

**WBNA Membership Meeting**  
January 17, 2023  
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, and Wade Lampert, constituting a quorum.

The agenda was approved. Elizabeth is still working on August meeting minutes. David has the October meeting minutes complete but didn't send out yet so will vote to approve at the next meeting.

Skunks: KP Davidson (605.394.4132 or animalcontrol@hsbh.org) from animal services and enforcement (Humane Society of the Black Hills). John Burke was present. John has trapped 5 skunks on his property during the past month. Homeowners can rent a trap from SD Game, Fish and Parks, GFP (cheaper) or the Humane Society. Call KP and he will empty the trap and take the skunk far outside of town for you at no cost. Skunk traps are enclosed on all but 1 size. KP does not believe that its possible for skunks to make their way back into Rapid City. KP will search the neighborhood for dens – with permission of homeowners. Best bait is raw egg with peanut butter and a paper towell with peanut butter. Best deterrent, eyesight is sensitive to brightness. Motion lights help deter. Repellant sprays can conflict with dogs. Best is to trap and remove. KP said skunk calls have gone up across all of Rapid City. KP said they have not had uptick of rabies calls. John said that half of skunks test positive for rabies in MN. SD GFP said its not that high in SD. John wants the City to hire a professional trapper and kill skunks. John wants help from WBNA. John called city council and they didn't offer any help. KP said there are also private pest control companies that residents can call. KP said that the focus of his job is supposed to be domesticated animals but he offers some skunk services – but it is not technically part of his job description. The sheriff's department kills deer within city limits if they are injured. John has been very happy with KP's services. Wade said his dog got sprayed last November. Jeanette suggested adding KP's phone number to the WBNA newsletter and FB page. Matt said the best thing that WBNA can do is communicate with our neighborhood through the newsletter and FB.

Security: Officer Holbrook attended the Mt Rushmore Rd group meeting earlier today to discuss the impacts of the homeless on the neighborhood. Journey ON is having growing pains. The scale of the problem is overwhelming Journey ON. Please call the police department if you are having issues with the homeless. The RC Police and Fire departments provide some support for Journey ON. Journey ON now takes calls from businesses, health care facilities and RCPD. RCPD takes intoxicated individuals to detox. Journey ON can find resources (food, shelter or addiction counseling) that the RCPD can't. Journey ON took more than 10,000 calls in 2022. Many Journey ON employees are recovered adicts or homeless. Detox (24 hrs) holds them longer than Jail. Officer Holbrook said that homelessness is a long term problem that the Police Department is not going to solve. The other services are intended to help find solutions (Journey ON, Hope Center, Care Campus, etc). No major calls from the West Boulevard neighborhood.

Mt Rushmore Rd Group: Jeanette attended their meeting today. The homeless don't use their money for food. They have many places to get food. Money given to homeless is usually used for alcohol or drugs. Giving the homeless money only enables their addiction. Officer Holbrook said Rapid City is adding 15 homeless per month. Care Campus, quality of life unit are RCPD officers. Its easy to be homeless in Rapid City because of all the services offered. The RCPD cleans out blankets and clothing from under bridges that were given by well meaning individuals. Jeanette said that its up to the community to enact change. Officer Holbrook said that the care campus costs \$75/day and jail costs \$240/day to deal with a homeless person. Jail costs more money and doesn't solve anything. The Care Campus has a few success stories where adicts were rehabilitated and are now contributing members of society.

Treasurer's report:

No report this month. Next report will be at the end of the quarter.

#### 2023 Event Calendar:

The back of the agenda is a draft event calendar. Dave asked for comments. Festival June 17-18. David signed Sharissa's contract and she has begun planning the festival. No date set for the block party. Wade and Holly said that we should keep the same weekend as previous years. Forums last year were on Wilson School and Skyline Wilderness. Dave asked which topics we should focus on for two forums in 2023. Members present preferred forum topics to be historic preservation (Matt, Wade) and Wilson Park renovations (Matt). Matt said that Wilson Park is an important resource for our neighborhood and would help our neighborhood. Healthy activity in the park can push out bad activity. Carol Bell voted for senior neighbor care. Jeanette would like to have a welcoming committee. David said that WBNA does have a welcome letter for new residents. Jeanette and Carol Bell mentioned the Welcome Wagon organization. The next WBNA event would be a candidate meet and greet mid-May. Our neighborhood will have mayor, city council and school board on the June ballot. Holly would like to add "selling a historic home" to the historic preservation forum.

#### Newsletter:

Elizabeth is out of town but plans to produce a newsletter by May 1.

#### Website updates:

David would like to add forum recaps to the website. Sharissa said that she could have time. Dave called a web development company that charges \$100/hr. Jeanette said that a company could be good. One feature that we haven't been able to add ourselves is a membership lookup.

#### Historic district education by Historic Preservation:

The Historic Preservation district will be holding a workshop May 7<sup>th</sup> for West Boulevard residents. What topics would we like to learn more about? Energy efficiency, old window restoration, exterior wood repair or house painting. Jeanette, John and a few others voted for house painting. David mentioned that Shawn Krull is a great resource for residents. Carol suggested Shawn participating in a forum.

#### Historic District Ordinance Revisions:

David said that during his research over the issues with 814 W Blvd, he noticed that the historic district ordinance for Rapid City seems to be missing any mention of maintaining the character of the neighborhood or preventing commercial encroachment. David would like to form a committee and talk to community planning to see what the ordinance currently says and what is possible. David said that the neighborhood is currently high density residential in the north, medium density in the middle and low density residential in the south. David would like the boundaries of the historic district to have an impact on applications for variances. David would like to form a small committee to review Sioux Falls and St Paul MN historic district ordinances for ideas to modify the W Blvd historic district ordinance. David said that the West Boulevard neighborhood association has a mandate to prevent commercial encroachment. But the WBNA has no legal authority to prevent commercial encroachment. Only ordinances can do that.

Dave asked for further comments. None were raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Holland.