

Woodmont Country Club

Board Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2019

Members Present: Jeremy Brewer, Carol Belland, Debra Seiler, Sharon Morehouse, Jennifer Jacobson, Nancy Kennedy, Sue Clarke, Eileen Clemans, Ryan Crompton

Members Absent: Kjersten Johansen

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the July 9, 2019

Treasurer's Report: Eileen reviewed the current balance sheet. Maintenance expense is currently the largest expense item. Primarily two expenses make up this amount, repair/painting at the sport court and the repair of the Al Smith stairs. A motion was made, seconded and approved to move the Sport Court expense of \$2095.75 to the Special Projects line item. The 2019-2020 Special Project item was created for this purpose. Eileen also indicated that she had sent out a dues reminder on June 25, to all households that had previously been members, but had not paid dues for this year. Eileen also made a request to change the line item, Admin Dues to Initiation fees. This was approved by the Board. Sharon Morehouse volunteered to contact these members directly. Current membership is at 140 households

Committee Reports:

- **Maintenance:** Ryan advocated for a fall neighborhood clean-up date on Saturday October 5, 9AM-Noon. Clean up will primarily be concentrated at the entry gate. Jennifer will include this information in the WCC Friday email. Ryan also brought examples of lights that we may want to install at the entry way and up the curve of Woodmont Beach road. This would facilitate members walking in this area at night. The Board discussed various options available and Ryan will check with neighbors that may be affected by this light and the City of Des Moines regarding rules should we want to move forward with this project.

Other items discussed were the cleanup of the area near the Old Roy monument, moving signs and dog bags. Also Ryan led a discussion regarding safety and night lighting in the neighborhood. Homeowners will be encouraged to keep outside lights on dusk through dawn as this is a known deterrent to crime. He also volunteered to help members who would like help with motion detector lights installation or repair to contact him. Jennifer will include this information in the Friday member email.

- **Communication:** Jennifer presented a draft version of the 2019-2020 membership directories. She asked for feedback about layout and a review of the members listed. Board members will review and a new directory will be printed prior to year end. The Board also discussed keeping two Face book pages, one that is private and only for dissemination of Board/WCC related issues. The other is open for posting by members. Members will be encouraged to use this site to communicate neighborhood crime, event pictures and items they may want to sell.

- **Social:** Nancy reported we had three very successful Potlucks and two very well attended concerts as well as a successful Kid's parade. And, a new event, the Bill Kennedy Non-Motorized Boat Regatta. We are still looking for a third host to volunteer in the Tour de Woodmont holiday event to be held Saturday December 7. Nancy also reminded the Board that 2020 will be the 105th anniversary of the WCC. This is a "Bootlegger Bash" year and it is not too early to start planning. A call for volunteers to help plan and execute this event will go out in the Friday member email.
- **Membership:** Sharon informed the Board that her focus as Membership Committee Chair is: 1. Outreach to WCC residents to promote interest and involvement, primarily to increase membership, 2. Provide information/education on increasing safety within WCC and 3: Use a video created by member Fred Andrews to show benefits and fun activities that come with WCC membership. Sharon will directly contact last year's members who are yet unpaid for this year. She also would like the Board to consider an event such as a Fall Social meeting held at Judson Park or another available space. The Board approved of a future membership drive with focus on safety and funding but took no action at this time.
- **Boats/Kayaks:** Debra reported there was no news on this subject at this time.
- **Plaza Reservations:** Debra reported no new reservations between now and year end have been requested.
- **Trees:** Sue reported she, Billie Klein, Carlotta Smith, Jan Anderson and Sharon Morehouse meet with a representative from the King Conservation District (KCD) for a walk through of the bluff property. Their discussion resulted in several recommendations for the care of the WCC bluff property which includes:
 - Ivy removal and ways to expedite this process
 - Survey of trees and determination of their current condition
 - Discussion of Evergreens and their importance the bluff
 - The creation a an overall master plan for care and restoration to the bluff
 - A team of 3 KCD staff have been assigned to work with the WCC Board on a comprehensive plan.
 - A meeting of this team and the WCC Membership will be scheduled.

The next discussion regarding trees was about the current process for the Board, Tree Committee and member when a trimming request is made. The group agreed that our current process is not working as well as it could and some clear policies and procedures need to be created and communicated to the members. The information that was gleaned from the KCD walk will need to be considered and incorporated into the processes going forward.

Currently the Board has two requests pending to trim trees prior to the October 1 trimming deadline enforced by the City of Des Moines. These include requests by two members and the WCC Board to trim a dead tree and cut a low hanging branch. These requests are all for deciduous trees. The following motion was made, seconded:

- The Board will permit the cutting/trimming of deciduous trees that has been requested in the current pending permit with the City of Des Moines, as they include only deciduous trees. This motion was approved unanimously

Another long discussion ensued about the plan going forward, how much time it will take the Board to come up with an overall plan and a communication process. As a result of this discussion the following motion was made, seconded:

- The WCC Board will put an immediate moratorium on all tree trimming requests until June 1, 2020. This will allow the Board to pursue professional guidance to design and create a forestry management plan for the WCC bluff property. This motion was approved unanimously.

During this period the board will accept requests or take action on trees that are a safety concern or an emergency situation. The Board will communicate the above to all members.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Belland, Acting Secretary