

Northwest Carbondale Neighborhood Association
General Meeting
23 April 2012

Approximately 52 people attended the meeting, held at the Carbondale Elks Lodge 220 West Jackson St., Carbondale, IL 62901.

Howard Allen introduced himself as a 29 year resident of 1008 W Sycamore street and described how the meeting came to be organized. Since so many area residents attended a meeting to discuss plans for the Armory held at Hickory Lodge on 16 January 2012, it was felt that a strong neighborhood association might help to represent the area's interests with city staff and city council. The following people volunteered to work as a group to help form a more permanent organization and tonight's meeting is a result of their work:

Chuck Paprocki, Yolanda Presley, Patti Diggle, Lorie Allen, Ed Van Awken, Courtney Smith, Thelma Herschback, Adam Loos, Millie Hanson, Sandy Litecky, and Jane Adams

This group met on 30 January, 20 February, 19 March, 9 April, and 19 April 2012. Thanks to these neighbors for their help in planning.

The first order of business is to approve a name for the Organization. Several have been suggested:

- The Northwest Neighborhood Association (19)
- The Great Northwest (0)
- The Garden District (2)
- The Armory District (5)

Are there any other suggestions? There were none. In parenthesis above are the number of votes given by show of hands.

The Organization shall be called **The Northwest Neighborhood Association.**

Mr. Allen highlighted sections of the **By-Laws**. The By-Laws were adapted from those of the already established Arbor district and modified to fit with our larger area. Several copies are available around the room. The By-laws include the name and general boundaries of the organization and state that our purpose is to be a "not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving the historic heritage of the northwest section of Carbondale and the quality of life of all of its residents. Activities designed to meet this aim may include but are not limited to seeking special designations to preserve the area and its structures; organizing neighborhood clean-ups; fostering neighborhood improvement projects; participating in zoning change negotiations; fostering code compliance and enforcement; and representing neighborhood interests before public bodies.

Membership, Dues and Voting. It was agreed by the committee that Dues should be low: \$5 for individuals; \$10 for households, and businesses. Household memberships have a maximum of 2 votes; businesses will be entitled to one vote.

Board of Directors and Officers: President, VP, Secretary Treasurer, and five to seven at large members.

Elections. To be held at an annual meeting, generally to be held in January each year.

Sections are included which cover meetings, Committees (these are listed separately), how the Board shall communicate with members (via newsletter, email, Facebook); as well as how the by-Laws may be amended; and Liability; and Dissolution of the Organization.

Robert Marks (706 N Allyn) asked how “fostering code compliance” might be accomplished. Committee members responded that monitoring what’s happening in the neighborhood and working with City staff should help. Awareness and communication will be key. Patti Diggle mentioned that she feels it important that people get to know each other, particularly those who rent. An annual get together at the beginning of the school year to welcome new residents and help first time renters learn about options for insurance, and city rules and services would be a huge help. Jeff Woodward mentioned that he owns quite a few properties in the neighborhood. Would he be able to join the organization? It was noted that property owners who do not live in the area would be considered a business and could join as such.

Sandy Litecky moved with Second by Robert Marks, that the by-laws be approved. YES: 37. NO: 2

Nominations and Elections. A nominating committee met and presented the following candidates as nominees for:

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- President: Adam Loos
- Vice President: Yolán Presley
- Treasurer: Patti Diggle
- Secretary: Lorie Allen
- There were no nominations from the floor. Robert Marks moved, Jeff Woodward seconded, to approve the officers. 37 votes approved. 0 no..

Board of Directors. Volunteers were asked to run for the Board of Directors. The following individuals offered their time and services and briefly introduced themselves:

1. Chuck Paprocki, 803 W Pecan (long time organizer of the Sufi Community Gardens),
2. Zachary Kemp, 200 N Oakland (owner 4 years, he and his wife are studying to be Physician Assistants and have a 15 month old daughter),
3. Maurine Pyle, 507 W Sycamore (lived in Carbondale 3 years and is active on the Interfaith Council)
4. Steve Sawyer, 706 N. Bridge (has worked for six years at the SIU Library and has been in the area 25 years),
5. Nina E. Hurmis, 515 N. Michael (has been here one year and is attending SIU)

6. Jessica Bradshaw, 512 N Carico, Apt. A (has been here 6 years and has a passion for mapping and communication),
7. Mark Robinson, 800 W Sycamore (has lived here for 32 years and is best known by his business name, the Bike Surgeon),
8. Thelma Herschbach, 1309 W Sycamore (retired, here 15 years and wants to keep involved with what's going on in the area.),

Robert Mark moved, and Jan Eisenhard seconded, to accept these residents as members of the Board of Directors. Unanimously approved.

Adam Loos asked for input about which issues concern people the most. The discussion was fast and lively and included the following points of focus:

(not in order of priority or importance)

- Oakland Auto Shop
- Oakdale Park—Debris and Safety
- Hickory Lodge Park, 1 acre across street from Lodge—Debris
- Social Deficit
- Poor Lighting on many streets
- Serious Crimes
- More Community gardens
- Noise
- Chickens (someone wanted them but the Council approved this and there are still permits available)
- Speeding through neighborhoods (especially on Bridge, Willow and Sycamore but on other streets as well, issue brought up by 4 people)
- Trash in Streets/yards (brought up by 2 people)
- Infrastructure: streets, sewers, sidewalks, culverts (brought up by 3 people)
- Dog litter
- Oakland field/Old High School Athletic Fields
- Zoning/Rezoning
- Poor Maintenance
- Derelict Houses
- Feral Cats
- The Armory
- Petty Crime
- Sidewalks and more lighting (especially on Poplar)
- More section 8 housing in the area has the potential to cause problems
- A Dog Park and more Greenways

It was noted that a lot of these issues come back to not knowing your neighbors, not knowing city rules or contact people and are the kind of things that may be resolved by communicating and working together rather than “official” action or cash. It was noted that if you concentrate on a problem, you have problems. Concentrating on

solutions, eliminates problems little by little. For example, if everyone agreed just to pick up the trash in front of their house, more people would pick up the trash and soon the area would be trash free.

It was noted that Mapping the Neighborhoods is great for emergencies (who needs medical help, etc.) as well as getting to know your neighbors.

Mark Robinson noted that he was the prior owner of what is now the garage on Sycamore and Oakland. He sold the property to a local landlord at a low price and was assured it was to be used for storage and warehousing for other rental properties. As a commercial property its value is much higher. Everyone agreed that it may look nicer now but no one agreed that the correct process for a business at that site was followed. Lance Jack noted that Mr. Baity had the authority to make a decision and made a call. Mr. Jack feels using the building as a garage was better than a warehouse with truck traffic potentially going in and out 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The special use allows the garage to be open only from 9-5 with no junk cars. This issue was obviously a hot and contentious topic and will require further action at later meetings of the Board.

The newly formed Board of Directors agreed to prioritize the list and assign pertinent issues to Committees for further action. The Board will hold its first meeting in mid-June.

It was noted that there were big pieces of paper around the room which outline committees and their roles. Please sign up!!!!

Patti Diggle noted that membership forms were available and dues could be paid! Thank you everyone who came out and made this first meeting a huge success.

- The meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.