

Walden Woods I
2011 Annual Meeting Recap
April 12, 2011
Novi City Center

Jim Mealey, Treasurer, opened the meeting by presenting the 2010 financial report. Prior to the meeting Steve Velick provided an informal review of the bookkeeping, and was complimentary to Jim of his organization and complete report. There was some discussion regarding the cost to insure the newly installed Hanover Lantern mailboxes. Jim reported that our annual insurance that covers liability in the commons costs \$1,000, and carries a \$2,500 deductible. The cost to purchase new mailboxes, installed, would run around \$1,500-\$2,000. Therefore the cost to upgrade our insurance coverage was not warranted.

John Goodman, President, reported that the mailbox installation was completed. There have been concerns regarding the height of the mailbox. John contacted Bob Horn, Mailboxes by Bob, to inquire about this. He expects to have a report later this week. The attendees were in agreement that the new mailboxes were a necessary improvement and added curb appeal to the subdivision. Adam Whitesel, Vice President, noted that his mailbox is not plumb. The board expects Bob Horn to correct any posts that are leaning this spring. John proposed that we continue on the subdivision improvement campaign. He suggested upgrading the marquee at the entrance. There was consensus from the attendees that improvements to the front of the subdivision would be supported. John will work to secure designs and bids. Tami Bethune, Secretary, offered that one design was secured several years ago including refurbishing of the existing signage with wrought iron "wings". If you are interested in volunteering to work with John on this project please send an email to onewoods@att.net. Holiday lighting of the marquee has always been handled by neighbors, and over the last 5-6 years it has been the responsibility of the Bethunes and the Goodmans. Quotes for professional installation have not met with board approval. Melissa Schlicker and Marianne

Prokop volunteered to decorate the front marquee in 2011. Thank you ladies!

Tim Prokop presented commons care bid information. Brett's Cutting Edge of Novi presented a professional best-price quote including cutting, trimming, mulching, flowers, weeding, seasonal cleanup, and winter snow removal of sidewalks in the commons. There was discussion specific to the care of the irrigation system implemented in 2005 in the circles. Tami Bethune will ask Ed Katulski, Irrigation Concepts, to meet with Tim to schedule the startup of the irrigation as soon as possible. Brett's Cutting Edge will maintain the irrigation systems thereafter. Brett's will begin spring cleanup later this month.

John Thompson, city forester, is the contact for boulevard tree replacement. Each homeowner must call Mr. Thompson to request replacement. Typically they replace the trees in the fall. Many residents noted the slow growth of our boulevard trees, as compared to the neighboring sub, and the unusual species selected by the city.

Mike Allie, former Vice President, was thanked for his year's contributions to the board. Mike was especially helpful with the adherence to the bylaws and providing excellent judgment and experience in all matters.

Adam Whitesel was introduced as the incoming Vice President. He brought two issues to the meeting - street sign and sidewalk repair. Tami Bethune will call Bob Horn and request that the Venetian Court and 11 Mile Road signage be repaired. Sidewalks are the responsibility of the homeowner, except in commons areas where it is the responsibility of the HOA (homeowners association). Adam agreed to inspect the sidewalks and make a list of properties and commons areas that need repair. He will get a quote for the complete job, and offer each resident the opportunity to participate. If the resident does not elect to participate, their sidewalk will not be repaired. It was noted that broken sidewalks make it difficult to push strollers and ride bicycles, and this would be a welcome improvement for anyone walking through the neighborhood.

Another idea that has been discussed over the years was better lighting along the streets. Many felt the subdivision was too dark, with only the city lighting at intersections. With the advent of better technology and solar powered lighting, it was discussed as a viable option for our subdivision. Adam Whitesel noted that he had been evaluating lighting alternatives for his company. He will take a fresh look but expects the costs to be beyond our budget.

Melissa Schlicker, city liaison, presented maps and information related to storm drains and the lawn watering practices within the city of Novi. Please remove trash and debris such as leaves and sticks that would block the flow of water. To keep our ground water safe, be mindful of using chemicals near waterways and basins that feed the storm drains. Also dispose of hazardous wastes at the recycling center rather than the back yard. Pet owners should dispose of pet waste in the weekly garbage. Tim Sikma, Novi DPW, reminds us to water between 11:00pm and 5:00am. Odd numbered homes on odd numbered days, and even numbered houses on even numbered days. This will help the city save 12% in water usage costs and help regulate water pressure. For those using well water for irrigation, you are exempt. If you are cited, contact the city and tell them you are using well water.

Tami Bethune, Secretary, announced that Tim Prokop won the door prized, a City of Novi duffle bag. An Easter Egg Hunt has been scheduled for next Thursday, April 21 at 6:30pm. Margie Stone is the coordinator. Please see the calendar for details. Tami also noted that the website has been redesigned. An intermediate site is already live, and the final version is expected in the next 60 days. This will provide forums for all neighbors to interact as well as retrieve information, secured and public.

The meeting adjourned around 8:30pm.

Attendees: Michael Allie, Mike Bethune, Tami Bethune, Dennis Diacono, John Goodman, Kirstin Kinter, Heather Klain, Jim Mealey,

Marianne and Tim Prokop, Jim Rose, Melissa Schlicker, Gary and Karen Swanson, Steve Velick, Adam Whitesel (Summary-16 attendees, 13 Households)