

## **WBNA Membership Meeting**

October 11, 2022  
YMCA Courtyard Café

Dave Holland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present were: Dave Holland, Jeanette Deurloo, Holly LeMay, Matt James, Jan Dietrich, constituting a quorum.

The agenda was approved. Elizabeth is still working on August meeting minutes.

Security: Officer Holbrook presented report on calls. Majority of activity is north of South St and west of West Boulevard. Rod Pettigrew said there is frequent traffic on St Cloud. He asked if there is anyone living in the wilderness? Officer Holbrook has not been on the trails so he doesn't know. But he said they generally leave trash. Dave said no trash in most places except nearby petrified forrest trailhead. Officer Holbrook said most calls nearby Skyline are actually on Skyline drive, typically someone making noise (or making out). Every park is to be closed at 10pm, including the parking areas on Skyline Drive. Officer Holbrook said that the City tried putting a gate across one parking area but people kept breaking it so they removed it. Matt James said that somebody went through both of their cars. They were left unlocked. Nothing seemed to be stolen. Matt called it in.

### Treasurer's report:

Balance as of the end of last year was \$25,466.20. At the moment, balance is \$25,222.40. As of now, the balance is down approx. \$200. The festival makes money. The block party nearly breaks even. The newsletter costs about \$700 per mailing and the postcards \$250 per meeting. No questions.

### Wilson School Forum Recap:

Matt thought the turnout was good. A bit disappointed that there weren't many current parents of Wilson School in attendance. David started the forum by describing WBNA and our mission statement. Matt would like to know where we go from here? Matt thinks that all neighborhood schools are important. Wilson is one of the only schools that is documented to be historic, which is not the same as many other schools. Jan asked what improvements would be necessary? Matt said it needs electrical, HVAC, etc. Jan doesn't agree that HVAC is necessary for only 1-2 weeks in the fall and spring. Wilson School has approx. 350 students from K-5<sup>th</sup> grade. About 150-200 can walk but more than half must be bussed in. Pat said that he doesn't think that the school will be able to be saved because the school district isn't interested in spending the money to save the school. Matt said that ADA compliance is a major issue. They count 10 levels in the building. Matt said that some of the Deadwood money was supposed to go to schools but actually went to the State's general fund. David said that the purpose of the forum was to gather information. Christine Stephenson's idea was to do K-3 at Wilson and 4-5 at Lincoln. Renovate Wilson and build new school at Lincoln. Holly said that we shouldn't just fold and let them close Wilson. Holly would like the school district to think outside the box. Laura asked if the historic significance has any effect. David suggested that the Neighborhood association or another group could solicit a study to develop some alternatives to save the school. Matt said that Brookings repurposed an old school to be a children's museum with mostly private donations. Laura suggested forming a committee to work on the issue. Jeanette said that the further kids are bussed, the less families get involved in school. Parents don't show up for meetings or get to know the teachers if the school is far away. David said that we have time to work on solutions at the moment. Laura suggested that RCSD partner with the City and Historic Preservation on the issue. Matt mentioned that the property is currently held by Parks n Rec, private landowners and the RCSD. Laura knows the owner of the strip mall. David will send an email to see who is interested in being on a "future of Wilson school" committee. Include as many of the attendees of the forum as possible.

### Block Party Recap:

We got about 45 new members at the 2022 block party, about the same as last year. Holly noticed many more young people and families. Laura loved the bike parade. She would also like a dog parade 😊. Matt said that it was a challenge to secure food trucks. Look at other options, catering, the PTA. Dave

mentioned a local group such as Skyline Wilderness or Wilson School PTA could serve food as a fundraiser. Pat mentioned that it has been the same weekend as Patriot Days in Box Elder. Consider changing the date. Laura said that Community Development has a list of all food trucks because they need to be registered. Holly said that it's a good weekend because the weather is good, not dark that early yet.

#### Holiday Party:

We don't have a host yet. Many people think their house is too small. The tentative date is December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm. Laura Armstrong, Pat Roseland and Matt James offered to help.

#### Newsletter:

Elizabeth is out due to a scheduled surgery so no newsletter this fall. David would like to put facts from the forums in the next newsletter. Jeanette really likes the newsletters.

#### Register 3SD:

Youth organization that is encouraging young voters to get registered. McKenzie and Anna were present with their mom. They live in the West Blvd neighborhood. Voter registration deadline is October 24<sup>th</sup>. They would like to have a registration table at next year's block party. They are sending postcards to newly registered voters to encourage them to vote. They asked if WBNA had any ideas how they might encourage our neighborhood to get registered and vote. Post card writing event on Sunday from 3:30 – 5:30 pm at the Hoyt Room in the Library. Young people don't get mail so they get excited to get a post card. They have a website that helps you find your voting location as well as links to information about the candidates that will be on your ballot. They are non-partisan. Only 6 percent of their generation are registered.

#### City Council Update:

Laura Armstrong and Pat Roseland were present to give an update. Laura said that her and Darla used to do update forums but they ended during COVID. This update is a small version of those forums. Pat thanked those who voted for him. Pat is on 6 different committees/commissions. Two have not been active yet, Metropolitan Planning Organization and air quality. Pat's committees are Parks and Rec, Sustainability, Canyon Lake Activities Center, Legal and Finance. Laura has been on the council for 5 years. Pat said that the sustainability committee has been very active and positive.

Laura is a liason on the Airport board, public library board (just finished their strategic plan) and liason for youth city council. The City council just finished their budget for 2023. They will have a retreat with the sustainability committee to discuss a new position tomorrow. They added 6 new police officers in the budget. The City Council added \$30k to the arts budget. The 12<sup>th</sup> street project will continue to the south in 2023. Jan asked how the city decides which streets to fix first? Laura said that many factors go into that decision including the condition of water and sewer pipes under the streets.

Pat has had a lot of calls about the homeless population. Pat has spoken to the mayor, chief of police, etc. Pat said that the City is doing as much as can be done right now. Two things that could help are for the community to get more involved and for the judicial system to change. Laura said that the City has been very proactive with organizations like Journey On! The people that work for Journey On were homeless. Former homeless people are the best at dealing with the problem. Laura said that her dad was a police officer. He wasn't trained to be a social worker. Laura said that it shouldn't be ciminal to be homeless. It is criminal to walk into someone's home but not being homeless.

Dave asked for further comments. None were raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Holland.