**WEST PINE / LACLEDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes: 7-14-2015**

President Harold Karabell opened the meeting at Northwest Coffee at 7:00.

MINUTES from the June 9 meeting were approved as presented.

TREASURY REPORT

Terry Werner reported that the following balances:

 $ 972.98 checking

 $ 8,044.51 savings

GUEST PRESENTATION: REPRESENTATIVES FROM EAGLE BANK

Shelly Conley, Branch Manager, and Don Reeves, SVP Commercial Lender, provided an update on the renovation and commercial development of Eagle Bank’s newest location at 4100 Lindell Blvd., which is scheduled to open September 2015.

* Eagle Bank started in 1911 and has 13 locations in the St. Louis area. Michael Walsh, President & CEO has owned the Bank for 25 years. The Bank’s focus is on community development and financial education, and bank representatives have begun walking the neighborhood to introduce themselves and the bank. The bank will have an additional office on the Cortex campus.
* A dentist and a physician will rent commercial space on the ground floor. The second and third floors will be apartments with “market rate” upscale rents starting at $1,200 for one-bedroom units.
* The bank will include a post office and accept utility payments at no charge.
* Mr. Reeves will send Harold an invitation for WPLNA members to attend the grand opening so that Laura Cohen can send the invitation to all. The grand opening will be held about a month after the bank opens.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The committee had no report, but note was made to Ron Coleman that a large area of +12 inch grass in the middle of the 4200 block of West Pine needs city mowing.

DEVELOPMENT

Harold reported that he, Ron Coleman, Joe Roddy, and Manhattan Mews representatives have corresponded extensively recently regarding three issues:

* The very slow renovation occurring at the single family house at 4308 Laclede – Ron Coleman responded that the owner lives in Las Vegas, has owned the building for two years, and continues to renovate the building despite various setbacks. The city now issues only monthly building permits in an effort to move the project along. Ron will check on the concern expressed that the owner is dismantling the building despite having been denied approval to do so. The building dates from 1889 and is one of the oldest in the neighborhood.
* Exposed wiring low to the ground on light poles – Ron reported that the city is attempting to respond to this safety hazard. To report problems and request repairs, residents are encouraged to contact the Citizen’s Service Bureau (1520 Market St. 63013) at 314-622-4800 or stlouis-mo.gov.csb.
* Obsolete street lights on 4300 Laclede – Residents have requested that lollipop lights such as recently installed on the 4100-4200 block of Laclede be installed on West Pine. Joe Roddy responded that replacing the lights is a very expensive project and that the recent Laclede lighting project cost $150,000. The city’s next focus for adding lights will be Euclid Ave., and efforts are under way to obtain funds for the project.

Ron also reported that efforts to upgrade sidewalks are underway to make them more even and thus safer. The IKEA opening is scheduled for September, and the hope is that a neighborhood invitational opening will occur before the grand opening with attendance anticipated at 25,000.

Harold reported that Nabeel Yaseen of 4247 Laclede has successfully contracted with Alan and Rachel Richman for rent of the renovated building between Northwest Coffee and the car wash. The Richmans own Sasha’s wine bars on Shaw and Demun and plan to open a third wine bar at the Laclede location by year end.

SECURITY

Marshall Michener reported that police apprehended the suspect who shot a policeman on Euclid within 12 hours of the incident due in part to the use of surveillance cameras. Garage break ins are still occurring although less often than in 2014. He encouraged members to lock garage doors and lock valuable items to large objects to reduce likelihood of theft. He also reported that two armed robberies occurred – one on Euclid and one on Pershing. He encouraged members to report suspicious people to police.

A member asked why the Board of Aldermen committee voted down the bill to increase funds for more police. Although not on this committee, Joe Roddy suggested that more work needed to be done before approval could be given and the issue may not be dead.

The West Pine Laclede National Night Out will be held Tuesday August 4 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the West Pine cul-de-sac near Sarah. Harold thanked Tiffany and Jared Boyd (ljaredboyd@gmail.com) for their work organizing the event, which will offer the chance to meet neighbors and enjoy free food and games.

ALDERMAN RODDY’S REPORT

* The Board of Aldermen passed a bill establishing a Civilian Oversight Board.(Post-meeting note: Per the Post-Dispatch 4/20/15, the “seven-person St. Louis Civilian Oversight Board would have the authority to investigate allegations of police misconduct; research and assess police policies, operations and procedures; and make findings and recommendations. It could also review evidence and witness statements from investigations by police internal affairs. The board would report its findings to the city’s public safety director and police chief.”
* He voted against the proposal to increase minimum wage in St. Louis City to $15 because of inadequate preparation and presentation of the proposal.
* The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is searching for a 100 acre plot of land for building a facility to house its current 3,100 St. Louis employees. Efforts are underway to find funding to purchase and build on the needed acreage across from the former Pruitt Igoe location with costs projected to be $1.6 billion
* The August 4 ballot will include a $180 million bond issue to fund infrastructure projects in St. Louis. (Post-meeting note: “The bonds will pay for pressing needs of the Fire and Police departments, streets and bridge repairs, derelict building demolition and building preservation, municipal court improvements, corrections department updating, and other city building improvements and service vehicle replacements. Specific projects include the replacement of fire trucks, upgrades to jail security systems, a new centralized and secure 911 dispatch center, as well as funding for neighborhood projects and recreation centers” (https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/mayor/news/bond-issue-to-go-to-voters-this-august.cfm).
* The idea to build tracks for a trolley to run from downtown St. Louis to the Central West End appears, at least for now, to be defunct. WPLNA opposes the project and sent a letter so stating to potential organizers when the issue last surfaced.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Van Schaik, Secretary