**West Pine Laclede Neighborhood Association**

**Northwest Coffee 7 PM**

**August 12th, 2025**

**General Assembly Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER** 7:05 pm **Treasurer;** **Terry Werner**

terryfwerner@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Dug Feltch

bkmarionnettes@charter.net

**Treasurer:** Terry Werner

terryfwerner@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Nicole Ewing

postonni@gmail.com

**GUEST SPEAKER(S)**

\***No guest speakers were present at this month’s meeting.**

**Review and approve July 2025 Minutes-** Nicole’s minutes from last month’s meeting were adopted by a consensus vote of the members in attendance. Harold informed the membership that Nicole was unable to attend tonight’s meeting because of illness and a desire not to infect anyone else. Harold asked for a volunteer to take Nicole’s place. With none forthcoming, Harold agreed to take minutes himself.

**9th WARD ALDERMAN REPORT Michael Browning**

browningm@stlouis-mo.gov

Alderman Browning noted that homeowners are indeed responsible for keeping their tree lawns and alleys in clean & neat condition. He thanked Sue and her colleagues profusely for being “good neighbors who care about even the condition of the neighborhood’s alleys.”

The Alderman also pointed out that the Board of Alderpersons currently is hard at work on legislation to create a new “Special Tax Bill.” A thing entirely apart from a property’s annual tax liability, this Special Tax Bill would impose higher fines on owners who neglect their property on a consistent basis. If any fines assessed by the City remain unpaid, the City can then move to seize the property itself.

**NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION UPDATES**

**Treasurer Terry Werner**

**Update on financials:**

 Checking: $3,195.28

 Savings: $1259.02

 Time Deposit (business CD): $4,522.85

\* Terry also noted an expense for cleanup and mulching of the median planter in the 4300 block of Laclede, immediately east of its intersection with N. Newstead.

\*\*Checking account currently has a slightly higher balance due to many dues currently or recently coming in. Some spring/summer planting expenses have been paid as well.

 **NEW AND ON-GOING BUSINESS**

**4300 Block Of Laclede, Various “Issues:”**

President Harold then called upon Sue Nauert of the 4300 block of Laclede for a report on several matters of concern to her block.

As Sue began her presentation, Al from Northwest Coffee requested that the meeting be moved inside the actual Northwest Coffee building, in order to accommodate a large party of guests of Scarlett’s Wine Bar. The meeting was moved further indoors without complaint and in a most timely manner.

***Parking:***

Sue detailed numerous complaints that she’s received, especially from Sana Lake, about visitors receiving parking tickets from the City for parking “illegally” on the block. The 4300 block is a Restricted Residential Parking District. Sue told the meeting that since hang tags were replaced by an on-line reporting system fines have increased exponentially.

Alderman Browning pointed out that the Treasurer’s Office is in charge of assessing and collecting all fines levied on vehicles parked “illegally” in such restricted parking districts. He noted that the Treasurer’s Office eliminated the use of hang tags throughout the City because they apparently were causing problems for enforcement. Instead an on-line, digital system known as LPR (“License Plate Reader”) has been substituted in their place. NSI Coleman pointed out that the use of hang tags created an illegal market, with some residents of the 4300 block actually selling their guest tags to employees & students at the WU Medical Center.

Alderman Browning and NSI Coleman recommended that residents of the 4300 block visit the Treasurer’s website to create an on-line account. This way any resident can pay for their visitor’s parking & therefore avoid the possibility of a ticket and a fine for their guests. The websites address is: [stlouis.aimsparking.com](http://stlouis.aimsparking.com/).

Alderman Browning noted that the presence of WU and BJC in the neighborhood is a blessing, but that the institutions are something of a curse when it comes to parking “issues.” The Alderman commented that he generally is not in favor of creating Restricted Residential Parking Districts precisely because of the problems about which Sue complained.

Commenting on another alley-related issue, Alderman Browning noted that the alley recycling and roll-out recycling carts will be eliminated shortly. “60% of what goes into the alley recycling dumpsters isn’t truly recyclable,” said the Alderman. He claimed that the City is wasting $800,000 per year on the program.

Instead of alley recycling, the City intends to set up neighborhood recycling centers. These single-stream recycling drop-off points might be located just east of Cortex or immediately behind the Schnuck’s on Lindell or at both locations.

***Trash Issues, Especially In The Alley:***

Sue then asked if homeowners & other property owners in the neighborhood were responsible for keeping their tree lawns and alleys in clean condition, free of both trash and weeds. Sue noted that she and several of her neighbors had spent approximately 24 total hours, spread over a three day period, cleaning up trash and removing weeds from the alley of the 4300 block of Laclede. She claimed that the weeds behind one property had grown so high and so thick that two young people were seen trysting in the overgrowth!

Sue complimented NSI Coleman for his good work in having the overflowing trash dumpsters in the 4300 Laclede alley finally emptied by the Sanitation Department.

***Homeless on Laclede:***

Sue pointed out that at least one homeless individual apparently has been living in the pergola at the east end of the 4300 block of Laclede, immediately west of the neighborhood garden. It remains unclear whether this individual has become the neighborhood’s newest full-time resident or if he were sleeping in the pergola only occasionally.

Linda emphasized that this individual and several other people are smoking a variety of substances in the pergola on a regular basis. She requested permission to put up a “No Smoking” sign and perhaps other signage as well.

Although several other members questioned the efficacy of such signage, the membership expressed no objection whatsoever to Linda posting a sign or two in the pergola and praying that such signs will be of some help.

Harold assured Linda that she would be reimbursed fully for any sign expenditures. He also noted that the homeless and most likely “dual diagnosis” individual who had been living on the steps of the former Quarrelsome Coffee apparently has been arrested. Harold pointed out that this is the same individual who verbally accosted and threatened Catherine and Madison, residents of the 4101 Laclede condominiums.

Both Alderman Browning and NSI Coleman emphasized the importance of contacting the Neighborhood Security Initiative’s (NSI) Alvin Ferguson to report any “issues” involving the homeless. Alvin is the director of homeless outreach for the NSI, which is headed by Executive Director Jim Whyte. Alvin’s contact number is 314-904-6879,

The Alderman pointed out that it’s far better to contact Alvin initially rather than to call 911. Harold commented, however, that in the case of an especially volatile and quite likely violent individual, Alvin himself recommends calling 911 and asking for that a member of the Crisis Intervention Team accompany any officers who respond to the request for service. Alderman Browning fully agreed with this recommendation.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Beautification Committee Chair Lorraine Simpson**

*lorraineline@msn.com*

* Nothing new to report

**Development Committee Chair Dan Hellmuth**

dhellmuth@hellmuth-bicknese.com

* nothing new to report

**Neighborhood Improvement Specialist**   **Ron Coleman**

colemanron@stlouis-mo.gov

* In response to an inquiry, NSI Coleman commented that he can be contacted anytime that a neighbor sees trash uncollected or property not being property maintained.
* Please report an instance of unhoused to Alvin Ferguson NSI at 314-904-6879
* Harold pointed out that he frequently is forced to call NSI Coleman concerning overflowing trash dumpsters in the alley of the 4100/4200 block of West Pine, directly behind the Leonardo Apartments (street address: 4166 Lindell). Harold noted that while NSI Coleman always obtains prompt & positive results for the neighborhood, this is a problem seemingly without end.
* Alderman Browning then reiterated his appreciation of the volunteer labor of members of the WPLNA, citing Sue and her colleagues specifically, and reminding the membership that “The difference in neighborhoods is YOU!”
* **FEMA Funds For Individual City Residents:**
* NSI Coleman pointed out that clean-up in the aftermath of May’s tornado is on-going. He urged all members to report any debris in need of removal to him via e-mail at colemanron@stlouis.mo.gov
* NSI Coleman provided the following summary of FEMA funding for City residents affected by the 150 mph winds on May 16th:
* 1) **Deadline fo request FEMA Individual Assistance** is August 26th.
* 2) **What’s covered:**Home repairs; temporary housing; replacing essential property; & other needs not covered by insurance.
* 3)**How To Apply:** [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://disasterassistance.gov/) or call 1-800-6213362.
* 4) **By the numbers so far:**
* **$33 million** for homeowners & renters ($4 million from Missouri SEMA).
* 7,300 households approved.
* 11,400 home inspections completed
* $12.3 million in SBA disaster loans approved.
* 4) **City Recovery Programs:** Emergency stabilization; electricity reconnection; “Ask An Architect” contractor registry.
* 5) **Appeals:** 60 days from FEMA’s letter to appeal any denial.

**Security Liaison Open position**

**Block Captains:**

4100-4200 Laclede: Dug Feltch (314) 531-3313

4300 Laclede: Scott Gilbert (314) 406-3536

4100-4200 West Pine: **open position**

4300 West Pine: **open position**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Next General Meeting:** September 9th, 2025 @7pm @Northwest Coffee. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.