



Notes to Meeting of

October 22, 2002

Meeting # 72

Westminster Neighborhood Association

A. Introduction

We had seventeen people attend our meeting, all of who introduced themselves to their neighbors.

B. Review of Agenda

No new items were added to the agenda.

C. Treasurer's Report

Westminster Neighborhood Association Financial Statement for October 2002

The Treasurer presented the following report.

General WNA Fund (dues-supported)

Balance as of 24 September 2002		\$2,044.03
Receipts		
Dues	\$0.00	
Total		\$0.00
Disbursements		
Chk acct service chrg (10/02)	\$8.00	
Park Supplies (ck 0128)	\$128.05	
Total		<u>(\$136.05)</u>
Balance of 27 Oct 2002		\$1,907.98

ANC Playground Repair Fund

Balance as of 1 September, 2002		\$2,105.00
Receipts		None
Disbursements		None
Balance		<u>\$2,105.00</u>

A motion was passed to reimburse Lynn Johnson \$128.05 for the cost of weed spray for the alleys and sidewalks (\$105.35) and seed/fertilizer for the playground (\$22.66). A request was agreed to for discussion prior to authorizing funds for weed spray in the future. Mathew Ruest volunteered to research the relative safety of weed spray and alternatives to weed spray in relation to children, pets and water runoff.

D. Guest Speaker –

Tom Day, DPW (SWEEPS)

Mr. Day, who was a SWEEPS inspector for Ward 1 for many years, now heads enforcement. He informed us of changes being made to the fine structure for sanitation violations, including an increase in the minimum fine for residential properties from \$35 to \$75 for each of the following violations¹:

- Failure to properly contain solid wastes.
- Failure to provide sufficient storage between collections.
- Failure to comply w/order to rodent-proof or abate for rats.
- Failure to provide adequate facilities for waste storage.
- Failure to use vermin-proof trash and storage areas.
- Failure to keep trash in tightly covered containers.
- Failure to comply with waste handling requirements.
- Failure to keep premises free from rats and vermin.
- Failure to report vermin infestation.
- Firms must be able to provide an integrated Pest Integrated Management (PIM) management plan, that includes surveys, inspection, abatement, and rodent proofing.
- Spillage of waste at collection point.

The new fine structure will be applied on an accelerated basis so that 2nd, 3rd and 4th violations for the same offense within a 60-day period will result in progressively higher fines up to \$1,000. In addition, based on proactive legislation before the City Council, the District will be authorized to levy and

collect “special assessments” for the cost and expense it incurs in cleaning nuisance property. The special assessments will be collected in the same time and manner as real property taxes. As with unpaid real property taxes, unpaid special assessments may result in your property being sold at auction for the amount of the assessment. You can search the Real Property Assessment Database on the Tax Payer Service Center web page of the Office of Chief Financial Officer website² to determine whether you have an assessment against your property.

Mr. Day also provided the following information:

Enforcement - The City has hired more inspectors to investigate complaints and cite violations as well as cross-trained police officers to cite violations.

Recycling - Due to problems with DC’s commercial recycling contractors, the city will now pick up recycling. Eight new recycling folks have been hired; two will work in investigation and four in education.

Hazardous Waste - The city now has two days a year for hazardous waste pick-up. Dates and location for pick-up are posted on the information page of the DPW website.

Trash Cans/Recycle Bins – It is now illegal to put trash out in plastic bags and you can be cited for doing so. You can get new or additional trashcans and recycle bins by calling SWEEPS at 202-7190 or by calling Tony Duncan’s office at Solid Waste Collection at 645-4301.

¹ The list of violations reproduced here is available on the DPW website at: http://dpw.dc.gov/services/solidwaste/sweep/san_enforcement.shtml. Mr. Day provided us with a more detailed listing of fine structures, which Lynn distributed by e-mail and which we will make available at our next WNA monthly meeting.

² <http://cfo.dc.gov/etsc/main.shtm>

Tree Boxes - Tree boxes should be three-sided with no side on the curb and should be a maximum of four inches high.

Public Parking - It is illegal to park on the property in front of your house or in back of your house since that is "public property" owned by the city.

Eviction Process - The DPW is working to educate the Marshals' office in the case of evictions. There has never been a law or policy requiring an evicted tenant's property be put on the street. Since doing so creates a mess that has to be cleaned up at a cost to the city, it is more appropriate for a landlord to put such property in storage.

Phone Numbers - Call 202-645-7910 for issues related to the environment, including enforcement of litter and sanitation laws. Call 202-645-4301 for trash collection and trash containers.

E. Committee Updates

➤ **Public Safety – Ronnie McGee**

Ronnie reported on a reorganization of PSA 306. Ronnie will provide us with the new names and numbers of the reorganized Third District Roster.

➤ **Community Enrichment**

The following items of interest were reported:

- A meeting was held at the Reeves Center at 10:00AM on Saturday, October 26th on our area's Neighborhood Action Plan.

- It was reported that the Shiloh Baptist Church might be looking to buy the Seaton Elementary School building, which would reduce the number of elementary schools serving the area.

- Howard University was scheduled to meet on October 30th to solicit comments on its proposed arts overlay office development between 8th and 9th and U Streets.

- The Zoning Board Authority (BZA) would meet November 26th to decide on re-submitted exception application by the Most

Worshipful Prince Hall Lodge to expand and operate a parking lot at 1902 and 1906 Vermont Ave., NW. Tania Shand noted that she did not receive the required notice of the public hearing from the Masons; anyone with property within 200 feet of the lots should have received a notice. You can call the Office of Zoning at 202-727-6311 for information. Tania will attend the hearing to personally oppose the exception application and Tania and Chuck will resubmit the Neighborhood Stabilization Project's opposition for the new case number.

➤ **Streetscape**

Tania Shand reported that Stanley Mays of the Urban Forest Council of Washington, DC would submit a letter to the National Park Service in support of a proposed tree planting on Vermont Avenue between S Street and Florida Avenue. Tania volunteered to continue her involvement in the project.

➤ **Playground –Lynn Johnson & Chuck Baxter**

✓ *Water Feature*

Chuck reported that the \$1,300 water bill had been paid by the city. A final decision has not yet been made on whether the city will continue to pay the bill, but it is now being sent to Parks and Recreation.

✓ *Front Gate and Bollard*

Lynn reported that the bollard was installed for \$700, an amount that was one quarter of the other bids. The installation was paid for by funds granted for that purpose by the ANC. Lynn gave high marks to Mr. Jones for his brick and concrete work. The front gate will be installed the first weekend in November.

✓ *Storage building*

Chuck proposed that WNA purchase a small storage building to store hoses and other playground maintenance equipment, which would be located against the back

fence on the left hand side of the playground. He circulated photocopies of two examples for review. A suggestion was also made for a second storage building to hold balls and other playground toys. After some discussion on the pros and cons of wood versus molded plastic, it was decided that a vote be taken at the November meeting on purchasing one storage building to give interested neighbors a chance to research additional options.

➤ **Refuse – Chuck Baxter**

Chuck circulated a report prepared by the trash committee, which reflects over time the incidence of trash and trash cans left in the alley after 7:00pm one day after trash pick-up. Chuck gave a copy of the report to Mr. Day to show the improvement our community has made in keeping the alleys clean.

F. Public Safety

Officer Barnes attended our meeting. He briefly reported on changes that affect PSA 306, including changes in location, personnel, and boundaries. Lt. Durand is transferring into 306 from 302 but he may not stay. Lt. Dykes is now the midnight watch commander. Officer Wong will transfer to 304, Officer Hanson to 305, and Officer Barnes will stay in 306. Some PSAs are combining with others. The number of officers has increased due to reassignment from specialized units. We will try to get more information when the dust settles from all of these changes.

Officer Barnes reported an increase in our area of theft, including bicycle theft. Theft from auto has increased on 9-1/2 Street. Reports were made to Officer Barnes of gunfire on 9th Street and of loitering in the Westminster and S Street and the Westminster and T Street alleys.

G. Other Matters

➤ **Masquerade Ball**

It was proposed by the Masquerade Ball Fundraising Committee that no one event carry all the weight, but that WNA hold several events throughout the year. The first of these would be an afternoon dress-up event held at the playground in June. It would be a combination garden party/ice cream social with an entertainment for the kids and a silent auction. The evening event would be held in October at either the True Reformer or the Maya Angelou facility. The committee will present a budget at the November meeting.

➤ **Elections**

Elections were held and the following members were voted into office for 2003:

❖ **President - Tim Mack**

Tim Mack, a resident of the Shaw neighborhood for 25 years has lived on Westminster Street since 1980. He currently is a member of the Bar of DC and New York, and was the Managing Principal of a DC consulting firm for 10 years. Tim's previous work includes: Vice President of Research with WPP Ltd., the largest public affairs and marketing firm in the world; project staff at Harvard University, National Academy of Sciences and the US General Accounting Office; co-founder of DC Legal Services for the Homeless and Dupont Circle Babysitting Coop and; Editor and Chief of the *Syracuse Journal of International Law and Commerce* and Managing Editor of *Futures Research Quarterly* for 15 years. Though Tim feels he is getting "old," he stays active by participating on the Tae Kwon Do team at Catholic University of America and running in the Marine Corps Marathon to raise money for Whitman-Walker Clinic. Tim is married to Patsy Mack, former WNA Secretary, and has two grown sons.

❖ **Vice President - Tania Shand**

Tania A. Shand currently serves on the House Government Reform Committee as a Professional Staff Member for the Civil Service and Agency Organization Subcommittee. She has held this position since August 1998. Tania has worked on legislation to increase the amount of leave a federal employee may use for organ donations from seven to 30 days. In addition, Tania played an integral part in the enactment of the "Long Term Care Security Act," which became law in September 2000. Prior to the Government Reform Committee, Tania worked for the General Services Administration (GSA) as a Policy Analyst in the Congressional Affairs Office. She also worked in the GSA's Office of Governmentwide Policy and with the Federal Supply Service. Tania holds a Bachelors Degree in Policy Studies from Syracuse University and a Masters of Arts in Public Administration from Howard University. She is the current Immediate-Past President of WNA.

❖ **Treasurer - Margie Perko**

Margie Perko has lived in the Westminster neighborhood for many years. She moved to the neighborhood in 1991, first as a renter. Margie took the proud step to homeownership in 1993. Since that time, she has been involved in many neighborhood activities, such as: tree plantings, trash pick up, and being a 'big sister' to several of the neighborhood kids. She also helped to coordinate the first neighborhood Yard Sale that took place at the playground on September 21. Margie works for the National Imagery and Mapping Agency in Bethesda. She resides at 924 and spends way too much time painting vibrant colors and stenciling the walls of her house and returning things to Home Depot. As Treasurer, Margie keeps

track of the WNA receipts and disbursements, deposits and withdraws funds from the WNA account, tracks the yearly dues of WNA members, and provides monthly financial reports at meetings.

❖ **Secretary - Nicole Pascua**

Nicole Pascua is new to the Westminster neighborhood. Originally from Los Angeles, CA, Nicole moved to the Washington, DC area for college. She currently works for the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), in the Center for Equity and Diversity. At ADEA, she assists with the Association's minority and women's program activities in the U.S and Canadian dental schools. She serves as a liaison to other national, international and local dental organizations in promoting dentistry as a career choice for women and underrepresented minorities who are interested in the health professions. Her previous work includes tobacco control and cessation curriculum and training development at the Washington, DC National Office of the American Lung Association. Nicole's past activities include volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and participating in the Dwight D. Eisenhower's People to People Student Ambassadorship Program. Nicole serves on the WNA Fund-raising Committee chaired by Tim Mack.

➤ **Holiday Tree Lighting and Party**

The following individuals volunteered to organize the annual holiday tree lighting and holiday party. Patricia Crisman, Patsy Mack, Tim Mack, Will Purcell, and Misa Rossetti. Mathew Ruest graciously volunteered his home for the party. This year the tree lighting will be held on Saturday, December 14th and will begin at 5:30PM in the playground, with the holiday party to follow at Matthew's house at 1813 Vermont Avenue from 7:00PM to 10:00PM. We need volunteers to contribute apple cider, cookies, paper products and set-up and clean-up time

for the tree lighting event, and entrees, desserts, juice, soda, wine, beer, paper products and ice for the party. Please contact Patsy Mack (662-3441) to volunteer for food & paper products and Tim Mack (332-0846) for set-up, clean-up and all other aspects.

➤ **French Street Tree Lighting**

The French Street tree lighting will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 5:00PM and everyone is invited.

H. Good Neighbor

Has your neighbor done a good deed, made a positive contribution to the neighborhood? We would like to hear your story and share it with the larger community.

I. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday in November 2002 (the 26th) at 7 PM at 922 Westminster Street. If you want to put anything on the agenda, please call Tim Mack at 332-0846.

J. WNA Committees

In the interest of giving additional structure to the ongoing effort to recruit additional volunteers, the Volunteer Task List has been organized by Committee and a draft of the reorganized list will be presented for discussion at the November meeting.

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

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