

Northwest Carbondale Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
14 May 2012

Present: Lorie Allen, Patti Diggle, Thelma Herschbach, Nina Hurmis,
Zachary Kemp, Adam Loos, Chuck Paprocki, Yolán Presley, Mark Robinson,
Steven Sawyer

Absent: Jessica Bradshaw, Maurine Pyle

Guest: Jim Foerster

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President, Adam Loos.

Reports of Officers: Adam Loos noted that he attended the Neighborhood Action Group meeting on 2 May. This group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Representatives from Oak Lawn, the Arbor district, Parrish Acres, Jackson County Housing, Tatham heights attended the meeting. Most of the focus of this group is in MAP Your Neighborhood and they also work with the city in identifying and handling code violations. Jane Adams noted that zoning revamping is of much more importance with the problems with Campus Habitat. City Enforcement is weak. Other cities have required licenses for people to be allowed to rent property. Requiring a license prevents incidents like Campus Habitat from occurring.

Patti Diggle noted that there are 11 individual memberships, and 18 household memberships. The organization now has \$275.00.

Steve Sawyer moved; second by Zachary Campbell, that Patti Diggle, Treasurer, open a bank account. Discussion of the motion came to a general consensus that First Southern Bank would be the first choice of the organization if free services were offered; the SIU Credit Union is also a good option. Unanimously approved.

Nina Hurmis asked what kinds of things the money would be used for. Patti Diggle replied things like supplies (those used at the general meeting), copies, receipt books, events, the web site.

Yolan Presley moved, second by Chuck Paprocki that the Treasurer OR President be authorized to sign checks up to \$200.00. For checks greater than \$200.00 both the President's and Treasurer's signatures will be required. Unanimously approved.

Nina Hurmis moved, second by Thelma Herschbach, that the Secretary file the required paperwork to be incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the State of Illinois and be reimbursed for the filing

fee expenses. Unanimously approved.

Committee Reports. Committees have yet to be formed and meet. Chuck Paprocki noted that the Police Department contacted him and would love to work with the organization on security issues. The appropriate committee should contact Sgt Paul Edwards, regarding Neighborhood Watch, etc., at 618-457-3200, ext. 439.

Patti Diggle and Lorie Allen both mentioned that the Board should recruit friends and neighbors to serve on committees. Patti Diggle distributed both the email list and the list of paid members.

Correspondence. Andy Wallace, the high bidder of the Armory property, has contacted the organization to offer a place for the general meeting and to host Neighborhood social events. He would be happy to attend a Board meeting to answer questions and hear suggestions for use of the Armory. It was agreed that the Organization should not favor one location over another particularly and as the ownership of the Armory is not yet clear we cannot take action. Chuck Paprocki moved, second by Mark Robinson, that the Organization respond with a thank you for the generous offer, please keep us informed as ownership is decided. Yes: 9 Present: 1.

New Business.

1. Sorting and prioritizing issues from the 23 April 2012 meeting. Several board members agreed to serve on various committees. A list of the issues brought up at the General Meeting was distributed. The group agreed which issues should be assigned to which committee. A list of committees, committee members, and issues assigned is appended to these notes.

Yolan Presley and Patti Diggle both brought up the need for a good way to get information out to the community.

Zachary Kemp noted that the Board should discuss the Oakland Body Shop, the Armory, the Old High School fields, and issues regarding Major Crime/Safety and perhaps set goals for these. Steven Sawyer stated that perhaps the committees should meet and the Board then discuss issues based on those reports. Patti Diggle noted that regarding Board involvement she would like to see us decide on some visible/tangible action to show people we are a serious presence here and that we can help resolve a wide range of problems

It was generally agreed that the Board would work with committees as these issues are prioritized.

2. By-Laws Issues. It was noted that the By-Laws state we shall elect 5-7 board members but at the General Meeting 8 people volunteered and were elected. A mechanism for bringing these issues back to the General Meeting for consideration and By-Law Amendments should be developed. Patti Diggle Moved, second by Mark Robinson that a Quorum for Board meetings be established as seven members present and approval of issues at both Board and General meetings be decided by a simple majority. Unanimously approved. It was also agreed that the Board will follow Roberts Rules of Order at Board of Directors and General meetings. Adam Loos presented a handout which covered the basics of Robert's Rules.

Mark Robinson noted that perhaps the Secretary could keep track of needed changes to the By-Laws and these could be discussed at November's meeting in preparation for the General meeting in January.

3. Name of Organization for checks, website, etc. Various ways of expressing the Organization's name were mentioned. It was agreed that the following name would be used on Checks, Letterhead, and other official web-sites and documents of the Organization: Northwest Carbondale Neighborhood Association.

4. Website. Lorie Allen moved, second by Mark Robinson, that options for a Website be researched by the Communications Committee and a recommendation brought to the Board. Zachary Kemp noted that the City staff may offer some help with that process. Mark Robinson noted that we need to include links to city and area sites which are important. Unanimously approved.

5. Meeting Schedule. Lorie Allen moved, second by Zachary Kemp that the Board of Directors meet, beginning in June 2012, on the third Monday of each month at 6.30 p.m. It was noted that the By-Laws require 8 meetings but it was agreed that as a new organization we may need more time together. Meetings may be re-scheduled around the holidays in November and December. Unanimously approved.

Meetings are currently scheduled as follows in 2012: June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19, and December 17. Following this schedule the next General Meeting will be held on Monday, 21 January 2013.

6. General Discussion. There was a lively discussion of how we want to be seen as an organization. Zachary Kemp noted that some organizations in town have the reputation of being more whiney/less friendly. He would like to see us focus on positives and help people

resolve problems. The group discussed things like helping students as they move into the neighborhood, working to help neighbors, working with the City officials to make the neighborhood better, being aware of what is going on and being proactive about our feelings and working for the best good of all concerned. Adam Loos noted that the Carbondale Police Department has a link on their web site where they will send an alert any time something happens in the neighborhood. That link should probably be part of our web site as well. The need for a newsletter, how to distribute such, and things to include were also discussed. It would be great to distribute a "resident's guide to life in Carbondale's Northwest" when school starts this fall. It was noted we have a need for a Logo to include on letterhead, business cards, the newsletter and the web site.

7. Announcements. Patti Diggle noted that the City has a great program to help people who buy former rental property convert it back to owner occupied. Such a property is now for sale at 610 North Bridge. Yolanda Presley noted that that kind of information would be great to include in a newsletter. She also noted that there appeared to be a real lack of diversity both on the Board and at the General Meeting. It was noted that the Board includes people of various ages and who have lived in Carbondale both a long time and a short time and that is a great start. It was noted that a lot of work can be done over the internet. Zachary Kemp noted that the Board of Directors and their families should get together socially some time this summer as a way to know one another better.

Adam Loos moved, second by Nina Hurmis, that the meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorie Allen, Secretary