



Notes to Meeting of

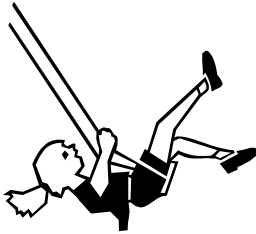
August 27, 2002

Meeting # 70

Westminster Neighborhood Association

A. Introduction

We had fifteen people attend our meeting, all of whom introduced themselves to their neighbors.



B. Review of Agenda

No new items were added to the agenda. Traditionally, no WNA meeting is held in August because so many people are on vacation. However, an August meeting was held this year to discuss the September 7, 2002 playground arts projects dedication and the masquerade ball fundraiser.

C. Treasurer's Report

Westminster Neighborhood Association Financial Statement for August 2002

The Treasurer presented the following report.

<u>General WNA Fund (dues-supported)</u>		
Balance as of 19 July 2002		\$2,100.77
Receipts		None
Disbursements		
Chk acct service chrg (8/02)	\$8.00	
Mural scaffolding permit	\$25.00	
Total		\$33.00
Balance		<u>\$2,067.77</u>

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The Treasurer’s report (continued)

ANC Playground Repair Fund		
Balance as of 19 July, 2002		\$3,901.00
Receipts		None
Disbursements		
Iron - advance for work	\$500.00	
Trystan-bollard - advance for work	\$1,296.00	
Total		\$1,796.00
Balance		\$2,105.00

A motion was passed to reimburse Denise Wardlaw \$50.00 for the cost of a card and flowers sent on behalf of the WNA for a neighbor who passed away. A motion was passed to reimburse Lynn Johnson \$13.74 for the cost of a sprinkler for the playground.

D. Guest Speaker – Public Safety–Emergency Preparedness

A guest speaker on emergency preparedness will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

E. Committee Updates

- **Playground –Lynn Johnson**
- ✓ *September 7, 2002 Dedication*

The dedication of the playground’s public arts projects will take place on September 7 at 3:00pm. Lynn reported that approximately 100 people are expected to attend, including the mayor, Council members Jim Graham and Phil Mendelson, the artists and representatives of the DC Dept. of Arts and Humanities (DCCAH). Susan Ousley will organize the children with songs. She will also ask the Shaw Junior High marching band to play for the event. Denise Wardlaw will thank the DCCAH on behalf of the WNA.

Chuck obtained the necessary signatures for closing Westminster Street for the dedication. The street will be closed to through traffic from the alley on Westminster to 10th Street. There will be no parking on Westminster from the alley to several yards beyond the playground entrance from ap-

proximately 2:45pm until 6:00pm. No parking signs will be posted on Thursday and cones will be set out on Saturday.

In addition to the WNA tent, several tables and approximately 60 chairs will be set up in the playground for the dedication ceremony. Jay Pearson volunteered his SUV for transporting 30 to 40 chairs from the DCCAH for the event and Polly, Lisa, Kevin and Jim will help to set up the WNA tent.

Joletha reported that WNA neighbors volunteered to bring homemade desserts including banana pudding and an assortment of cakes and cookies. It was decided that desserts should be brought 15 to 20 minutes before the event. Those bringing desserts but not able to attend will drop off their dishes at Lynn’s house. Tania volunteered to make a trip to Costco to get plates, napkins, utensils, cream, sugar, soda and water. Joletha volunteered to provide coolers and ice.

Jessie suggested that materials be provided for the children to create their own mural during the event. Jay volunteered to bring roll paper and color markers. Patricia will also bring color markers. They will coordinate with Susan on the children’s activities.

Loretta volunteered to work on clean up. Joletha said that her kids from the Boys & Girls Club would help Loretta.

[Postscript: The dedication was held on September 7th and it was a great success, with 140 people attending. Photos will follow.]

✓ *Water Feature*

A request was made to keep the water feature on for one hour longer during the hot summer evenings. Lynn noted that the issue of who is responsible for paying the water bill has not yet been resolved. Currently, the water bill averages approximately \$400 per month. There was a consensus to defer to the discussion on this issue at the July WNA meeting where it was decided to not make any changes until the issue of the water bill was resolved.

➤ **Refuse – Chuck Baxter**

Chuck circulated an Excel spreadsheet prepared by the trash committee to remind everyone of the importance of taking in trashcans by 7:00pm of the day after pickup. More trash tends to collect where trashcans remain in the alleys, and rats collect where trash collects.

F. Public Safety

CORRECTION: In last month's Newsletter, under our "Public Safety" column, we incorrectly published that a neighbor had witnessed a negative event in the neighborhood. The information published was misinterpreted by the editors of the newsletter, and the person identified did not make the comments as stated. The WNA editors apologize for any inconvenience that this column may have had on any neighbors. As we are all volunteers, this was an honest mistake that we hope did not cause any neighbors any undue hardship.

Officer Barnes attended the meeting. Since he came to the meeting directly from patrol duty, Officer Barnes was not able to provide us with crime statistics.

It was reported that an SUV had been stolen over the weekend from the 900 block of S Street, NW. Another mini van, which was stolen from the 1800 block of 10th Street, NW during that same weekend, was recovered in Prince Georges County, Maryland.

Officer Barnes confirmed that the correct number to call in a non-emergency was 727-1010 or 311.

G. Committee Signup

The WNA now has eight committees that you can sign up for to help make the neighborhood the best it can be. The committees include:

- Public Safety (police/fire/disaster-emergency preparedness)
- Community Enrichment (community survey, vacant property renovation, historic preservation)
- Streetscape (trees, tree boxes, tree trimming, signage, call-boxes, U St. Streetscape, Park Service property)
- Playground (mural/alcoves/maintenance)
- Refuse (garbage removal / rat abatement / abandoned cars)
- New Member Packet (about WNA/where to shop, etc./work with 9th Street Business Assoc.)
- WNA House Tour Fundraiser
- Membership (recruitment)

When you sign up for a committee you are making a commitment to work on that committee for the calendar year. Throughout the year the WNA will have additional opportunities for those of you who cannot make that one-year commitment to participate in short-term projects such as tree planting, bowling, clean-up day, etc.

If you are interested in signing up for a committee or working on a specific short-term project, please contact Tania Shand at (588-8060). Please remember that we all need to stay involved if WNA is to continue making progress improving our neighborhood.

H. Other Matters

➤ Masquerade Ball

Tim Mack reported on the cost of holding a fundraising event for the playground at the Maya Angelou Center at 9th and T Streets. Questions were raised about the cost and the price it would be necessary to charge to realize a surplus from the event.

The outcome was an expanded committee to consider an event in the spring, perhaps held at the playground. Nicole Pascua and Patricia Crisman volunteered to work with Tim and they will meet in Mid-September to explore developing support for the event with other neighborhood organizations.

➤ Elections are Coming...

It's getting to be that time of year again – time to begin thinking of WNA officer elections. Have you been itching to get more involved in the community? Have you spotted a neighbor who just “looks like an officer?” If so, elections will be held at our October meeting, so consider whom you might want to nominate for the 2003 offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

I. Good Neighbor

The WNA Good Neighbor Award is reserved for those people who have given of themselves to others to make our community a more enriching place to live. With that in mind, this month's Good Neighbor Award goes to none other than Alberto Posse, the supervisor for Renovations Unlimited, our Westminster Playground wall construction company.

As many of you know, we suffered damage to one of our playground light poles over the winter. For whatever reason, the pole was cracked horizontally. Now, one would think that the highly qualified WNA Maintenance Staff could find a welder and take care of this apparent minor matter. How-

ever, our staff soon discovered that the light pole was made of *aluminum*. Now, while aluminum is theoretically amenable to welding, it takes a special welding machine and tools. After a few estimates, the lowest price quote we obtained was \$550.

Not yet being financially flush, one of our members was complaining about this last month. Alberto, who was working on the playground wall, overheard these cries. Taxing his superior knowledge in this technical area, he informed the WNA maintenance staff that due to some new two-part epoxy, no one “welds” aluminum any more. Later that week, Alberto brought over that epoxy and with the help of a few of his men, repaired that light pole. “No charge,” he said, “you have a beautiful playground and I feel privileged to do my part for such a great community.” Alberto claims that the epoxy will hold as well, if not better, than any welding. Judging from the wall he and his company constructed for us, we have no doubt that it will.

J. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday in September 2002 (the 24th) at 7 PM in the playground. If the weather is bad, we will hold the meeting at 922 Westminster Street. If you want to put anything on the agenda, please call Tania at 588-8060.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Several WNA neighbors are having a yard sale in the newly renovated playground on Saturday, September 21st from 9am to 4pm (rain date: Sunday September 22nd). Everyone is invited. If you would like more information you may contact Amoy McGhee at 202/232-2457 or Margie Perko at 202/332-7595.

WNA Membership List

Please take a moment to find your name on the following list. If you do not find your name, it means that you have forgotten to pay us for this year's dues. Get that checkbook out and make out a check (\$15 per household or \$5 if senior citizen) payable to "WNA." You may mail it or just drop it in the mailbox for Margie Perko at 924 Westminster. Get *your name* published.

2002		
Hershel Bagley	Paul Hardy & Patty Anderson	Brenda Ntim
Chuck Baxter	Emily & Stephen Henn	Suleika Oakley
Emmanuel Blackwell	Betty Hightower	Susan, Marquan, Andre & Sarah
Jacqueline Brower	Loretta Johnson	Ousley & Bruhier Stillman
Patricia Crisman	Lynn Johnson	Margie Perko
Kevin Dailey & Clare Donelan	Mary Jane Jones	Gennet Purcell
Charles Dittrich	Joletha Jordan	Geoff & Lucia Seaver
Reid Dunavant	Daniel Katz & April Fulton	Tania Shand
Charles & Doris Edwards	Kennickal, & Holback	Tim Shannon & Page Van Wirt
Philip Fornaci & Michael Geller	David & Michelle Laird	Leola Smith
Eileen & Jesse Foster	William and Michelle Lewis	Dana Voorhees
Sophia Frimpomaah	Amoy McGhee	Michael & Denise Wardlaw
Lamont O. Hames	Tim & Patsy Mack	Gift dues from Joletha Jordan
	Kerry Meyer & Misa Rossetti	



Artists Anne Marchand and Jerome Meadows talk about their art projects with guests and neighbors at September 7 dedication)