



WAMM MEETING - APRIL 10, 2018

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

1. Introductions

Maria Morandi, WAMM Treasurer/Secretary, introduced herself. She explained that Lane Llewellyn, WAMM Vice-President and acting President, had just returned to Houston a few minutes earlier and would not be attending. Diane Baker, second Vice-President, is out of town and not attending. There are no invited speakers for this meeting. The order of business include updates on the return of Constable Patrol fees, the status of WAMM membership, and proposals and discussion of strategies to increase the membership and the number of volunteers participating in WAMM's activities.

2. Return of CP fees

All subscribers in Westmoreland have received their returned personal check or a refund. Maria Morandi recognized Bill Glazner for helping returned these fees in Westmoreland. Return of fees to subscribers in Audubon Place and WAMM is still on going. Five subscribers in WAMM and seven in Audubon Place are yet to receive their refunds, frequently because they did not respond to repeated emails requesting dates and time for returning the fees. Maria Morandi will be contacting these subscribers by phone. Dennis Pow Sang suggested that texting to their smart phone may be the most efficient way to contact them. Maria Morandi agreed and she will try texting. She also indicated that there will be further consideration of a CP contract in the future, pending evaluation of crime statistics and the approach used to recruit subscribers.

3. Membership

As of the start of the meeting, there were 33 paid members in WAMM. Maria Morandi explained that this is a substantial decline in membership compared to 44 members in 2017, 68 in 2016 (the peak year for number of members), 46 in 2015, and 49 in 2014.¹ Membership dues announcements are included in each of monthly WAMM Gazette, which typically results in one or two residents paying their dues at the beginning of each month. Maria Morandi asked for suggestions for strategies to help increase the number of WAMM members. Suggestions included:

- Send a specific email about the dues payment to all prior members.

¹ Three additional members paid their dues at the meeting. Current membership is 36.



- Contact prior members by phone/text message. Jerry Baiamonte volunteered to contact past members by phone. Maria Morandi will send him the list of past members and their contact phone number.
- Prepare a membership form in pdf format explaining the benefits that the Association provides and either canvass door-to-door or leave the form at the door of each resident who is not yet a member. Tadzia GrandPre volunteered to help with this effort.

Lane Llewellyn submitted two ideas for increasing the visibility of the Association, which could also help with increasing membership: 1) setting up Doggie Pots with bags sponsored by WAMM, and 2) adding WAMM street signs as other Civic Associations such as Winlow Place have done. There was concern expressed about the recurring costs of setting up Doggie Pots. Joe Roldan volunteered to find out the cost of the Doggie Pots. Depending on cost, there was an overwhelming preference for the addition of WAMM street signs. In addition to the intrinsic cost of the signs, it is likely that City permits will be required with the ensuing fees.

Announcements through NextDoor were also suggested as a means to increase visibility and promote communication among members and non-member WAMM residents. Maria Morandi indicated that she had learned from Bill Glazner that Westmoreland has set up a NextDoor platform exclusive for residents in their civic association. Proof of residency is required to become a member. She asked if this would be a better mechanism than using the current Montrose NextDoor network. David and Lorie Soderberg are members of Montrose NextDoor and like it very much. David suggested starting with the Montrose NextDoor network and moving to the more restricted platform at a later day. Maria Morandi indicated that she will contact Bill Glazner and find out more about the restricted version of NextDoor.

4. Need for more volunteers

Maria Morandi described the need for increasing the number of volunteers to support WAMM's current and planned activities. The position of President is still vacant. Alle L'Eveille will be resigning as Gazette editor towards the end of this year and she has offered to train replacements. Maria Morandi said that it would be ideal to have more than one volunteer familiar with the newsletter, web site, etc, so time commitments are more evenly distributed and there is always a back in case a volunteer cannot help with his/her assigned activity. Having a set of standing committees to carry out diverse tasks would help increase the services the Association provides and increase its visibility. No attendees volunteer for the Gazette editor position at the time of the meeting. The following suggestions were made:

- Focus first on increasing membership. This is critical for enlarging the pool of potential volunteers.



- In the meantime, work on the organization of the Association in terms of types of committees or teams and formulate a plan.
- Identify one or more key, encompassing issues that are important to WAMM residents. People will get involved when they feel the issue being addressed is important to them personally. To some extent, this was the experience with the CP in terms of crime, although not quite successful, and with street parking, which was very successful. All attendees agreed that the condition of local streets is a concern for most residents and could be one of the key issues. Having Helen Cohen as speaker on the plans for local street repair at one of our meetings will attract many residents.
- Have more frequent meetings for addressing specific issues.

The following are action items:

- Tadzia GrandPre, Dennis Pow Sang, and Joe Roldan volunteered to help with membership. Maria Morandi will check if we have a membership form in .pdf format that includes benefits provided by the association, and send it to Dennis who can get copies done at no cost. She will also send him the file listing current and past members of WAMM. Tadzia, Dennis, and Joe will distribute the form.
- Maria Morandi will send the file of current members of WAMM to Lorie Soderberg for crosschecking with Montrose NextDoor members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm