

## **West Pine / Laclede Neighborhood Association**

**Minutes: 5/12/09**

Treasurer Terry Werner opened the meeting at 7 pm at Northwest Coffee (Laclede); our esteemed president Tony Angel and V.P. Dave Blum were unable to attend. After introductions, the minutes from the April meeting were read and approved. Terry then reported our current checking account balance--\$1631.61 but added that recent checks/membership renewals are not included.

### **Committee Reports**

**BEAUTIFICATION:** MaryAnn Kroeck updated the group on the turnout for Operation Brightside---several of the planters and the West Pine cul de sac were cleaned up, as well as the alleys. Lee Richards of Manhattan Mews led a team to plant and clean up the area at the end of the 4300 block of Laclede. Luke Reven will locate a key for the hydrant operation so that water can be accessed. Volunteers for mulching will be found for further work on the West Pine cul de sac ---at a later date when the mulch is delivered.

**DEVELOPMENT:** The former Playboy Club location on Lindell will be redeveloped in about six months by the owners of Café Ventana. A microbrewery and restaurant is planned. Also in the works is a make-over of the 4472 Lindell lawyers offices.

**SECURITY:** Several anecdotal incidents were reported, though beyond the immediate boundaries of the this Association. Two carjackings. There has been an uptick in robberies in the CWE with the warm weather. Bike Patrols are covering the area along with the HiTech security patrols. The recent passage of property taxes will support expanded patrols in our neighborhood as well as the business districts.

### **Speaker: Ed Bushmeyer, St Louis Assessor**

The every two year property assessment is underway. Ed explained the process of notification, methodology of the assessment, the appeals process and gave many examples of how the system works, as well as the appeals process. One factoid: since 2001 there has been a decline in the tax rate of 11%, although assessed values have risen. And this year, only Lafayette Square neighborhood had an increase. Also, commercial properties in the City have risen 2% (this is for the real estate and not the business proper). The Q and A was very helpful; Ed assured people that if they had questions or dispute the assessment, feel free to contact him at City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Submitted,  
Tom Fox, Secretary