

Walden's Ridge Civic League
Minutes of Quarterly Meeting July 20, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
2501 Fairmount Pike, Signal Mountain, TN 37377

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Karen Stone at 7:10

ATTENDANCE: Board members present: Karen Stone, Johanne Albright, Mark Dwyer, JoDe Estes, Carolyn Longphre, Joe Clawson, Tara Stocker. Absent: Rita Smith Ervin, Roxie Thornton, Libby Goodman, Rob Johnson, Ben McGowan
Members present: Maggie and Kent Kersten, Fred Edgemon, and Sandy Melancon.

MINUTES: The minutes of January 20, 2023, were read and approved as amended.

PRESIDENT: Karen Stone welcomed everyone and acknowledged our gratitude to the supporters and sponsors listed on the printed Agenda.

REPORTS:

Treasurer - Joe Clawson: We now have two separate bank accounts at Truist Bank. The main account with a balance of +/- \$73,300 is for all general activities and will hold secure the \$51,000 in reserve for the siding replacement project. Credit Cards were issued in the names of president Karen Stone and treasurer Joe Clawson. Members of the Board of Directors may ask the Board for credit cards in their names. This general account is not accessible by debit card. The second account has \$1,000.00 for use by board members for miscellaneous purchases. It is accessible by debit card. The profit from the birthday bash event was \$2651.00. A full report will be filed.

Facilities: Siding replacement - Mark Dwyer discussed the progress being made on replacing the siding of the WRCL building. He explained that the new siding will be wood board and batten like the original siding. He said he will start encapsulating the basement soon, and he will ask Boy Scout Troop 176 for help. He has been offered many white oak trees and hopes to begin cutting and sawing in two weeks. Mark also reported that the kitchen project is still in progress.

Events: *Birthday Bash* - Carolyn Longphre reported that the community had lots of fun, and WRCL made new friends and some money. In her opinion as Chair, for next year the date should be moved to late May or early June; the number of vendors should be reduced, and food and alcohol should be sold in-house.

Memorial Day – Carolyn Longphre, JoDe Estes and volunteers representing Rock the Ridge had a successful booth at the Memorial Day Picnic at McCoy Farm & Gardens.

Fourth of July – Board members decorated a float and participated in the parade.

Smoke on the Mountain BBQ Contest - Tara Stockner: Smoke on the Mtn will sell food and alcohol in-house. Friday the event will be mainly focused on adults, while Saturday will be focused more on the children's activities. Mark is busy recruiting contestants.

Rock the Ridge is September 16 at WRCL, and we will help them make it a success.

Garden: - Johanne Albright reported that the Town of Walden had purchased native plants for the WRCL garden. Sally Ford, Johanne Albright, and their crew planted them and spread 50 bags of mulch. A plant list is appended.

Grounds: Karen Stone reported that we need a permanent solution to the regular mowing of the grounds. A new member at the meeting, Fred Edgemon, volunteered to do the mowing for free. We will send an acknowledgement letter. Karen distributed a list of Grounds Needs and Wish List for improvements.

OLD BUSINESS:

Renting spaces to vendors during the Highway 127 Yard Sale was discussed, and a plan should be made well in advance if we want to do it next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Open Mic Nights: Joe Clawson reported that Open Mic nights will begin next spring. The Edward Williamson concert is scheduled for November 10.

Annual Meeting: Karen Stone is arranging for TN state senator Bo Watson and representative Patsy Hazelwood to attend the annual meeting on October 19. They both have expressed interest in the WRCL.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Members actively discussed ideas for attracting more people to annual meetings and offered additional opinions that were helpful. They remarked that all the events they have attended were excellent and that the Board members should keep doing what they are doing. The events are getting better and better.

Recommendations: Put up signs at WRCL and on Taft for meetings and events; continue event signage which is already visible and good; use more social media; saturate with Facebook and Instagram; continue email campaigns; invite people personally; recruit volunteers with sign-ups and personal requests. Send out a survey and an electronic sign-up. Educate people about what the WR Civic League is and about its history. Put up a Suggestons Box. Membership dues were discussed, and the Board is to research other organizations and how their dues are structured.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 by Karen Stone

Garden Plant list included 4 or 5 of the following:

- Wild Bergamot
- Black Ace Turtlehead
- Twilight Bigleaf Aster
- Woodland Sunflower
- Eastern Star White Aster
- Waxleaf Meadow Rue
- Ohio Manarda
- Florida Bellwort
- Virginia Spiderwort

