



The following are the minutes from the WAMM Civic Assoc. meeting held 12/12/2011

Attendance

- WAMM Officers Marcus Duffel and John Dascoulius
- 23 Residents
- Representatives from 1 business members:
 - Covenant House – Carolyn Garrard

Election of new officers to serve for 2012 and 2013 was held. The results are as follows:

Marcus Duffel – President

John Dascoulius – 1st Vice President

Lane Llewellyn – 2nd Vice President

Secretary – Kevin Begnaud

Treasurer – no candidate, Marcus Duffel will maintain this position.

2011 Fiscal Report

The 2011 End of Year Finance Report was provided to those in attendance.

Brief Summary – There was an increase of \$62.93 in the WAMM bank balance from 2010 to 2011. The WAMM balance stands at \$1,650.61. Income from resident dues increased by 78% from the previous year, which offset the loss of the annual charitable contribution from the Greek Orthodox Church. The large increase in membership fees is a strong indication of expanded resident participation in the WAMM neighborhood issues.

Marcus Duffel reminded attendees that 2012 WAMM \$25 membership fees are due in January. Several meeting attendees said many residents may be unaware of the January deadline and suggested a flyer to all residents. That flyer will be forthcoming in mid January.

Criminal Activity

Several residents discussed recent criminal activity in the area specifically around

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3500 -3400-3300 blocks of Mulberry, 1400 blocks of Hawthorne, Harold and Kipling. WAMM will make contact with Bering United, Montrose Management

District, Covenant House and the TABC to address these issues. A list of important and emergency phone numbers will be provided to WAMM members to assist with the appropriate numbers to call for various emergencies.

There have also been recent home burglaries in the 3600 block of Yupon, one in the late evening and another in late afternoon. I encourage all residents to report unusual activity and suspicious characters to the police. In the case of the afternoon break-in at 3600 Yupon the burglars obviously waited for the resident to leave on a brief errand before entering the house from the rear.

Development activity

The future of the abandoned hi-rise building at the corner of Montrose and Hawthorne was discussed. No concrete plans are available as of yet from the current owners but a WAMM member who lives adjacent to the property will keep us informed. A new development ordinance under discussion by the City of Houston that sets height and distance guidelines between existing residential could possibly affect the final development plans for this corner.

Residential Permit Parking

In a related matter to new development, a discussion was held around the application process for Residential Permit Parking areas. The City of Houston has been actively studying Residential Permit Parking as a result of increased commercial/retail/entertainment activity along Washington Avenue and around Highland Village to name a few.

The Residential Permit Parking ordinance basically allows for residents on a block-by-block basis to determine hours for restricted parking for non-residents. Vehicles parked during specified hours in these “restricted” areas are ticketed or towed depending on the situation. Residents are provided with decal permits for their cars and 2 guest permits.

With the popularity of several existing WAMM area restaurants and bars, and the

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advent of several new high profile restaurants along Westheimer, parking along Mt. Vernon, Graustark and Yupon between Hawthorne and Westheimer will be greatly increased. WAMM will coordinate the application process for residents and businesses in these affected areas. If you have concerns about this please contact me for further information.

WAMM Web Site

Marcus Duffel informed meeting attendees that the WAMM web site will be modified to highlight WAMM residents to promote their in-home business. Another web page will allow for other residents and business to purchase ad space at a nominal cost. These modifications will hopefully be rolled out during Q2 – 2012. Information on how to be included in these web site modifications will be forthcoming.

WAMM Yahoo Group Web site

WAMM has a Yahoo Groups web page that serves primarily as a forum for conversations between residents of common issues. WAMM residents can easily register for access to this site at the following web address:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wammlist/>

There is also a link to the WAMM Yahoo Group page on the WAMM Web site. Check it out and chat with neighbors on common issues and interests. Currently only 36 residents are members of the WAMM Yahoo Group. All comments, questions and discussion posts pass through a moderator for approval prior to being visible to all members. I maintain a current list of 92 WAMM resident emails, but prefer to use that for official notices and emergencies. The Yahoo Group site is a better venue for other items that pertain to the WAMM area residents. I encourage you to join Yahoo Groups.

2012 issues

On the horizon for 2012 WAMM officers will be involved with the following:

- Contact the COH on the status of the COH Engineering Dept. traffic study of W. Alabama,
- Monitor new development activity at Montrose and Hawthorne and the 3300 block of Graustark,

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- Coordinating the Residential Permit Parking application,
- Continue our efforts to press for street improvements
- Increase patrols and police awareness of the WAMM residential area.

And one last comment about 2012, the \$25 WAMM membership fee is due in January. I encourage you to solicit your neighbors, who may or may not know about our WAMM Civic Assoc., to become involved and attend our quarterly meetings. More dues paying members are always helpful for those unexpected rainy days. The 2012 WAMM membership form is available on line at www.wammcivic.org , select Pay Dues on the left side menu.

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

Regards

Marcus Duffel
President
WAMM Civic Assoc.

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