Willo Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting Minutes

Dec. 8, 2021

Board Members Present: Brad Brauer (Vice President), Opal Wagner (Secretary), Linda Doescher (Treasurer), Aaron Searles, Jeremy Schachter, Charlene Gum, Sandra Lefcovich, Kush Govani, Patrice Wappel

Board Members Absent: Bob Cannon, Ann Bommersbach, Erika Gagnon, Jackson Modrak

Neighbors Present (in-person and via Zoom included): Chris Norton, Decker Williams, Nikki Armstrong, George Ernest, Gene Nance, Eric Gilmore, Scott Ferreira, Lara Sands, Mary Bayless, Addison Dent, Danielle and Matt

Brad Brauer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: Opal Wagner made a motion to approve the November, 2022 Board Meeting minutes as previously presented to the Board. Sandra Lefcovich seconded the motion The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer’s Report: The Block Watch Grant amount is $11,692. Linda applied for a new grant for 2023 in the sum of $15,000.00 (the maximum available under the increased grant limit for 2023). The Inside Willo newsletter income is offsetting expenses for the first time in forever. Going to the smaller-sized format made a big difference in production expenses. The net result is we are in the black, which we were not last year at this time. The financial position if we closed our doors today and liquidated is: Checking Account balance is $41,000; Edward Jones investment account balance is $66,700. We need to start paying back into the Edward Jones account. It used to be a little over $100K, which was depleted due to FAA lawsuit legal fees - that were well spent - and to meet our expenses throughout 2021 when we had no Home Tour Income due to the pandemic. Opal Wagner made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report and financial statements. Patrice Wappel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Luminarias Update: Chris Norton reported next Saturday Dec. 17th is the date to pick up luminaria supplies on the 100-block of W. Lewis. Block captain volunteers have received the details in an email. Out of 44 blocks in Willo, 6 are still dark due to a lack of volunteers. Chris is seeking our help in making sure all blocks are covered. He has prepared a notice to be handed out by block captains to all neighbors reminding them to switch off their sprinklers from Dec. 23-25 so the luminarias do not get wet. The reusable tea lights are to be returned to the block captains after Dec. 25th to rebox them so they can be stored for next year.

Willo Home Tour 2023 Update: Sandra Lefcovich reported 9 homes, 3 gardens and the historic firehouse will be on the Willo Home Tour this year. The Home Tour Committee is still looking for more homes. Scott Ferreira is working on more sponsorships. The permits for street closure came through today. The liquor license permit is pending. This year will include a VIP Twilight Tour with Marshall Shore, the “Hip Historian,” and a trolley. Thirty people is the limit. VIP ticket pricing has not yet been determined.

3rd and 5th Aves. Update: Opal Wagner reported Bob Cannon’s letter approved at our previous meeting voicing neighbors’ opposition to the installation of plastic vertical dividers on 5th Avenue went out to City of Phoenix officials on Nov. 17th. Opal followed up with Michael Cano, the project manager, last week for an update and he said it is still under discussion and he will get back to us as soon as they have an answer.

Block Watch – Linda Doescher reported the 2023 Block Watch grant application is in the works.

Zoning Committee Update – Brad Brauer reported the Historic Preservation Office and Neighborhood Services Department put a stop work order on the house at 341 W. Lewis for non-permitted work being performed on the historic home. If you see something going on and have questions, please let us know. We don’t have an update on the townhouses at 1st Ave. and Cambridge/Virginia. Linda Doescher reported the developer has to use the plans that Willo approved (28 single-family homes).

Social Committee Update: Happy Hour tomorrow is at 96 W. Holly, ages 21 and over. Bring snacks and a drink.

Inside Willo Update: Sandra Lefcovich reported the new printer takes too long, so the deadline has to be 10th of the month. They are not meeting the 7-to-10-day turnaround they had promised. Inside Willo’s content is mostly about the Home Tour and luminarias right now. Sandra has received a lot of positive comments about the new full-color aspect and smaller size of Inside Willo.

Social Sites/Communications Update: Jeremy Schachter reported more and more people are joining Willo’s social media Facebook accounts. We do our best to delete fake accounts, spammers, etc.

Elections Committee Update: Nikki Armstrong reported the Elections Committee met last night. We need candidates to fill several vacant Willo Board positions for 2023-2025. Email Ann Bommersbach by Jan. 10th if you would like to run for a Board seat. Include a head shot and brief bio for Inside Willo and the webpage. A list of the names of those running will be published in the February issue. Opt in as a member of the Willo Neighborhood Association after Jan. 1st if you want to be on the board or a committee or in order to vote. Voting will be electronic this year, but paper ballots will be provided to anyone who requests one.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Our next meeting will be Jan. 12th. Linda Doescher made a motion to adjourn. Patrice Wappel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.