

Woodburn Association of Neighbors
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 21, 2007, 7:00 PM
Crosley's Banquet Center

Attendees: Anna Avakian, Paul Atkins, Karen Furfari, Mark Furfari, Steve Gunno, Joel Halverson, Ron Justice, Bob Merow, Griffin Miller, Paul Miller, Tamara Riegel, Jeanette Shahan, Phil Shuman, Louise Taft, Buffy Vehse, Harold Whisler, Ricky Whisler, Karen Woodfork.

Susan Eason called meeting to order and those present introduced themselves. Minutes were approved. (Agenda items are numbered; other topics inserted as they were discussed.)

- Summary of an incident that occurred today. Today, Morgantown police pursued a crime suspect through the neighborhood and arrested him. Guns were drawn and the crime was drug-related. Local residents saw parts of the chase. The police believe that a red truck in the Fishbowl parking lot is connected to the crime and are watching for the owner to return. There is currently an added police presence in Woodburn.

1. Successful Clean-Up Day—Help from neighborhood participants was acknowledged by Susan.
2. Dog Walking Etiquette—Concern expressed about neglect of dog-related ordinances (Tamara Riegel.) Ron Justice has access to mass email to students through MIX and might be able to help when students return in the fall. A sign reminding dog walkers is posted on Ridgeway. We could also use the newsletter to remind residents of the law. Ron reminds us that perhaps the most effective way to start is to remind people as we see them walking their dogs.

- Agenda paused while concern is expressed about eyesore houses on Richwood. The houses are 822 and 829 Richwood. Issues include loose gravel, stones, leaves, bushes need trimming, and trash and debris in yard. Options are to report code violation to city website or to handle it as a neighborhood association. The suggestion is made to create a letter on behalf of the WAN that bluntly inform the resident of the neighborhood's concern.

3. Whitmore Park Improvements—The city is looking for input. Susan will draft a letter to Boparc. Ideas produced at the meeting included:
 - Better signs/labels
 - Better maintenance
 - Repair
 - Trash pick-up
 - Lights (might draw more trouble than they prevent)
 - Better playground equipment (what age group?)
 - Arboretum/botanic garden (Susan Eason) would be possible with some tree labels
 - Railing repair (call Greg Good immediately, says RJ)
 - Letterboxes/geocaching (Tamara Riegel)
 - Art
 - Pavilion/amphitheater
 - Present history of the area, such as the retaining wall (Morgantown's largest public works project)

- Note: there was an agreement with the Board of Education about this park; should we follow up?
4. Woodburn School to Receive New Shell Building. This is just an idea at this stage. The school is on two lots, and this could be important if Woodburn Elementary ever has to be rebuilt (due to state education regulations about contiguous lot size required for building). Woodburn is Morgantown's only remaining true neighborhood school, but has no gym. This new building would be used as a gym. School board might ask to annul the road that separates the lots or it may place the building on the parking lot near the Kindergarten building. Residents most interested in this would be the 4-5 houses on Parsons Street. Tamara Riegel is president of the school improvement council. Before they make a decision, we want to see the plan. WAN will write a letter to school board.
 5. Fall Social Event for Neighborhood—plan for Whitmore Park. Volunteers to organize requested. Ideas produced include:
 - Have music from neighborhood musicians
 - Teen/parent basketball
 - Use Boparc's inflatable movie screen
 - Tentative date: Saturday afternoon/evening, September 8. WVU game away that day.
 6. Updates
 - The Woodburn neighborhood signs are ready and we'll be installing them soon.
 - Blue line parking—essentially this is waiting for someone who really wants it to happen to take the initiative.
 7. Other Business
 - June 30 will be the Roosevelt Street yard sale date.
 - Ron Justice says there are eight houses in Woodburn in the "Preserving Home Ownership in Our Community" program
 - Next meeting scheduled for Monday August 13, 2007 at 7:00 PM if meeting space is available.