

South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association (SWNA)

March 25, 2024

The General Meeting of SWNA met at Woodlawn Christian Church on March 25, 2024. President, Janice Tocher, opened the meeting by welcoming all and inviting them to dinner of pizza, cookies, and lemonade.

Officer John Morgan (who recently earned the Liason Officer of the Year Award) (jmorgan@knoxvilletn.gov) is our Community Partnership Officer for the South District. He invited us to attend the Central District Commander Forum on March 26. There will be time to visit with Knoxville and University of Tennessee police Lieutenants and Captains.

Go to communitycrimemap.com for questions about crime statistics. It will show recent crime activity for the nation and your local area. With good weather beginning, many of us are working in our yards. Be prudent about leaving garage doors open and tools in the yard since those are an opportunity for theft.

Please notify the Police Department if you have a theft even if you don't want to file a report—it helps them track trends.

If you are going to be away from your home for an extended period, you can notify the Police Department to do a "Property Watch."

Crime Stoppers s an anonymous site for giving tips for crime committed. You might receive a monetary reward.

Tommy Smith, District 1 Representative to the City Council and Vice Mayor, told about today's opening of the Baker Creek Pavillion which is adjacent to our neighborhood. It has shade, restrooms, water, seats and will anchor the 100-acre Baker Creek Preserve part of the Urban Wilderness.

A \$42,000,000 grant has recently been given to Knoxville City. Part of this fund will join East Knoxville to South Knoxville through remained parks, bike/walk-ways.

The Kern's Bakery property will have a soft opening on April 13 featuring many different businesses along with restaurants.

The Burger Boys property intersection is being designed to help alleviate traffic problems entering Kern's Bakery and the tunnel on West Blount Avenue.

Treasurer, Dale Grubbs, gave the following Financial Report:

Opening balance, February 1		\$4,220.90
Receipts:		
Memberships by Square	39.69	
Cash/check memberships	100.00	
Donations	11.00	
T-shirt sales	15.00	
Total Receipts		165.69
Disbursements		
Balance on February 29		\$4386.59
Restricted Funds:		
WHOSA	141.45	
Signs	1568.83	
Bike repair stations	100.00	\$1810.28
Available funds:		\$2576.31

Judy Barnett reported that the Spring Fling will be held at Dogwood Elementary on April 12. We are requested to bring outdoor plants, seedlings, and cuttings for free distribution. Indoor plants will also be accepted. Volunteers are needed to help with the table from 4:00 to 5:30 and 5:30 to 7:00. Plant-related businesses could display their business cards on our table.

Debbie Sharp (WWhoSA—Wildlife Habitats of South Woodlawn) reported that we will be partnering with Knox Pride for the “Keep Knoxville Beautiful” initiative on April 20 from 9 to 12 am. We will be working in Sam Duff Park.

Sylvia Woods, Membership Chairman, announced that 27 attended our last meeting. Pay dues; get membership card; receive neighborhood news. There are currently 34 members. Sylvia has a supply of ‘welcome bags’ for new neighbors.

Debbie Sharp provided information about an initiative at Ijams Park to help identify plants. On April 29, photographers will take pictures of plants and flowers to help identify the flora in the park. Parking will be free for those participating.

Nancy Lindemer, chair of the School Outreach Committee related that The Scottish Rite provides shoes monthly to our three area schools—Dogwood Elementary, Mooreland Heights Elementary, and South Knoxville Middle. We also provide Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas gifts, and teacher supplies.

The Nominating Committee of Sylvia Woods and Nancy Lindemer presented the following slate of officers for the coming year.

President:	Janice Tocher
Vice President:	Debbie Helsley
Secretary:	Linn Acree
Treasurer:	Dale Grubbs
District 1 Rep:	open
District 2 Rep:	Andy Blanchard
District 3 Rep:	Jill Patterson
At Large	Debbie Sharp
At Large	Shaun Phillips
At Large	Sylvia Woods
At Large	open

Phil Barnett seconded the nominations and the slate was elected by acclamation.

The next meeting will be a Picnic in the Park on May 27. The meeting was adjourned.

Sylvia Woods brought a pictorial review of SWNA’s 15 years.

Suggestions were made for future activities, programs, and projects:

Activities

- Social (or meeting) @ Kerns Food Hall – Monday Night Brewing
- Partner with other neighborhoods for meet and greets

Projects

- Plant native, low-growing plants at the kiosk
- Pollinator bed at Sam Duff
- For Duff Park, add lights for the basketball goals for the kids who play there. There are already lights for the field for rugby (entered by Barbara Mott who also said ‘I’ll pursue this).

Two Chick-fil-A gift certificates were donated by First Horizon Bank and won by random numbers—Debbie Helsley and Linn Acree.