

Somerset Meeting Minutes

4/23/2008

Present:

Beth Foreman

Nick Lauter

Bruce Bonestroo

Jennifer Masini

Lisa Harmison

- 01 Somerset could be eligible to receive Neighborhood Improvement Program grant for up to \$5,000 for trees/landscape. Somerset has qualified for this for play ground equipment
- 02 City is responsible for trees and area along medium at Stange. Question: Do we mow?
- 03 Tree run over during snow removal in commercial district.
- 04 Lisa: Recommends eventually removing metal grates at trees. Replacement with small vertical fence.
- 05 Replacement trees
 - A. Group is looking at spending around \$4,000 for approximately 25 trees.
 - B. Group went down the list of species – among them Linden.
 - C. Looking at options for purchase among them Horticulture Club.
 - D. Does not believe Trees Forever will help.
 - E. Up to Mid June can plant. Could be a community volunteer effort.
 - F. Will need to mark for utilities.
 - G. Beth will work on this and send out email regarding outcome
- 06 Group discussed option for plantings between Taylor Glen and Somerset (North boundary).
- 07 Money:
 - A. Jennifer taking a course on Quick Books
 - B. More people have been paying dues.
 - C. Books are looked at in end of year by accountant. Developers use Klatt and Associates – with contact Amy Webber.
 - D. Carryover issue seems to be resolved.
- 08 Not discussed at meeting (my notes):

When do we next want to meet? Roxanne shift has changed but also do we have any decisions that need to be made soon? During our meeting one option was discussed meeting and doing a walk around of Somerset maybe ending at Brewers. With the health of my Mom my commitments got tied up – but now I am hoping to devote this month on the website. Also who is up on the fence guidelines – somebody on the North side wants to put up a fence.

Somerset Meeting Minutes

5/30/2008

Present:

Beth Foreman

Mark Knuth

Dick Pfeiffer

Art Croyle

Don Whalen

Bruce Bonestroo

5/28/08 Meeting Minutes

- 01 Sidewalk lifted
- 02 Commercial areas are looking dirty and need some cleaning.
- 03 Discussed developers looking at changing rowhouse lot to 5 single family house lots. Group discussed concern over common ground at South East corner that is used for snow storage and which design guidelines used. Group would also like lot mowed.
- 04 Is the center medium at Stange Somerset or the City's. Who is responsible to mow? Dick to contact Lisa.
- 05 Issue of weeds/trash in grates. Who takes care of this?
- 06 Group discussed dandelions at parks. Concern over chemicals but also weeds getting out of control. Group recommended just parks be sprayed twice a year.
- 07 Tree Squad needs help in planting trees. Looking at planting 20 trees. Ground is hard to dig. Suggested group emailing.
- 08 Have three quotes plus one coming regarding websites. Group like the quote from Cramer that is cheaper and seems to be the most user friendly (allows Somerset to modify data).
- 09 Discussion of memorial for Landon Bentley. Group is unsure regarding setting up precedent of what can and cannot be done. One idea would be if focus is Landon's Triangle Park with signage similar to Crescent Lawn and trees. Note: I did contact Bentley's and they will contact Jon Fenn and get back to us regarding scope of memorial.
- 10 Next meeting is scheduled for June 2 at 7

Somerset Meeting Minutes

6/3/2008

Present:

Beth Foreman

Nick Lauter

Art Croyle

Roxanne Knowles

Bruce Bonestroo

5/28/08 Meeting Minutes **6/2 Updates in bold**

05	Issue of weeds/trash in grates. Who takes care of this? Art has counted 53 grates.
07	Tree Squad needs help in planting trees. Looking at planting 20 trees. Ground is hard to dig. Suggested group emailing. Trees planted last weekend and upcoming week. Holes dug after meeting. Planting of big trees this weekend. Board approved \$2,000 further expense of trees to receive discount.
08	Have three quotes plus one coming regarding websites. Group like the quote from Cramer that is cheaper and seems to be the most user friendly (allows Somerset to modify data). Group voted Bruce to pursue option up to \$3,000. Asking board members to review and contact via email with comments question to provider. Goal would be to set up interview/meeting to answer questions.
6/2/08 Items:	
01	Mowing company damaging trees. Art to contact Dick to contact mowing company to stop damaging our trees. Ideas were discussed regarding how we stop this event from occurring.
02	Discussion regarding legal rights of Somerset. Bruce to contact Gary Taylor (attorney that lives in Somerset) to see if he is interested in meeting with board.

7/21/08 Somerset Meeting Minutes

7/25/08

Present:

Nick Lauter

Marc Peterson

Mark Knuth

Bruce Bonestroo

Lisa Harmison

7/21/08 Meeting Minutes

01	Somerset Vegetation/Planting Plan Developed by Bishop Engineering: Is not being followed however the city has approved recent plantings. Group believes this still would be prudent to get a new plan approved. Discussion of including this change with rowhouse change. Bruce to talk with developers.
02	Rowhouse lot to single home lot: Group discussed issue of alley and common area. Discussion that there might have been an agreement of common land for snow and turning. Mark Knuth to review his records.
03	South Trail: Group discussed design of South Trail. Neighbors with adjacent land would like large pine tree planted in the fall. Email motion to be sent out for Lisa to work with neighbors whose land adjoins trail. This could be precedent with other trails through out Somerset. Lisa has contacted representative for pond area but have no response yet.
04	Bruce has been contacted by Bill Dreyer regarding Crescent lawn along Stange at commercial area. Concern that trees becoming overgrown and what is the future of this. Options such as a very large flower garden were discussed. Security might also be an issue as the evergreen trees have become very large. 7/25 Note: I did contact Bill – possibility of RDG Architects providing design ideas for this area.
05	Triangle Park. Bentley's will be donating \$5,000 for memorial to their son. Peterson's have been working with grant/neighborhood donations. October event being planned for installation of playground equipment.
06	Trees: Squad has noted that many of the dead trees were improperly planted. Issues being too deep, not having bracing removed in timely matter, and burlap root ball covering/wire not being removed. Discussion as to if there is any recourse with those that improperly planted trees. Possibility of a fall planting.

9/16/08 Somerset Meeting Minutes

9/23/08

Present:

Art Croyle

Beth Foreman

Nick Lauter

Mark Knuth

Jenn Peterson

John Reardon

Transcriber: Bruce Bonestroo

9/16/08 Meeting Minutes. Please contact me with additions/clarifications

#	Item	Action
08.09.01	Art talked with Northridge Association President: A. Association had green's manager. B. Have not put liens but will assess \$5/month delinquent dues. C. Treasurer has been very diligent about going after delinquent fees.	
08.09.02	Discussion concerning rezoning rowhouses to residential. Issue is the East alley intersection and traffic/snow removal and could land be given to Somerset to allow for this. The following motion was presented and approved: Motion for Mark to go to the city zoning meeting as a representative for alley way intersection to South of rowhouse lots.	Mark
08.09.03	Landon's Lawn. Jenn Peterson gave update of park: A. October 11 will be big day for completing park with the volunteers B. Weekend of October 4, Jake Hansen will be doing prep work with equipment. C. Jon Fenn will be constructing sign with donated letters from Sign Pro D. Wilke's are donating mulch and will have a large dumptruck load onto street. E. Nick/Beth to coordinate tree planting and landscape around new sign. F. Updated plan was distributed. Due to large donations group was able to purchase more equipment.	Nick Beth
08.09.03	Playground mulch. Group discussed that Somerset will help in the future for playground mulch. One idea would be to work with Parks Division with City in getting mulch.	
08.09.04	Parks. City is having open discussions with people regarding parks. Somerset needs to be proactive due to deficit of any public park land. Would the City be willing to help in Somerset's private parks?	

08.09.05	Website. Bruce is working with website company. Many options available. Group discussed having an tab for groups in Somerset listing activities (Getting Connected Tab)	Bruce
08.09.06	Trees. Jon Fenn has contacted Somerset about fall planting. Group would like what was done last year where Developers plant only at new sites. 9/24/08 Note: I have talked with Fenn and Risko? is supplying trees and it does not sound like we have varieties as like last year – will give me a list. Developers will be planting 24 new trees in Somerset including those along the West side of Stange at commercial area.	
08.09.07	Dead Tree Removal. Group discussed if large trees at Grove need to be removed. Tree Gang (Nick/Beth) to coordinate dead tree removal. Large dead Aspen at Camden. Is the dead tree at Bickford Cottage Somerset responsibility? Communication with Lisa Harmson to go through Nick.	Nick Beth
08.09.08	Snow Removal. Bruce to contact Weston regarding snow removal. Weston is also doing snow removal for the commercial and townhouse groups with Somerset	Bruce
08.09.09	Next meeting is October 21 at 7. Annual meeting will be sometime in November.	

10/21/08 Somerset Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/29/08

Present

Art Croyle

Nick Lauter

Mark Knuth

John Reardon

Transcriber: Bruce Bonestroo

10/21/08 Meeting Minutes. Please contact me with additions/clarifications

#	Item	Action
08.10.01	Annual meeting is set for Tuesday, December 2 at 7 PM	
08.10.02	Annual meeting agenda items: A. Budget B. Website C. Trees D. Snow/lawn E. Trails F. Stop signs	
08.10.03	Ready to sign snow contract. Group discussed who to be contacted if there are issues. Possibility that Landscape by Design will have most of the Somerset areas. Easy to contact company with cellphone or email (have Blackberry's)	
08.10.04	Print copies of asset list at annual meeting	
08.10.05	Discussion of Commercial Crescent. Who owns this? Does city have responsibility of maintaining? Group at commercial area would like clean-up and artwork.	Bruce
08.10.06	Discussion of artwork/sculpture at Somerset. Idea regarding using simple boulders to create pattern (sketch attached)	
08.10.07	Tree removal and pruning. A. Estimate of cost to prune Southern area of Somerset is \$8,000, about \$100/ tree. B. Four trees at Grove are in danger of falling. Estimate is \$4,000 for removal. C. Many of the trees planted need to be structurally pruned – some have passed the point of no return. Group discussed what could be done especially the ashes on Camden.	
08.10.08	Group discussed who would like to stay on board. John will be off but would like to pursue the stop signs and safety of the streets.	
08.10.09	Group reviewed budget. Issue regarding why lawn costs so much more than budgeted. Fuel costs and rainy weather. Lawn mowing could be lengthened.	
08.10.10	Next scheduled meeting November 18 at 7 PM.	
08.10.11	Motion was made and approved for tree group to purchase up to \$500 or tree supplies including pruners.	

11/18/08 Somerset Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/19/08

Present

Art Croyle

Nick Lauter

Mark Knuth

Transcriber: Bruce Bonestroo

10/21/08 Meeting Minutes. Please contact me with additions/clarifications.

#	Old Items – Updates in Bold	Action
08.10.01	Annual meeting is set for Tuesday, December 2 at 7 PM	
08.10.02	Annual meeting agenda items: A. Budget Reviewed B. Website Discussion if shown with projector and screen C. Trees Nick to discuss trees with handout D. Snow/lawn E. Trails F. Stop signs Group could meet sometime before meeting for agenda/timing.	
08.10.03	Ready to sign snow contract. Group discussed who to be contacted if there are issues. Possibility that Landscape by Design will have most of the Somerset areas. Easy to contact company with cellphone or email (have Blackberry's) Contract signed. Somerset not being charged directly for rods inserted at sidewalk intersections	
08.10.05	Discussion of Commercial Crescent. Who owns this? Does city have responsibility of maintaining? Group at commercial area would like clean-up and artwork.	Bruce
08.10.07	Tree removal and pruning. A. Estimate of cost to prune Southern area of Somerset is \$8,000, about \$100/ tree. a. Four trees at Grove are in danger of falling. Estimate is \$4,000 for removal. Both Ames and Story City have used Frye's Tree Service (515) 832-3773. B. Many of the trees planted need to be structurally pruned – some have passed the point of no return. Group discussed what could be done especially the ashes on Camden. Discussion of getting list of people to help with a week's notice in winter	
08.10.08	Group discussed who would like to stay on board. John will be off but would like to pursue the stop signs and safety of the streets. Nick, Bruce and Mark Knuth will remain on board. Marc Peterson has not been contacted.	
08.10.09	Group reviewed budget. Issue regarding why lawn costs so much more than budgeted. Fuel costs and rainy weather. Lawn mowing could be lengthened. Budget discussion with new items.	
08.10.11	Motion was made and approved for tree group to purchase up to \$500 or tree supplies including pruners. Need to mark and inventory items purchased for Somerset	Nick

	New Items	
08.11.01	<p>Group discussed possible goals for next year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Stop signs and painting streets at crosswalks/paths B. Pruning of trees at lower portion of Somerset C. CyRide bus shelters D. Diseased large trees at Grove park E. Weeding tree grates at commercial area F. Saving money for future maintenance G. Railing at stairs North of Kingston trail H. Mission statement I. Review legality of board and Somerset J. Review if Somerset could be non-profit 	
08.11.02	Group discussed need to review lawn mowing intervals for next year. It appeared that lawns were mowed too frequently creating larger bill for service.	
08.11.03	Group discussed what does Somerset pay utilities on? How is this metered?	
08.11.04	<p>Future website tabs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Social events B. Garage sales 	
08.11.05	Motion was discussed and passed for purchase of hand pump and cart for watering trees. Nick also was able to get free a long length of hoses.	Nick
08.11.06	Next board meeting Tuesday, December 16, at 7PM	
08.11.07	<p>11/20/08 Addition from Nick:</p> <p>What are the new "roles" we want filled on the board? Bruce, Mark, Marc, and Nick are the 4 members continuing forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) treasurer (new) 2) minute-writer/laptop wielder/web poster (marc? bruce?) 3) person to pursue non-profit status (new) 4) coordination with TH/RH (new) 5) coordination with Business district (new) 6) snow and lawn contract point person (bruce? mark?) 7) tree point person (nick) 8) dues collector (marc? mark?) <p>Please suggest more roles and commit to stuff you're interested in, so that we can present what is available to the community. I have indicated trees for me and would like to not take on additional roles.</p>	