

WARD PARKWAY HOMES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 14, 2014

At Ward Parkway Presbyterian Church, 74th Street and Ward Parkway

Present from board: President Frank Haar, Vice President Alison Baker, Secretary Jon Rand, Dennis Young, Laura Lynch, Aaron Schwartz, and Carol Gould. Also present was webmaster Julie Wittman.

Residents present included Ann Homburger, Tom Hogan, Forrest Schaeffer, Annette Young, Bob Gould, Terry Ramschuh, Stephanie Bell, and Sixth District Councilman John Sharp.

Mr. Haar called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Ms. Bell gave a presentation on behalf of KC Pet Project, a no-kill shelter and adoption center based at 4400 Raytown Road. She said the center has the lowest adoption fees in the area and is seeking volunteers, including students, to work with the animals or help with such other activities as yard work.

She added that KC Pet Project expects to take in 10,000 animals this year at its three locations -- 4400 Raytown Road, the Zona Rosa shopping center and the Petco store at 95th Street and Quivira Road.

Ms. Ramschuh, also from KC Pet Project, spoke about dog breeds. She said owners need to be aware of differing local ordinances, such as those that allow pit bulls to be kept in Kansas City, Missouri, but not in some neighboring cities.

Councilman John Sharp discussed the city's sewer and water line insurance policy, which was arranged through the National League of Cities. He said the insurance has been bought by 11,000 Kansas City homes already, with most buying the combined sewer and water policy. The policy covers repairs for lines between the houses and streets.

Mr. Sharp passed out brochures for three programs: Kansas City's free discount prescription cards, the Kansas City Fire Department ambulance insurance plan, and HeartSafe, a public health training initiative to increase the chance of survival for those suffering an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest or heart attack. The training is conducted by the KCFD.

Mr. Sharp was asked whether the city will pursue streetcar expansion in light of its recent electoral defeat. He said the city needs more than the starter line, which is under construction, but does not expect any proposals until after the November election. He said his preference would be for a commuter rail system for Jackson County rather than streetcars.

Mr. Hogan asked whether the city had any plans to make residential sidewalk repairs. Mr. Sharp replied that Kansas City has what he considers a bad plan that requires homeowners to make repairs. He said the city cannot afford to pay for such repairs without significant economic growth. He encouraged anyone seeking sidewalk repairs to apply for a PIAC grant, which provides 20 percent of the cost.

Mr. Gould asked Mr. Sharp for his analysis of the next mayoral election. Mr. Sharp said he prefers a highly competitive race, but does not expect anyone to seriously challenge incumbent Sly James.

Mr. Haar announced the WPHA Board of Directors nominees for the upcoming fiscal year. Motion was made to approve all 10 directors, and was seconded and approved by a voice vote.

Ms. Raumschuh asked about the requirements to become a board member. Mr. Haar explained the requirements and added that non-board members also can make important contributions to the association and neighborhood.

Ms. Baker, Ms. Lynch and Mr. Haar replied to questions about what it would take to install speed humps near Hale Cook School. Ms. Baker said that WPHA efforts to get speed humps in that vicinity have met with little success in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.