



West Hills Community Association
Board Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2025

Attending: Lee Hume, John Heins, Divina Morgenstern, Kathy Scruggs, Anne Crais, Jerry Erpenbach, Drew Mallard, Hurley Thurston, Susan Huskisson, Ginger Milligan, Donnie Ernst, Barbara Pelot, Reuben Pelot, Andrew Schmudde

Lee Hume, President, opened the meeting at 7 pm and welcomed everyone. For the first time, WHCA is holding their January meeting at Dead End Barbeque with a Dutch Treat dinner. We hope to continue doing this annually.

Lee Hume, President discussed the recent bill introduced by Richard Briggs, the state senator for our community, which reads as follows: **As introduced, it requires a local legislative body to approve an application for proposed development without allowing public comment, if the legislative body determines that the proposed development is in substantial compliance with the zoning regulations or map that was previously made available for public review and comment.”** The bill had already passed both houses and gone to committee by the time Lee had contacted Dr. Briggs. Lee talked with Dr Briggs who mentioned that he has received a lot of negative reactions to the bill and has now withdrawn it. Lee commented that one of the most important works of a neighborhood association is awareness of the many factors that could potentially affect local neighborhoods and have input into these matters. Lee felt that, due to the current housing shortage, we will keep seeing proposals that will impact on the West Hills community. Thanks to Susan Huskisson for seeing this on the local news and informing Lee.

Lee distributed committee assignments for each member. Please see Lee if you would rather be on a different committee than the one you were assigned. The entire board can help with tasks such as working on an event, recruiting other community members to participate in events and encouraging others in the neighborhood to join the association.

Lee noted that starting this past year, WHCA is now annually choosing to recognize a volunteer who demonstrates outstanding service to the community and, in whose honor, WHCA purchases a dogwood tree in their honor to be placed along the main path through John Bynum Park. Lee mentioned two candidates he thought were excellent candidates for the award. The first nominee is **Ilsa Wood** who helped establish the West Hills gardening

club, designed the neighborhood signs at each entrance to the subdivision, and has played a significant role in making West Hills even more beautiful with neighborhood gardening and other beautification projects. The second nominee chosen was **Elizabeth Evola** for her hard work including the establishing of and chairing the West Hills Wolfpack Foundation. The Foundation has raised over \$100,000 and has given the school a brand-new playground with updated equipment, beautified the school grounds, and has performed many other projects which benefit the school, the staff and students.

John Heins made a motion to make Ilza Wood our association winner as **Volunteer of the Year 2024**. The motion was seconded and all attending voted in favor of **Ilza Wood** being our 2024 volunteer winner. The announcement and ceremony will be at our February open meeting.

Lee also mentioned several people whose efforts for WHCA were significant, including **Bill Michie** for refurbishing our welcome signs throughout West Hills and **Jennifer Borth** for forming and leading a new West Hills gardening club. Lee also announced that an anonymous donor had purchased 2 dogwood trees for use by the WHCA.

Lee has been in touch with the Dogwood Arts Association, and they plan to hold their spring festival on April 19th in the park. This year, Dogwood Arts want to host more food vendors and feature a variety of local artists. The WHCA annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 12th this year.

John Heins recommended that WHCA give \$500 from our treasury to the Wolfpack Foundation. A discussion ensued and several people warned that our membership drive may not elicit as much money this year since we extended last year's membership fee through the end of 2025. Other roadblocks mentioned include possible lawyer retainer fees, publishing and mailing the newsletter, and funding upcoming events. John made a motion to contribute \$500 to the Wolfpack Foundation and **Drew Mallard** seconded the motion; the motion was voted on by all present and was defeated. All agreed that we would take this cause back up once the upcoming expenses were examined.

Treasury Report/Divina gave the November 2024 Treasury report.

Lee announced that Tom Arnhart, a long-time resident of West Hills, has passed away.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Scruggs, Secretary

Approved