

WARD PARKWAY HOMES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2020

Held via G-Suite conference call*

Board members present: President Nancy Bader, Vice President Richard Murray, Secretary Amanda Rhodes, Jim Anderson, Maureen Hardy, B. Michael McFarland

Board members absent: Treasurer Gaye Tillotson, Alison Baker

Other attendees: Alex DeMasi, Becky Schubkegel, Linetta Thurman

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Nancy Bader. A quorum was present.

Guest Introductions: none

Bader reviewed the results of the Election for the Ward Parkway Homes Association (“WPHA”) Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. She reminded the Board that this year the WPHA instituted electronic voting in light of Covid-19 and that the cutoff for voting was midnight. Bader noted that there were 165 total ballots distributed, 153 of which were electronic and 12 of which were hand-delivered paper ballots. Of those, 34 electronic ballots (22.2% of those distributed) were received and 2 paper ballots (16.6% of those distributed) were received. In total, 21.8% of ballots distributed were returned. Bader noted that although this may not seem significant, it is a far better response than in prior elections.

Secretary Amanda Rhodes then inquired as to whether the email for electronic voting was sent to the email associated with the resident’s PayPal account. Bader confirmed that she would send an individual email to each PayPal email address after the resident paid for a membership. Rhodes then suggested that in the future the Board consider allowing the submission of a preferred email, as many residents no longer monitor the email addresses associated with their PayPal accounts. For instance, the Board could establish a final “receipt” page with a place to submit a preferred email, if different than that associated with the PayPal account.

Vice President Richard Murray noted that in typical elections there are less than 10 ballots cast, since it usually requires meeting attendance. Becky Schubkegel expressed her support of the electronic ballot and noted that it allows for faster responses and is much more convenient for residents.

After discussion of the electronic voting process, Bader announced the WPHA Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2020-2021:

- Nancy Bader;
- Alison Baker;
- Alex DeMasi;
- Maureen Hardy;
- B. Michael McFarland;
- Richard Murray;
- Amanda Rhodes;

- Becky Schubkegel; and
- Gaye Tillotson.

Bader congratulated the new Board of Directors. She then noted that the officers that held a position this past year expressed interest in remaining in those positions. Bader inquired as to whether any other Board members have an interest in an officer position. No other Board members expressed interest. Bader presented the following slate of officer candidates for Board approval: Nancy Bader for President, Richard Murray for Vice President, Gaye Tillotson for Treasurer, and Amanda Rhodes for Secretary. Murray seconded the slate of officer candidates for approval. The slate of officer candidates was unanimously approved.

Minutes from the September 1, 2020 WPHA Board meeting were reviewed. Bader moved to approve the minutes and Murray seconded. The September 1, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

Tillotson was absent, and there was no financial report provided. Bader will communicate with Tillotson and noted that a financial report may be provided via email in between meetings.

Next, McFarland reported on Communications Committee activity, which was provided to the Board via email prior to the meeting. He reminded the Board of the recent website theme issue and reported that GoDaddy was able to recreate the theme. McFarland then discussed the September newsletter and noted that one of the top clicked links was the feature on Shannon Finney, a resident who is a member of the KC Symphony and providing small, socially distanced concerts for neighbors. He thanked Linetta Thurman for bringing the story to his attention and reminded other members to continue to bring interesting resident stories for inclusion in the newsletter.

Jim Anderson then reported on Security Committee activity, which was provided via email prior to the meeting. He reviewed the Community Policing Action Cooperative (“CPAC”) meeting notes. Bader inquired as to the date of the next CPAC meeting. Thurman and Anderson noted that meeting is next Tuesday and that CPAC notes are almost a month behind by the time of the next monthly WPHA meeting. Bader thanked Anderson for the comprehensive report.

Murray then reported on Membership Committee activity. He noted that there is no financial report, and he will provide an update on the Membership Drive once numbers are in. Murray then proposed to move the Calendar of Events discussion up to his report given that some Board members need to leave the meeting early. No Board members objected.

Murray noted that the Calendar of Events postcard will have messaging regarding Covid-19. He also noted that there is a reduced number of events based on Covid-19 concerns and budget adjustments and that further adjustments may be necessary. There are two Members-Only events: Dumpster Day on May 8, 2021 and the Hawaiian Ice Truck on June 19, 2021.

Next, Murray discussed the annual Fourth of July event. He noted that in 2021 the holiday falls on Sunday. McFarland proposed changing the date of the picnic and not making it a July 4th event for a few reasons. First, many residents are out of town. Second, when the event falls in the middle of the week, residents may be out of town before or after and it is difficult to plan for attendance. Third, July 4th can be ridiculously hot. He proposed that it may make more sense from a planning standpoint to do an end of the school year picnic or a back to school picnic. McFarland further noted that each year it is difficult to find volunteers for the event because it falls on the holiday.

Rhodes agreed with McFarland's concerns and noted that even if the date and theme was changed, the picnic can continue with the same events. For example, the bike parade could continue as is and the theme could be changed every year to keep things fresh for the kids. Schubkegel also agreed with McFarland's concerns and noted that heat is always an issue.

Thurman stated that she prefers the event being held on July 4th because residents know the WPHA has a picnic on that date and it's family friendly. She noted that changing the date might not result in greater attendance. Hardy agreed and expressed her support for keeping the event on July 4th.

Murray stated that he does see value in calling it a summer picnic and having the event earlier in the summer, however he noted that it is difficult to compare this year's event with any prior year given Covid-19.

Bader noted that she has reservations with both scheduling scenarios. On the one hand, she understands the desire to keep the July 4th date because it's easy to remember. On the other hand, she also doesn't enjoy hosting holiday events on the exact holiday and July 4th always seems to be either hot or rainy. In the future, she would like to have a more robust discussion regarding the event after the Board is better able to evaluate a non-Covid impacted event. She noted that if the Board always keeps the date as July 4th, the Board will never know whether changing the date would improve the event.

Anderson noted that he values holding the event on Independence Day. Murray suggested placing a brief survey in the newsletter or on social media to get feedback from residents. He noted that there is no reason the Board couldn't keep the event as scheduled for July 4, 2021 and gather feedback from residents that attend.

Schubkegel then stated that as volunteer coordinator she can try to organize a volunteer campaign for July 4th, but she noted that it is especially difficult to get volunteers for a weekend holiday. Bader noted that if the WPHA is determined to host a holiday weekend event, more Board involvement is necessary for the event itself. She expressed concern about hosting an event on a holiday from a volunteer perspective.

McFarland stated that he liked the suggestion of sending out a survey regarding the 2022 event and getting a sense of whether residents would rather have a non-holiday event. He further suggested that it may serve the WPHA better as an organization to not host an event on a holiday that some people may see as oppressive. McFarland will bring additional ideas for end of school and back to school events.

McFarland then brought to the Board's attention that a resident suggested changing the Holiday Homes contest to a Halloween Homes contest for 2021. Bader noted that it would be fun to explore that idea for next year as it does seem like the neighborhood gets into Halloween decorations.

Next, Bader noted that the Mums Sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 11, 2021. She selected this date to avoid Labor Day weekend. She also noted that the November 2021 Board meeting has been moved to Thursday, November 4, 2021 due to the possibility of election on that prior Tuesday.

Murray stated that if any members have any other suggestions or edits to please contact him via email. He noted that he will send a revised Calendar of Events prior to the November meeting for finalization at the meeting.

Bader then reported on Beautification Committee activity, which was provided to the Board via email prior to the meeting. She noted that the Mums Sale was profitable and that she enjoyed working with Waldo Greenhouse. Bader thanked the volunteers for their efforts. Both Murray and Schubkegel congratulated Bader on a successful event.

New Business

Bader noted that since the website has been fixed, the Board can now move forward with adding short biographies to the website. She will follow-up with getting responses from Board members and will follow-up with McFarland on adding to the website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Minutes submitted by Amanda Rhodes.

*** This meeting was held via G-Suite conference call pursuant to the [Covid-19 stay-at-home order](#) issued by Mayor Quinton Lucas on March 21, 2020.**