work can be undertaken on trees on Club property. He is developing a master plan for the hillside above North Beach and is

attempting to contact WSU Extension for assistance with this plan. He will have more details in the future.

Brian was asked about the trees along the canyon road. The reply was that the Des Moines Parks Department has responsibility for these trees. They are identifying trees (39 have been tagged), and an arborist will review the health of the trees. Richard Meyers asked if the Club had any trees south of the Plaza. The answer was negative.

A Club member asked about the logs along the banks and pointed out that there seemed to be a lot more this year. Brian acknowledged that this was true, but that the Club has no responsibility for these logs.

Michael expressed our sorrow at David Babbitt's death and the Board's appreciation for his past service to the Club in serving as our Tree Committee Chairman.

- **Membership – Carlotta Smith:** Carlotta asked if anyone knew of new neighbors. Edie reported that we have new neighbors on Ninth Street, and they are interested in joining the Club.
- **Communications – Kelli Devitte:** Kelli asked that Club members utilize the website to keep up to date with community news and announcements. She also urged residents to call 911 to report any suspicious activity in the area. She will email neighbors to keep them apprised of any crime-related events in the neighborhood.
- **Proposed Budget – Edie Staiger:** Edie reviewed the Budget for 2009 – 2010. The balance of money left to the Club by Mr. Corcoran for the Kids' Parades is down to \$70. We want to continue the parades, so we will budget for them in the future. She pointed out that the Budget shows a deficit; however, there is enough left from this year's budget to cover it. We may have to scrutinize this in the future.

Comments from the members: A question was asked about the number of families eligible for membership. There are over 150 families. Membership is voluntary. Club members' names are posted at the Plaza and the Tennis Courts.

Appreciation was expressed for the work being done on Charter Research.

- **Nominating Chairperson Appointment:** Carol Belland will serve in this capacity and will be seeking candidates for President, Secretary, and Chairpersons for the Maintenance and Tree Committees. The Board meets once a month, with the exception of July and December, plus two membership meetings. Michael suggested that the Board may want to consider meeting in July to lessen the time impact for the August meeting.

Other Business:

- **Ivy on Trees in Canyon:** Michael Fuller read an e-mail by resident Mary Painter, stating that the Des Moines Parks Department gave her permission to get volunteers to remove ivy from the trees. The Parks Dept. will furnish bags and dispose of the ivy. Mary asked that volunteers come to the canyon on **April 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** to assist with this effort. An email message will be sent to Club members.
- **Goats:** Steve Swank reported that the Board had considered hiring goats and a tender to eat ivy on the North Beach slope. Concern was expressed that they would also eat other native growth. Steve said we would let the goat tender know our concern. The cost is fairly high (\$1,000 for 50 goats for three days), so Steve will do more research on this project.

- **Sanikan Structure at Tennis Court:** A Club member asked that a locking mechanism be placed on this structure. The Sanikan is removed during the winter months, but visitors have used the structure anyway.
- **Flowers in the Canyon:** Richard Meyers asked about planting rhodys and other flowers along the canyon drive. No objections were made. One member stated that trillium will start blooming soon.
- **Thank you!** Appreciation was expressed by Club members for the Membership map. A special thank you to Edie Staiger, Nancy Kennedy, Carlotta Smith, and Adrienne Worah! Thank you, also, to Donna and Wes, Nora, and others for keeping our canyon clean!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The May Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Evelyn Meyers
Secretary