

**Quarterly Neighborhood Performance Report - Quarter One (August-October) Due Nov. 10**

Neighborhood\_\_ Brook Creek Neighborhood

Completed By: Emily Winters

Date: 11/23/15

Phone Number/Email\_ [785-760-4742](tel:785-760-4742)/[brookcreekna@gmail.com](mailto:brookcreekna@gmail.com)

Each Neighborhood is required to have at least quarterly meetings. (minutes must be attached.)	Meeting Date #1	<u>9/2/15</u>	Minutes Attached?	<u>yes</u>
	Meeting Date #2	<u>10/7/15</u>	Minutes Attached?	<u>yes</u>
	Meeting Date #3		Minutes Attached?	
How was the neighborhood notified of the meeting(s)? (check all that apply)	email	yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	newsletter	yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	other announcement?	Facebook reminder and event		
Officer elections this quarter? (if so, attach list of new officers)	No			
Each Neighborhood is encouraged to produce regular newsletters.	Date of Newsletter	<u>September/October</u>	Copy Attached? (required)	<u>yes</u>

Also to be attached:

Neighborhood activity list for the quarter, including method of notification as well as estimated attendance. (Required)

Best practices in regard to neighborhood events that can be shared with other neighborhood associations. Provide information on outreach, event, and outcome. (recommended)

Any other information your neighborhood association feels will be information that will help to provide a clear view of your neighborhood associations accomplishments. (recommended)

## **Brook Creek Neighborhood - 1st Quarter Report**

**Neighborhood activity list for the quarter, including method of notification as well as estimated attendance. (Required)**

- September business meeting
  - notification by newsletter, email, Facebook
  - 11 in attendance
- Fall Picnic
  - notification by newsletter, email, Facebook
  - ~20 in attendance
- October business meeting
  - notification by newsletter, email, Facebook
  - 9 in attendance

**Best practices in regard to neighborhood events that can be shared with other neighborhood associations. Provide information on outreach, event, and outcome. (recommended)**

- We have developed a LISTSERV for neighbors to communicate with each other in an informal, electronic way. The coordinator will monitor activity on the LISTSERV to ensure everyone is following established protocols. We currently have 69 members enrolled
- We continue to provide neighborhood and relevant city updates through our official Facebook page and also keep a neighborhood forum page that allows neighbors to interact with each other.

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association  
1502 Harper  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044



Come to the  
Neighborhood Picnic  
on September 12!

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Please check  any box that applies:

- I do not want my name printed in the newsletter as a new or returning member
- I would like to be included in a neighborhood e-mail list-serve
- I would like to receive a weekly e-newsletter

Mail this form and your check payable to BCNA to:  
**Brook Creek Neighborhood, 1406 Oak Hill Ave., Lawrence KS 66044**

Visit us at <http://brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com/>



# The Brook Creek Breeze

The Newsletter of the  
Brook Creek  
Neighborhood Association

September—October 2015

## Neighborhood Events

### September

- 2 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,  
East Lawrence Rec. Center
- 12 Neighborhood Picnic, 3:00  
p.m., Brook Creek Park
- 19 Family Game Night, 6:30 p.m.  
East Lawrence Rec. Center

### October

- 7 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,  
East Lawrence Rec. Center
- 17 Family Game Night, 6:30 p.m.  
East Lawrence Rec. Center

## Come to the Sept. 12 Neighborhood Picnic!

Please plan to join your neighbors for an afternoon of food, friends, and fun. The potluck neighborhood picnic will be Saturday, September 12 from 3 to 7 p.m. in Brook Creek Park.

Please bring a potluck dish to share. Games, lawn chairs, and personal cutlery and plates are encouraged. Cleanup volunteers are welcome from 7 to 8 p.m.

## Potential Increases in 19th Street Traffic

One great feature of the Brook Creek Neighborhood is that it is removed from most urban noise and nuisance. 13th St. ends at the cemeteries; 15th St. is the back way to Eudora, and 19th St. ends at mobile homes and auto salvage. That's about to change. The City plans to upgrade East 19th St. to concrete, and to connect it to O'Connell Rd. and the new Venture Business Park.

Brook Creek officers and residents have expressed concerns about increased traffic on 19th Street in three meetings with the City Manager and again at a Public Works open house in June of this year. City officials have responded with ideas for 'traffic calming.' No construction money has been funded yet, but they plan to build the connection in 2017.

We expect a large increase in cut-through traffic if the City connects 19th St. to O'Connell Rd. K-10 traffic avoiding 23rd St. will turn north on O'Connell Rd. and west on 19th St., and then to Harper St. and Haskell Ave. Increased traffic volume is expected from KU game day crowds, from the South Lawrence Trafficway, and from new facilities in the Venture Business Park. Finally, the preferred site now for a new police facility is on O'Connell Rd. in the Venture Business Park.

All of this traffic should be kept on K-10 and 23rd St., which is a major highway. 19th St. is a "collector" street serving the residential neighborhoods, and should not be upgraded to an "arterial." The Venture Business Park is directly on K-10, so all related traffic should use that highway. Rapid deployment of Police cruisers would be most efficient at the O'Connell Rd./K-10 signalized intersection instead of 19th St.

The City has admitted that neighborhood traffic could become a problem if they connect O'Connell Rd. with 19th St. But they claim that the problems can be solved with traffic calming. However, traffic calming slows motor vehicle speeds, but does nothing to reduce traffic volume. The intent of the connection to O'Connell Rd. is to increase the volume capacity of 19th St. We will review and vote on this issue at our September 2nd meeting.

## Special September Meeting Topic : Safe Routes to School

At the September 2 BCNA meeting, we will have a speaker describing the Safe Routes To School program in Lawrence. Safe Routes To School is a federally funded program created to enable more children to walk and bicycle to school and to make it safer for them to do so, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle.

## Neighborhood Contacts

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fredandjenna@sunflower.com  
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Lawrence, KS 66044-3638

**Directors Nathan Jeffries  
Andrea Repinsky**

**Lawrence Association of Neighbor-  
hoods Representative  
Melinda Henderson**

**Emily Winters,  
Neighborhood Coordinator**  
BrookCreekNA@gmail.com



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## A Letter from the President

Children are back to school in our neighborhood! Please watch out for our young walkers and bicyclists in the mornings and afternoons. If your child is a walker or bicyclist, please join us at our next regular BCNA meeting where we will discuss safe routes to schools on Wednesday, September 2nd at the East Lawrence Recreation Center.

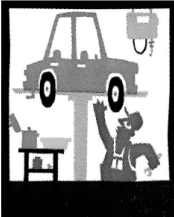
The Brook Creek Neighborhood has a new coordinator! We have hired Emily Winters to become our new BCNA Coordinator, and we look forward to working with her in her new role. She has served BCNA for years in development of the webpage and Facebook page, and we trust she will continue to infuse the organization with more new ideas and her hard work.

Many thanks must go out to Julie for her years of dedication to the BCNA as a long term coordinator! We thank you for all that you have done for us, and hope to see you continue to come to meetings and events in the neighborhood.

- Rena Figures

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## New Family Game Night and Senior Class at East Lawrence Rec. Center

The East Lawrence Recreation Center (ELC) has started hosting a Family Game Night! The third Saturday of each month from 6:30pm to 8:30pm the center will only be open to children and their parents. Along with crafts and board games in the meeting room, the gymnasium and game areas will be available for unstructured play. There is a \$3 fee

for each child over three years old. Parents and infants are free. Also, a new Strength Training for Seniors class starts on September 15. It is an opportunity to improve balance (preventing falls), to strengthen major muscle groups, and to increase muscle mass and bone density. Please contact the ELC at 832-7950 if you have questions.

## Brook Creek Neighborhood Association Meeting Notes

### February 2015

BCNA reviewed the Verizon microwave tower Special Use Permit application and lawsuit status. Kyle Myers of Silverback Enterprises presented on The Burroughs planned event space at 19th & Burroughs Creek Trail. City Commission candidate Stuart Boley visited. Melinda Henderson was elected as LAN Representative. Andrea Repinsky, Emily Winters, and Nathan Jeffries were nominated as BCNA Directors.

### March 2015

City Commission candidate Stan Rasmussen visited. Attendees planned the spring park cleanup, a neighborhood survey, and feedback forms. Attendees discussed code enforcement needs, the Horizon 2020 update, 11th & Haskell recycling center, and the Sunrise Project. Andrea Repinsky, Emily Winters, and Nathan Jeffries were elected as BCNA Directors.

### April 2015

Attendees discussed a neighborhood yard sale, the Ottawa Co-op grain elevator expansion, 11th & Haskell SUP, and the spring park cleanup. Guest speaker Nathan Jeffries provided information on the South Lawrence Trafficway construction.

*BCNA meeting minutes are posted in full on the BCNA website  
<https://brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com/>*



**Cat Clinic**  
of Lawrence

Jennifer O'Driscoll, DVM (785) 856-6369  
1701 Massachusetts St. [www.catcliniclawrence.com](http://www.catcliniclawrence.com)

### May 2015

Guest speakers discussed gardening topics. Attendees discussed City budget hearings, lack of transit in Brook Creek, parking in the bicycle lane at East Heights School, the SUP received by 11th & Haskell recycling center, and ideas for parks & recreation improvements around Brook Creek that will be submitted in a letter to the City.



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**Brook Creek Neighborhood Association**  
**Meeting Minutes, 2 September 2015**  
(by Michael Almon, Secretary)

**Present:** Rena Figures (President), Byron Wiley (Vice President), Jenna Coker (Treasurer), Michael Almon (Secretary), Andrea Repinsky, Melinda Henderson, four other Association members, and Emily Winters (Coordinator).

**Agenda:** Rena passed around an agenda to which we added a couple items and approved.

**Introductions:** Rena asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. Rena announced that Emily Winters is our new Coordinator, and everyone congratulated her.

**Minutes of prior meeting:** On 18 May, Michael had e-mailed the draft minutes from the 6 May meeting to everyone. But it was so long ago that no one remembered reading them.

Item tabled: We tabled this until Emily can find her e-mail and post the minutes to the website.

**Treasurer's report:** as of 31 August 2015, \$58 petty cash; \$1519.80 in checking account. \$1577.80 total revenues. Jenna asked if we had received ad payment from Blevins Auto; Michael will check into it, and if it's for two months.

Action taken: We approved the report.

**Guest speaker:**

Charlie Bryan, Community Health Planner at the Health Department, spoke about the Safe Routes To School initiative, in conjunction with LiveWell Lawrence, the Lawrence School District, and the City of Lawrence. The purpose of the program is to make it possible and desirable for more K-8 children to walk or bicycle to school, to foster better health, combat childhood obesity, and reduce motor vehicle use and air pollutants. Local funding is from the Kansas Health Department, the Kansas DOT, and the Center for Disease Control.

The first steps began with data gathering in early 2014 to get a base line for how many children walk or bicycle now. Most public schools participated (and some private ones), and teachers and parents completed surveys. Even though Lawrence has more neighborhood schools compared to other cities (which are more walkable), our 14% walking and bicycling is the same as the national average. The current round of data gathering includes more schools, and surveys the children as well.

When the data is complete, each school will develop a plan for increasing walking and ridership. If the SRTS program can get additional grant money, they will add the two high schools to the program. The City of Lawrence is working on physical improvements to identified routes to each school, much of which depends on each school plan. Liberty Middle School already has their plan done.

But this is more than just building sidewalks and protected bicycle lanes. First of all, they hope to get Lawrence Public Works to make this a priority, because any improvements will benefit more than just school children. Some parents will need to be persuaded to allow their children to walk or bicycle, because currently some of them fear the streets and sidewalks are not safe for unaccompanied children, and because they prefer “drive-time” with their children. The SRTS program hopes to help some families get bicycles for their children. And they have begun a safety training program with instructors from the League of American Cyclists.

In Brook Creek Neighborhood, 19th St. is difficult to bicycle on, even with bicycle lanes. They are only 4 feet wide with only a white line separating bicyclists from motorists (same is true of 15th St. Cars frequently drive in the bicycle lanes, which is a perfect example of why we need protected bicycle lanes. The SRTS goal is to have a safe route for every child from their door to the school door. Someone asked why there no longer is a crossing guard at 15th and Haskell. Someone thought the roundabout at 19th and Barker is dangerous for cyclists because of visibility. The problem is that it is undersized and squeezed in, but the standard design gives cyclists the option to ramp up to the sidewalk and avoid the autos.

### **Picnic and potluck:**

It will be on Saturday, 12 September, from 3:00pm-7:00pm, in the Brook Creek Park. Emily will purchase fruit and veggie trays, and everyone else will bring pot-luck dishes. BCNA will also provide dinnerware. Fred will bring bocce balls and frisbees and basketballs. The band, Signal Ridge, can't play after all because of medical problems. Fred will try to find other music. The rain date will be Sunday, or else we could move to the Community Center (if it can be reserved yet – Emily will check).

Anticipated action: Emily will bring fruit and veggie trays, and reserve the Community Center for Saturday, if possible.

Anticipated action: Fred will check on other music, and will bring games.

### **Brook Creek map in newsletter:**

Fred showed a sketch of a stylized map of Brook Creek Neighborhood, and asked that it be included in the newsletter. We discussed that it was a good idea but it shouldn't take a lot of space.

Anticipated action: Andrea will work on a map to include in the newsletter.

### **19th Street connecting to O'Connell Rd:**

Michael displayed some maps and photos of how the City wants to connect the east end of 19th St. to O'Connell Rd., and upgrade 19th St. to concrete and curbs. There was a open house on 24 June when the City showed a recommended design of 19th St. Jenna attended as representing BCNA, told them that we don't approve of the plan, but they said we needed an official vote to that effect. So Michael explained the traffic generating effects of the overall scheme, so that we could vote.

He mentioned that when the City platted and built roads for the Venture Business Park, they

constructed O'Connell Rd. right up to connect with 19th St., and all that stands in the way now is a metal guard rail. The south end of O'Connell Rd. ties in to the new 31st St., which will soon be carrying lots of traffic, certainly from Menards and other south Iowa St. businesses. Other traffic will come from shift changes in the Venture Business Park, and from game day traffic, from K-10 rush hour traffic avoiding 23rd St. (K-10 traffic can no longer get on to Noria Rd. so they will cut up O'Connell Rd. if it connects to 19th St.) Much of this will then cut through our neighborhood. We want this cut-through traffic to stay on Highway K-10, and not have O'Connell Rd. connect with 19th St. The proposed "traffic calming" on 19th St. won't reduce the volume of traffic, though maybe it will reduce the speeds.

Action taken: The following four items were approved unanimously:

- O'Connell Rd. shall not be connected to East 19th Street.
- Ordinance 8660 shall be amended to declassify O'Connell Rd. from a "Main Trafficway" extending north of 23rd St. to an intersection with 19th St.
- The Venture Business Park plat shall be amended to remove the right of way leg off O'Connell Rd. extending 251 feet west to the 19th St. right of way.
- The O'Connell Rd. pavement shall be removed from where it meets the 19th St. right of way eastward to the southern end of the curve on O'Connell Rd.

### **City transit lacking in Brook Creek:**

Last May, Melinda said she was working on getting Lawrence Transit to better serve Brook Creek Neighborhood. To get downtown by riding the only bus through our neighborhood takes longer than an hour, longer than the walk time. She reported that Lawrence Transit has proposed routing a bus along Oak Hill Ave. to Harper and out to the Homeless Shelter, then back downtown over the same route. They're considering multiple route changes, so this particular route is not determined yet.

Anticipated action: Melinda will keep us posted if there is a public meeting.

### **Ryan Robinson son's death:**

The 18 year old son of Ryan Robinson, one of the Silverback owners, was killed a couple weeks ago on K-10. We want to send him a sympathy card.

Anticipated action: Emily will buy a sympathy card and Rena will sign it from BCNA.

### **Fireworks – City ordinance enforcement:**

Melinda mentioned again that illegal fireworks is a public health issue because the explosions trigger post traumatic stress syndrome in many veterans. She asked for an organization vote to support rigorous enforcement of the fireworks ban.

Action taken: We took an official position supporting the ban, and allowing Melinda to push for more rigorous enforcement of the fireworks ban.

### **Meeting adjourned**

**Brook Creek Neighborhood Association**  
**Meeting Minutes - DRAFT, 7 October 2015**  
(by Michael Almon, Secretary)

**Present:** Rena Figures (President), Byron Wiley (Vice President), Jenna Coker (Treasurer), Michael Almon (Secretary), Andrea Repinsky, Melinda Henderson, two other Association members, Emily Winters (Coordinator), and one member of the public.

**Guest speakers:** Henry Fortunato, and Bob Nugent

**Agenda:** Rena had e-mailed an agenda to the Board. We added an item and approved it.

**Introductions:** Rena asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. Rena announced that we have Henry Fortunato with us to speak on historical connections along the Burroughs Creek Trail, and Bob Nugent to speak on the Lawrence bus system route changes and benches.

**Minutes of prior meeting:** Michael presented the draft minutes from 6 May 2015 and 2 September 2015.

Action taken: Moved by Ron Bishop, seconded by Emily to approve the May and September minutes. Passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** as of 31 August 2015, \$24 petty cash; \$901.79 in checking account. \$925.79 total revenues. This reflects a payment to Printing Solutions of \$758.14, which CDBG will reimburse us. Jenna reported that she had spent \$118.34 in August to draw down the CDBG balance to zero. She bought office supplies for the Coordinator. Michael asked if some of that could go to himself or other members who also have printing needs. Jenna said that could be done.

Action taken: Moved by Ron Bishop, seconded by Melinda to approve the report. Passed unanimously.

**Guest speaker – Bob Nugent:**

Mr. Nugent is the Lawrence Transit Administrator. He first mentioned that the latest proposal for a transit hub is in the K.U. “Central District”, between 15th St. and 19th St., and Naismith Dr. and Iowa St. K.U. is making major changes there with the dormitories and the Burge Union. The bus system is a combination of K.U. and City buses, so this location would serve all routes well. A transit hub here would benefit from having on-site K.U. security, so restrooms could be accommodated.

He commented on the recent “bus bench” phenomenon. There are many bus stops that could have enough riders to warrant a bus shelter, but they were holding off until the transit hub site was chosen. Since that is not imminent, they are now going to spend on bus shelters, and will place either shelters or benches along Haskell Ave. at the “bus bench” sites. They won't put



one at 11Th and Delaware because it doesn't have enough riders, nor at the 19th St. shopping plaza because that is a K-10 Connector stop, not a City stop.

They do route changes once a year, with reviews from January-March, budgeting in May, and actual route changes in August. Route #1 is from downtown to Prairie Park via Haskell Ave. We pointed out that it's faster for us to walk downtown than to ride all the way to Prairie Park before heading downtown. He said they are planning a new bi-directional route (at Melinda's urging) that will go from downtown to the Homeless Shelter and back, along 13th and Oak Hill and Harper and K-10. One impetus for this is that they need to discontinue the 24th & Fairfield loop at the Shelter because home owners don't like a bus stop there (the riders?).

### **Guest speaker – Henry Fortunato:**

Mr. Fortunato is a historian and a hiker, a Visiting Fellow at the Hall Center for Humanities. He has been developing a plan for interpretive panels to be located along the Burroughs Creek Trail to depict the key historical events that occurred there. He started in 2013 with an intern helping, but ran into political troubles with the instigators of the East Ninth Project and the Cultural District. They wanted to have too much artistic control of his idea, so he backed out. But now he's partnering with the Lawrence Library (using Lawrence Memorial Hospital funding) to display demountable panels at the Library in June of 2016. The portable panels will be 3 feet by 6 feet, and travel to some 8-12 venues over a three year period.

The historical ideas he has so far are: the WWII POW camp at 11th St., Woodland Park and Fairgrounds, the whole Haskell family, Oliver Hanscom, Quantrill, John Speer, the L.L. & G. Railroad (later the BNSF Railroad), Oregon Trail, Farmer's Co-op Elevator, and the William Burroughs home. He would like us to contribute other ideas for inclusion. Some we mentioned were the Pendleton Family (started the sale barn), Stokely Van Camp cannery, Poehler building, renaming of the ATSF Ditch to Burroughs Creek. He said that he's seeking grants for more research, and needs some scholars to write the copy for the panels. The same graphic designer of hie panels in the Kansas Union will design these panels. Ideas can be sent to him at <[henryfortunato@ku.edu](mailto:henryfortunato@ku.edu)>.

### **Update on the Parks & Rec letter:**

Since she proposed it in April this year, Andrea has been working on our letter requesting a meeting with Parks & Recreation about several proposals we are making for our neighborhood. At our May meeting, we made some additions and approved it for finalizing and mailing.

Andrea had e-mailed a draft letter to the Board a couple hours before this meeting, but few had received it or reviewed it before the meeting. We will read it in the next day or so, and send edits to Andrea. She will finalize it and format on letterhead, addressed to all the parties listed in the May minutes.

Anticipated Action: Andrea will finalize the P & R letter, and then run it buy the BCNA Officers before sending it.

### **CDBG Grant application:**

The grant deadline is in December. Funding levels are lower than prior years, but one way we can get more funds is apply for capital improvement funds in Brook Creek Neighborhood.

Anticipated Action: Emily will begin preparing the CDBG application, and we will review ideas at our November meeting. Be thinking about capital improvement ideas.

### **Election and Nominating Committee:**

The Bylaws require that a nominating committee be appointed at the October meeting. One member is appointed by the President. Two members are elected by the membership at the October meeting. Byron and Emily volunteered, so we elected them. Byron will ask Melissa Fahrenbruch if she will be the Presidential appointee. If not, he'll ask Andrea.

Action taken: We elected Byron and Emily as Nominating Committee members.

Anticipated Action: Byron will ask Melissa Fahrenbruch or Andrea to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Anticipated Action: The Committee will report at the November meeting with a slate of candidates for four Officers and five Directors.

Anticipated Action: Emily will provide official paid member list of who can vote.

### **November meeting speaker and topic:**

The topic had been chosen back in May as "Just Food". Supposedly Rena had lined up a speaker, but she had to leave this meeting early, so we don't know who is to speak.

Anticipated Action: Emily will ask Rena who the Just Food speaker is for November. We will publicize it in the upcoming newsletter.

### **Last Newsletter of the year – Nov/Dec:**

The November/December newsletter is coming up. We brainstormed some ideas: picnic photos, election candidates names, holiday party, cell tower report, neighborhood map. Having target dates for each stage of newsletter production would focus everyone. Andrea will initiate a calendar time-line, working backwards from final mailbox delivery date to beginning of advertiser solicitations. She'll notify us of target dates: advertisements due date, articles due date, draft layout review and edits, and when final copy goes to the printer

Anticipated Action: Andrea will initiate a newsletter calendar time-line, beginning with advertiser solicitations. She'll notify us of target due dates for: advertisements, articles, draft layout review, final copy to printer.

### **Google Group list-serv participation:**

The number of folks subscribed to the Brook Creek Google Group remains low. We haven't figured out how to get more e-mail addresses, and the initial invitation got little response. It is possible to subscribe people on our own, with a welcome message that gives them and "opt out" option. That way they may try it first, and hopefully stay subscribed.

Anticipated Action: Emily will plan how to increase Google Groups participants, to be further discussed in November.

### **Weekly E-newsletter**

We discussed whether we want to publish a simple weekly newsletter by e-mail, to be sent to everyone on the neighborhood e-mail list. About the only things sent to members now are the meeting notices, picnic notice, and park clean up. A weekly E-newsletter could have more events and news listed.

Anticipated Action: Emily will consider how she might publish this, to be further discussed in November.

### **Neighborhood yard sale**

At our April meeting, we decided to hold a yard sale in August, just as the students were returning. Then at our August Officer's meeting, folks felt too hot and busy, so we postponed it until late September. No one took on promoting it with all the neighbors to get their participation, so it didn't happen. Now October is an ideally mild and dry month, but time is too short to pull it off. We decided to discuss it again at our January meeting, with a plan for March or April.

Anticipated Action: January discussion to organize a yard sale for early Spring.

### **Meeting adjourned**