MINUTES WRCL QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING - DRAFT 1

Walden's Ridge Civic Center, 2501 Fairmount Pike, Signal Mt., Tn 37377
Thursday, October 15, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Dwyer at 6:45 PM.

An invocation was offered by member Tim Webb.

Present were board members Mark Dwyer, VP Carolyn Longphre, Treasurer Helen Miles, Secretary Karen Stone, Johanne Albright, Hilda Horton, Kent Kersten, Vicki Love, Roxie Thornton, and several WRCL members. Absent was board member Rita Irvin.

President Dwyer welcomed everyone to the Volunteer Appreciation Chili Supper and thanked the volunteers and board members present. He introduced the men who have invested the last year-and-a-half on the siding installation, and they were acknowledged by applause.

Minutes of the July 15, 2026, Quarterly Meeting as posted on the website were approved.

The treasurer's report was distributed by Miles, and she went over several points. The complete report was filed with the Secretary. The insurance premium seemed high, and insurance will be discussed at a future board meeting.

Even though a drizzly, cloudy day curtailed some outdoor activities, folks who wanted good BBQ came at a steady pace on October 3rd, and *Smoke on the Mountain* was successful financially with gross profit of $5,848.00 and net profit of $2,593.04. Some sponsor pledges have not yet come in, so the figure may increase. The Board and Committee were happy with the event, the crowd, and the monetary results which are in line with receipts from the past two years.

Dwyer, Chair of Facilities Committee, reported:

- An anonymous donor has given $25,000 for essential repairs and restoration of the Civic Center, and he has pledged $150,000 toward restoration of the Women's Guild Building.
- The siding project is progressing well. The south side is complete; west side is well underway; more lumber is needed before the north side can be completed. The men will stop working outside in any bad winter weather and turn their skills toward making outdoor furniture from the white oak lumber that is not suitable for siding. Amount left in the siding fund is $13,195.92. Receipts from furniture sales are expected to go into the siding fund.
- Electrical rewiring materials have been purchased, and work on the Civic Center will soon begin by Dindle Electric, LLC at a bid of $19,700.
- Support pillars in the basement are being replaced or reinforced. Electrical and foundation work will be paid out of the $25,000 donation.
- A leak in the roof around the chimney was repaired at no charge by David Soloff. material cost was $450.00
- A heated cabinet for holding food at safe temperatures was purchased for $1,952.90 from Katom Restaurant supply. The cabinet, complete with shelves and pans, was used successfully at *Smoke on the Mt*. when we sold pick-up bulk BBQ at a profit.
- Donations of the flag pole and flag by Richard Harris and Larry Mick, respectively, were acknowledged with appreciation.
- Steps toward restoration of the Women's Building (constructed about 1950 for Women's Home Extension in will be discussed in depth at the first opportunity. Everyone is very grateful to the anonymous supporter for this very important gift. The idea was put forward that the amount might be multiplied if it can be a 40-60% match for a TDEC Federal Historic Preservation Grant.

Albright, Chair of the Garden Committee, pointed out the good jobs done by Boy Scout Eagle candidates John Stone for a new stage over the old scout cabin foundation, and Axel Apablaza for landscaping with native plants.

Longphre, Grants Chair, explained several grants being explored. Among them are TDEK Federal Historic Preservation Grant, Playcore/Play & Park Structures, and Kompan for playground improvements. She has created a Title 6 Review Assessment Plan which she will distribute so the board can decide if it is appropriate as an amendment to the by-laws. The Title 6 statement is needed to qualify for many grant programs.

In Old Business, Miles paid the first payment on our HallMark Insurance renewal agreement.

In New Business, Stone passed around plans and sign-up sheets for *Merry Mt. Christmas* decorating Dec 5 (rain date Dec 6) and the main event Friday, Dec. 18. Dwyer cheerfully agreed to serve as Santa Claus again.

Peggy Douglas told of plans to write a play to serve as a fundraiser for the Civic Center. She will conduct oral interviews of the board members and as many older residents of Walden's Ridge as she can find. The play will be constructed from the oral histories. Timeframe is 2027, and expectations are to charge the going rate for professional performances in the Chattanooga area. She hopes to create a lasting work that will be presented repeatedly through the coming years to raise funds and awareness for the Civic Center.

Incidental to future performances, Monty Veal, a historical restoration construction expert, has looked at the sagging "beam" over the stage to determine the best way to make the accordion doors functional so they can serve again as a back wall for the stage. He found that support beams run east-west, the length of the building. The apparent "beam" running north-south is not load-bearing, and when the internal structure is exposed, he believes the sag can be corrected without the large expense that has been anticipated. This work needs to be done before a theatrical production is staged. Hopes are to return the stage to a working stage as it was originally designed and used as a Little Theater in the 1920's.

There were no additional communications from Members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The Next Quarterly Membership meeting is January 21, 2027, at 7:00 PM