

Island Home Park Neighborhood Association

Monday, November 17, 2025

Home of Lisa Horn

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by President Matt Park.

Present:

Officers: Vice President-Nancy Campbell, Secretary-Jeanne Fair, Treasurer-Mary Wiginton.

Board Members: Alec Antonelli, Clare Borsari, Jeannette Bouchard, Lisa Horn, Christie Kennedy, Debbie Malone, Cobren Rochat, Stewart Smith and Jim Staub.

Unable to attend: Katie Graham. Tommy Smith – City Council.

Guests – Bill Hahnemann

This was the first meeting with the new board members. Each member introduced themselves and told where they lived and any other pertinent information.

Minutes – Jeanne Fair

August Board Minutes and Minutes from the General Meeting have been sent to all the board members for additions/corrections. No other changes.

Motion to Approve the Minutes – SS/CB - Approved

Treasurer's Report – Mary Wiginton

Mary distributed a copy of the Treasurers' Report.

Discussion:

July 4th - Matt asked about the money spent on July 4th this year. The difference was the Ice Cream Truck. Two years ago it was sponsored by KUB. This year we had to pay for it. This year people submitted receipts for things. Last year, things like the drinks were donated. Now we know what July 4th really costs and can adjust the budget. We have the money, and July 4th is the biggest event of the year.

Christmas Memorial Wreaths – This line item we try to keep \$900 to cover the cost of the project in the event not enough money is collected. Any excess money is moved to the Pillar Light Fund. Current donations are \$2530 from 40 donors.

Discussion - Wreaths

Jeannette asked if this was a personal project or one supported by the board. Nancy agreed. They felt it was a lot of money to spend on wreaths and printing. (total cost is about \$1000 while donations average over \$2000). Matt commented that it is basically a fundraiser for the association and is funding the lights for the new pillars. Other comments included not giving the brochure to all the houses (the main cost is the set-up regardless if we print 50 or 150) or listing the names on the website.

Clare said the brochure is a beautiful remembrance and keepsake for the people who are being remembered. Jeanne added that the brochure is delivered to everyone because some people are remembered in the brochure who did not donate.

***If you do not want to receive the brochure, please let Jeanne know and I can make that happen as I help with the delivery of the brochures.*

Beautification – The money in this account is carried forward each year because people donate specifically to this fund. Wayne Williams and Joni Morabito volunteer to keep the entrance area (Trolley Circle) beautiful as people enter the neighborhood. This year Stanley's Greenhouse has generously donated the pansies for the entrance as well as the labor to plant them. Please thank Abby Stanley-Jerrolds if you see her at the greenhouse.

Helping Hands – This line item is in the red because we had a few atypical situations occur and the money was needed. In the past, this money was rarely used but available if needed.

Membership Dues - \$1445 dues plus an additional \$1372 in donations.

The current balance that is available to spend is \$10,413.05

Motion to approve the report – LH/JS. Passed

Pillar Lights – Bill Hahnemann

The new pillars at Fisher and Island Home Pike were funded by the Island Home Park Neighborhood Association and completed in 2019. The pillars are not connected to electricity so adding lights has been a challenge. Bill and Nancy Campbell have been working for years trying to find solar lights that would match the existing lights at the front entrance and be big enough to fit the scale of the pillars and produce enough light. Now that solar technology has taken off, there are some possibilities. Bill did find one from the company GAMA SONIC which is a commercial light company. The light would be a great match, but unfortunately it is too small. Current dimensions of the existing lights as compared to the one Bill found are 29" tall (19"), 17.0" wide at the top (10.5"). After discussion, Bill will contact the company to see if they

make or could make a larger one to match the dimensions we need. He realized we have \$5230.00 designated for the lights so we should be able to afford to have two made. Bill will let us know what he finds out.

Neighborhood Arboretum – Matt Park

Lance Dean was not asked to attend the board meeting but Matt, who had spoken with Lance, talked about buying 4 signs/\$500 each to designate the neighborhood as an arboretum.

This was Lance's report at the May board meeting:

Lance spoke to the board about an idea he and Jessica Rodocker had been discussing concerning getting our neighborhood registered as an Arboretum. Currently in the city, North Hills, 4th & Gill and Lakeshore Park are all certified Arboretum areas in Knoxville.

The website ArbNet has all the information concerning the application, certification, labeling of the trees and much more.

We have approximately 25 species of trees in our neighborhood. These would all be labeled and marked on a map to include the entrance, the boulevard and the park. We would need to purchase the signs for the trees. We would also put up a sign at the entrance with a QR code showing the location of the trees.

The registration process is free. Once approved, we would need to purchase the signs and install them as well as the sign at the entrance. Once approved, we would need to have a tree walk once a year.

Discussion:

Several people wondered if we would need 4 signs. Is this typical in the other neighborhoods? Nancy looked at North Hills and only noticed one sign.

\$400/sign seems expensive.

It was suggested we could use the frame from our old Neighborhood Watch Sign (we are no longer involved in that program) instead of adding additional signage at the entrance.

Motion: The board supports the project and the signs if we can work with Parks and Recreation to split the cost of the signs. CB/LH – Passed

Stewart Smith will be the board liaison for this project and work with Lance and Jessica Rodocker and bring information to the next board meeting about the design suggestions and costs.

Social Committee – Jeannette Bouchard

Tree Lighting - Cobren and his wife Grace took on this event last year and have plans to make it bigger and better this year! It will be held on **Sunday, November 30th at 5pm at the top of the park on Estelle Circle**. There will be music, giveaways, hanging of ornaments, hot chocolate and the lighting of the tree! Please make plans to attend. There is a line item in the budget for this event, but if they need more money, they can request it through the board. As the tree grows, more lights are needed.

Christmas Party – Matt has graciously accepted to host the party again this year. After discussion, it was decided to do finger foods and drinks instead of trying to do a potluck. This is a busy time of the year, and people may not attend if they need to bring a dish or dessert to share. The party will focus on fun and fellowship instead of worrying about having a meal for people. Jeannette will work with Matt in planning/ordering the snacks and drinks. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, December 13th from 6pm – 9 pm at Matt’s house - 2104 Island Home Boulevard**.

Cookie Swap – This event does not receive money from IHPNA but is a fun, neighborhood event that happens each year. Last year it was hosted by Clare Borsori and this year Megan Martin – 2247 Maplewood Drive, has agreed to host the event. You should have received information about it through the IHPNA email. If not, contact Megan at meganforb@gmail.com so she knows how many people to expect.

Christmas Caroling – This is another neighborhood event that does not require money from IHPNA but is a fun and uplifting activity for the neighbors. No information was given. Expect information through the IHPNA email or on our website.

Porch Hops – A BIG thank you to Lisa Horn who did a fantastic job of planning the porch hops this past year. They were well attended and a great way to meet the new neighbors and chat with people you may not see regularly. Soon, it will be time to start planning for the next season of porch hops.

Website – Matt Parks

Ally Ketron, who takes care of our website, had to resign from the board due to a conflict of interest with her new job. According to our bylaws, each committee must have a board member on it. Cobren volunteered to work with Ally. He will be able to add information about current events and other items of interest, as well as help Ally keep all the other information updated.

*** Please take pictures at events and send them to Ally or Cobren so they can be posted on the website.

Rails to Trails – Stewart Smith

Stewart reported that the Rails to Trails project is starting to remove the old rails that run from Kerns Food Hall to Ijams Nature Center. They will be installing a gravel trail so people can begin to use the area. Stewart is on the Committee to oversee the Art Installations which will be located along the trail. (See information below). For more information, visit the City of Knoxville website or Legacy Parks.

Building on the community's enthusiasm around art, a new vision for the rail trail project came to life. The SoKno Art Walk will be the first of its kind in Knoxville.

This cultural art walk will celebrate the art, history and natural beauty of our community. Specially commissioned art pieces will create a unique destination that both showcases the exceptional artists in Knoxville while integrating art, nature and recreation into an accessible experience for all.

A full-range of art will be represented along the trail – murals, sculptures, functional installations, and youth-created works. Drawing from the example of New York City's High Line Park, The SoKno Art Walk is envisioned as a "living system", drawing from multiple disciplines including landscape architecture, urban design, and ecology.

In 2024, Legacy Parks received a \$1 million gift from the Lawson Family Foundation to fund the art along the art walk that will be concentrated between Kerns Food Hall and Island Home Park Neighborhood.

The location provides a unique opportunity to introduce the concept because of the numerous businesses with patios on or to be constructed along the trail; the connectivity to the Urban Wilderness, Old Sevier Neighborhood, Island Home Park Neighborhood, South Woodlawn Neighborhood, Chapman Highway Business District and downtown Knoxville; and the walkability of the community that is already a valued commodity.

SKNBC – Lisa Horn

South Knoxville Neighborhood Business Coalition – sknbc.org

Island Home Park Neighborhood Association is a member of this organization. We pay dues each year and can have two representatives. They meet once a month to talk about things happening or things that will happen in South Knoxville. (more information below).

Coalition purpose and goals:

- *Support and enhance the South Knoxville neighborhood associations represented by SKNBC. Encourage and mentor new South Knoxville neighborhood associations.*
 - *Encourage active participation by area residents and businesses to address issues affecting South Knoxville.*
 - *Promote positive relationships between South Knoxville and city, county, and state government bodies.*
 - *Support and promote the many educational, recreational, cultural, and economic assets of South Knoxville.*
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Member Organizations:

- *Island Home Park Neighborhood Association*
- *Lake Forest Neighborhood Association*
- *Lindbergh Forest Neighborhood Association*
- *South Haven Neighborhood Association*
- *South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association*
- *Southside Waterfront Neighborhood Association*
- *South Knoxville Alliance*
- *Vestal Community Organization*

SKNBC Upcoming Events:

Monday, December 8th from 5pm – 6:30pm at the Kerbela Temple, Tommy Smith will lead a forum about the South Knoxville Waterfront Development. This is about the pedestrian bridge from the Vestal area to Neyland Drive. (see more information below)

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (WVLT) - The City of Knoxville has invited people to a community meeting next month focused on the expansive development plans for South Knoxville. The city will be joined by the South Knoxville Neighborhood and Business Coalition and South Waterfront Advisory and Advocacy Group.

Previous Coverage: [What's next for Knoxville's South Waterfront?](#)

For years, the city has been working to build a pedestrian bridge that would connect UT campus near Food City Center and the southern side of the Tennessee River, which a multi-million dollar investment would redevelop. That plan includes more housing, stores and even a river walk.

Before starting in earnest, however, the city plans to meet with neighbors.

“This collaboration between community members, local organizations, and the City of Knoxville has played a key role in shaping design strategies, informing major decisions and aligning city initiatives with community-driven goals,” a city announcement said. “Community members are encouraged to drop by, explore information stations, and join in reflection and discussion about the plan’s progress and next steps.”

The city is expecting a \$25 million grant from the federal government to help pay for the bridge project— [something it had to apply for multiple times](#).

Projects along Sevier – At this time, the city hopes to have ALL river projects in South Knoxville completed by Halloween of 2026.

Gay Street Bridge – It is still slated to open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic on December 30, 2025 although the only obvious work being done is on the plaza area at the downtown end of the bridge.

Welcome Sign – SKNBC hopes to get a Welcome to South Knoxville sign at the intersection of the Henley Street bridge and Avenue. It will be designed to fit in with the Urban Wilderness theme of South Knoxville.

Butterfly Lake – Located in Colonial Village off Chapman Highway across from The Common Place, this lake is more like a pond but worth saving. It was privately owned and when the owner died, the pond was no longer taken care of. Legacy Parks now has ownership and will work to try and get it restored to its original beauty and a home for geese and ducks.

Old Sevier Market – Chris Morton, who owns South Coast Pizza and Alliance among other things, hopes to open a small market on Sevier Avenue in the same building as Redbud Restaurant and Fly By Night. It has proven to be a bigger task, both labor and monetary, so he is looking for more investors to help get this market up and running.

IHPNA Committees – Nancy Campbell

Nancy reminded the board members that the association has many active committees. Each committee needs at least one board member as a member. The following committees are ones that are currently active: Airport, Beautification, Communications, Membership and Social. If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact Matt.

**These committee members need to be updated on our website

Other Business

Speed Humps on Maplewood – Alec

Alec asked about the process of getting some speed humps on Maplewood, especially on the part from the intersection of Spence at least to the Maplewood curve. The cars are flying through that area and several of the residents have small children who live or visit their homes. There is a process to get the speed humps, and those guidelines are listed on the City of Knoxville's webpage.

Christie Kennedy also expressed concern for the speed of traffic past the curve and in front of her house. She would be in favor of having them the entire length of Maplewood.

(see below – more information from the city's website for Traffic Calming)

Traffic calming is an effort to change driver actions by self-enforcing physical measures: vertical deflections such as speed humps, speed tables and raised intersections; horizontal shifts in the travel path using traffic circles or chicane layouts. These physical measures are in place continuously, and unlike signs, pavement markings and traffic signals, they do not require enforcement to make them effective. For more information on traffic calming, see <https://www.ite.org/technical-resources/traffic-calming>

Traffic calming is a relatively recent engineering tool in the United States, but its application has grown particularly in residential neighborhoods where residents have sought to create a more livable environment. Knox County's Department of Engineering and Public Works implemented its traffic calming program in 2000 in response to requests from neighborhoods where speeding and cut-through traffic were concerns.

Most of the traffic calming requests our department receives are from existing residential subdivisions where the right-of-way and pavement limits are established. Speed humps are the most cost-effective traffic calming tool available as no additional right-of-way or easements are necessary to construct them. While Knox County's Department of Engineering and Public Works administers the program and provides guidance and technical assistance, the subdivision property owners decide whether traffic calming is appropriate for their streets.

If you would like to consider the traffic calming process for your neighborhood, please review the [Traffic Calming Procedure](#). It includes information detailing our traffic calming procedure. If you submitted an application prior to Fiscal Year 2025, here is a link to the previous [Traffic Calming Policy](#).

Bill Hahnemann told Alec he would be happy to meet with him and discuss the process of getting the speed humps. He and Joni worked hard to get the ones on Spence Place and they both could add some insight into the process.

Our next meeting: Tuesday, January 20th at 6pm at Matt's house.

Meeting adjourned: 7:15pm

