

WBNA Membership Meeting
August 16, 2022
YMCA Courtyard Café

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

Board members present were: Dave Holland, Holly LeMay, Matt James, Jake Mordhorst, Elizabeth Zieglmeier, Wade Lampert, Jan Dietrich, constituting a quorum.

The agenda and June minutes were approved.

Security: No officer Holbrook this week. But he sent an update to Dave by email. From officer Holbrook: I have looked at the statistics for the West Blvd neighborhood over the last month and determined that the calls for service have trended downward between 7/16 and 8/16 of this year. That is a good direction! The majority of the calls for service in your area are categorized as "Other," which includes reported runaways, follow-ups and proactive law enforcement activities such as traffic stops or radar enforcement. The second most notable call for service type are related to suspicious activity. I did not see a high number of reported burglaries in the area, so in my opinion, the fact that residents are calling in suspicious activity is making a difference! Keep up the great work!

We have also had the radar trailers on the boulevard on two separate occasions in the past few months. The speeds, although I know there are sporadic exceptions, are on average under, or close to, the posted speed limit. Regardless, I have directed Patrol officers to provide traffic enforcement in the area as calls for service permit.

Treasurer's report:

Balance as of the end of last year was \$25,466.20. At the moment, balance is \$29,976.02. As of now, the balance is up approx. \$4500. That would be expected right after the Festival and we still have some Festival expenses. No questions.

WBNA Summer Festival:

Sharissa reported that it was a good event (other than the heat). Last year 45 vendors; this year 70 but there seemed to be less traffic than last year. Reason not clear; weather, economic situation. She hasn't collected all of the bills: still waiting on those from the port a potty and security services. Expenses were around \$4,250; final financials will come out once she receives all the bills. For vendor applications, we received \$8,529.48; \$5 in donations; sponsorships \$1,150, the most received to date. Two neighbors spent \$150 on raffle tickets. One person cancelled due to health reasons and the vendor fee was fully refunded. Another vendor had damaged inventory since the city didn't turn off the sprinklers overnight on Saturday (despite telling Sharissa that they were turned off). Her booth fee was refunded. There were problems with electricity; Sharissa told the city but received no response. Sharissa was going to send a note to the city to see whether we could get our application fee back for the 1) sprinkler incident; and 2) the electricity incident. It was acknowledged that the city is under a lot of stress so things could be missed.

Holly pointed out that Oakley was helpful for sound for the musicians but Sharissa noted that he didn't perform the emcee function as expected. Unclear whether we will hire Homeslice again.

Food truck on St Andrew didn't seem to work. He had issues with his generator, left early both days, in part because of the heat. Others who were plugged into city power did well. RC Gymnastics set up a bouncy castle and another amusement which were well received.

Trash and bathrooms a continued issue; a friend of Dave and Becca helped out a great deal.

Holly commented that \$50 is not enough for the musicians (New Horizons was uninterested in this fee). Sharissa responded that in the past, musicians haven't been paid at all and shouldn't expect to be since the event is a fundraiser. There were two late cancellations and it was speculated that the entertainment has little to lose by giving up a \$50 fee. Elizabeth noted that perhaps we could pair sponsorships with specific performers, or pair sponsorships with functions like security or sanitation.

Suzuki strings group great; Bode Lindh also really enthusiastic. Children's group that Oakley brought in was fantastic. Cloggers fun to watch, as well. Agreed that we like the variety of entertainers (as opposed to a single entertainer who might play for hours).

Volunteer situation was good; Becca worked a lot on scheduling. There were new volunteers this year. Becca will forward updated list of potential volunteers; some people want off the list and others will become involved. We'll use that list for the Block party. Recommended that Rapid City Gymnastics Academy be asked to set up a bouncy castle for the Block Party and take donations.

Final comment on the Festival: do the Culligan water station again. It increases traffic to the hospitality tent. Thank you to Sharissa for the work on the Festival.

Candidate Forum:

Jeanette gave a rundown of meet and greet for the city council candidates, Pat Roseland and JJ Carrell at the Rushmore Hotel. Candidates were good, open, attendees participated. Jeanette would want to do more advertising in advance. Feedback was that just doing a meet and greet wasn't valuable. There needed to be a kind of forum with input from the candidates, followed by Q&A (which ultimately happened). Dave would prefer a venue that is free, like Minneluzhan, and spend money on advertising. Next year, Laura Armstrong is understood to be taking a break from the city council so we will want to do this again. Our school board rep will also be coming up next year.

Skyline Wilderness Forum:

Speakers confirmed include Roger Heacock from the Skyline Drive Preservation Board, and Scott Anderson from Parks and Rec. Tim Rangitsch from the mountain biking club will also speak. The purpose of the forum is to educate people about the wilderness, how did it come into being, what are the current issues, how is Parks and Rec involved. Once people are educated, encourage a brainstorming session among attendees to address how we might advocate to preserve the Skyline Wilderness Area. Dave cited the recently rezoned property that has impeded an access point and increased density on the periphery of the area. Elizabeth has joined the Skyline Drive Preservation Board.

Elizabeth asked who Dave thinks the audience is for this forum and he responded that the West Boulevard neighborhood should really care about the wilderness in their back yard. Roger had noted to Dave that there has been limited involvement from West Boulevard residents. Dave noted that many younger families in the neighborhood have been attracted to the area BECAUSE of the Skyline Wilderness Area and that we ought to constructively engage them.

Meeting will take place July 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Minneluzhan center.

Block Party:

Dave moved the discussion to the Block Party. We have a handful of people who want to participate and help. Bike parade is on. We have the bouncy houses taken care of from the RC Gymnastics group. Dave will start an email list to the group to get people to participate and help. We'll have cotton candy, pop corn.

Dave has Eirik's planning list from last year and will coordinate the effort this year. Pat questioned whether we were clear on the boundaries for the beer garden. It is not yet clear how the city will rule on how the boundaries for the beer garden are defined. Elizabeth suggested that we should get to the fire department early to get a rig on site. Last year we had the party on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 so the FD wasn't available.

Becca noted we need to get the food trucks lined up early. Dave will be the coordinator but wants to loop Eirik in to help (which he has done).

Further thoughts about the block party: Elizabeth noted that the raptors will not want to come back; the birds were spooked last year by the activity around them.

Wilson School Forum on September 20:

We are inviting the school district to a meeting to tell us why they want to close Wilson School, which came up in the last bond issue. There may be good reasons to close it but we want to show how passionate we are about having an elementary school in our neighborhood. We need to make sure our representative on the school board is at this meeting.

Pat and Elizabeth volunteered to help Dave with organizing the forum.

Secretary duties:

Dave noted that secretary duties are somewhat simplified since John Wilmes is looking after mail. Elizabeth expressed willingness to continue to take minutes.

Facilities on the Boulevard:

Wade asked to comment on benches on the Boulevard and doggy do stations. There has been vandalism on the doggy do stations; fatigue on the part of Parks and Rec. Holly mentioned that the current doggy do situation is unsightly and tacky. Park benches: technically it's a road median and not a Parks and Rec issue (this is unclear), but we could go to a board meeting and present a plan for situating benches on locations. Wade suggested St. James and Columbus for bench locations. Parks and Rec meets on the second Thursdays of the month; neighbors with a view should attend the meeting in which this is discussed. Scott Anderson of Parks and Rec is supportive of benches.

Parks and Rec meeting:

Dave said they would like to change the tennis courts at Wilson Park to pickle ball. Fastest growing sport in the US and RC. Parks and Rec would like to have a no-pay facility for pickle ball lovers and Wilson Park makes sense. Tennis players prefer more courts than offered by Wilson, so Parks and Rec would be willing to give up Wilson to pickle ball. Holly observed that students at her job are enthusiastic about pickle ball. Pat noted that Mount Rushmore Road group is supportive.

Newsletter:

Elizabeth requested pictures from the Festival. Sharissa suggested a spotlight on Pat. Content to include the Festival, Wilson Forum, Block party; suggested that the newsletter should be third week of August so it is relevant to the Block Party. Holly will help out with plan for newsletter.

Street lights:

Dave has seen no action. City has them in the shop but hasn't installed them yet. The fixture is rated 3 out of 4 from a dark sky perspective. It's not as attractive as we'd like but it's what the city is paying for. The city will put the first 12 up then wait until there's more money to put more up.

Other:

John ran into a snag on the non profit status for the WBNA.

Pat suggested that someone from the WBNA should go to the Mount Rushmore Road Association meetings since he will have limited time to participate given his new responsibilities. Agreed that Jeanette will be the representative at the WBNA at the MRRRA.

Dave asked for further comments. None were raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Zieglmeier.