

WNA Building on First Year's Strong Start

Neighbors Addressing Issues, Developing Relationships – and Having Fun!

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The Witherbee Neighborhood Association was established one year ago as a result of responding to a potential crisis. We've addressed several important issues since and will continue to do so, but we're also branching out to do more positive and fun activities.

How We Got Started

WNA was formed one year ago in response to a proposed development on a 3-acre area between 40th and 42nd and Randolph and J streets. Known as Randolph Square, the oversized plan involving a 16-unit apartment-condo building, two 8-unit buildings, and a 100-child daycare facility would have more than doubled the density on the block and changed the quiet residential nature of the neighborhood.

Residents surrounding the proposed development organized and were able to persuade the City Council to deny the permits that would have authorized the project.

In a related effort to protect the character of the neighborhood, residents requested that an area (37th to 42nd, Randolph to J) be rezoned so that future construction would have to blend in with existing homes. Our goal is to seek similar zoning protection throughout the WNA area.

Keeping up the Good Work

Other proposals that have threatened the quality of life in the neighborhood have surfaced in the past year as well. Through monthly meetings and e-mail notices, the association is keeping residents updated so they can provide input to proposals at the Planning Commission and City Council that impact the neighborhood.

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Examples include:

- Changes to traffic lanes on 40th Street;
- Opposing a request for an alcohol license by the convenience store at 48th and Randolph streets; Changing design standards intended to assure construction of new residences and duplexes blend with the existing character of the neighborhood;
- Expansion of the Health Department in Woods Park;
- A proposal by a phone company to install a 100-foot cellular pole and antenna in the Christo Rey Church parking lot at 4221 J St.;
- Providing input for plans to redevelop the former Husker Auto Group properties along O Street east of 48th Street.

Work Hard, Play Hard

We need other residents to help monitor these and other issues that are sure to arise. We must collectively take care of our neighborhood. But we want to have fun, too. In addition to the Tour of Gardens (see April meeting topics on page 1), other activity ideas include a Tour of Workshops, July 4th Street Party, and Neighborhood Garage Sale.

Did you Know....

That the colored flags placed by the utility companies are only good for 5 days! Then they can be removed

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