



# ROCK HILL GARDENS

## R • G • N • A    ROCKHILL GARDENS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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<http://www.rockhillgardens.org>

May 2008

### YMCA in Tower Park?

For the first six months of 1996, this was the issue that Rockhill Gardens residents faced down, thanks to our active neighborhood association.

The Greater Kansas City YMCA proposed building a \$4 million, 40,000 square foot facility on the northern half of Tower Park that would have housed a gymnasium, an indoor swimming pool, a day-care center, meeting rooms and a parking lot. The Parks Department would have deeded half of Tower Park—the most significant green space in the area—to the YMCA for development.

David Swartzbaugh, the RGNA president at the time, represented RGNA's opposition to the project, saying, "I enjoy knowing there is open space in an urban setting. When they say they want to take the park, I feel a little bit betrayed. It's the wrong thing to do."

In the following months, the battle for Tower Park raged. The YMCA presented public opinion data purporting to show slim community support while opponents to the development circulated petitions and suggested alternate locations.

By mid June, 1996, the YMCA conceded. "The opposition just wasn't dying down," said Jeffrey Byrne, vice president of financial development at the YMCA. "We want to be a partner with the community, not an opponent. There wasn't enough consensus forming around the YMCA at Tower Park."

Today, residents are able to avail themselves of both the Cleaver YMCA and all the green space of Tower Park. In 1996 this wasn't a certainty. The battle was won by an organized and active Rockhill Gardens Neighborhood Association and by homeowners who became involved.

The RGNA will continue to offer the great things to which we've become accustomed such the block party, progressive dinners, the all-neighborhood garage sale and store discount cards. But an equally important purpose of any neighborhood association is to remain strong and organized enough to deal with the unexpected by defending neighborhood values on short notice.

Your support for and participation in RGNA remain vital.

### Ice Cream Social

The Rockhill Gardens Family Network is hosting a free ice cream social for all dues-paying RGNA members of the RGNA and their families. It will be held on Sunday, May 4th from 3 to 4pm on Cherry Street between 72nd Terrace and 73rd Street. Come get to know other Rockhill Gardens families, and feel free to bring bicycles/tricycles! If you haven't yet joined RGNA, bring a check with you. Call Special Needs Director Janie Weeks at 363-3388 with questions or to volunteer.

### 2008 Block Party!

Mark your calendars, the 2008 All-Neighborhood Block Party will be on Saturday, June 21 from 5 - 9 pm. Celebrate the summer solstice with your friends and neighbors. The tentative location is Campbell Street between 74th and 75th Streets. Previous block parties included hot dogs and hamburgers, drinks, games, and entertainment for the whole family. Volunteers are needed. Contact Events Director Ronda Sprick at 333-9265 for more information.

### Garden Tour Needs Gardens

The RGNA is planning a tour of neighborhood gardens this year in the late spring or early summer. If you are interested in showing off your horticultural handiwork, contact Garden Talk manager LeAnna Lepper at 333-5568.

### Annual Garage Sale

While you are doing your spring cleaning, be sure to set aside items for the annual RGNA garage sale. The sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 6th and 7th and will coincide with the Tower, Ward Parkway and Waldo Homes Associations sales. The RGNA will post an ad in *The Kansas City Star* and as well as on [Craigslist.com](http://Craigslist.com).

This year we will have maps of the homes participating, listing the addresses and a short description of items for sale. Please contact Janie Weeks at 363-3388 or [janieweeks@hotmail.com](mailto:janieweeks@hotmail.com) to be listed on the map. Maps will be distributed on Thursday, June 5th. There will also be a copy on [www.rockhillgardens.org](http://www.rockhillgardens.org).

## RGNA Finance

The RGNA's financial year runs from June 1, through May 31. The Board will be discussing the 2009 budget at our next meeting on May 14.

	<u>Current</u> <u>Period</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Balance</u>	
<b>Revenue:</b>					
30100	Membership Income	-	5,960.00	5,695.00	265.00
30300	Interest on Investment	13.33	540.39	662.00	(121.61)
30500	Other Income	-	900.00	74.00	826.00
30500	Grants	-	-	-	-
30502	Newsletter Income	-	-	-	-
30503	Social Activities Income	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>					
		13.33	7,400.39	6,431.00	969.39
<b>Expenses:</b>					
50100	Administration	7.00	1,673.00	1,565.00	108.00
51920	Marketing/Membership	-	-	250.00	(250.00)
	Variable Admin (Billing)	-	150.00	-	150.00
50400	Insurance	200.00	340.00	350.00	(10.00)
50622	Landscaping Replacing	-	-	-	-
50700	Postage	0.41	374.36	176.00	198.36
50200	Meetings	16.75	16.75	24.00	(7.25)
51930	Social Activities	-	1,742.54	2,100.00	(357.46)
51920	New Neighbor	-	248.87	150.00	98.87
51900	Garage Sale	-	-	50.00	(50.00)
51934	Directories	-	284.39	204.00	80.39
51936	Newsletter	-	260.00	720.00	(460.00)
52000	Stationary & Supplies	-	-	124.00	(124.00)
52400	Other	-	37.25	-	37.25
<b>Total Expenses</b>					
		224.16	5,127.16	5,713.00	(585.84)
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>					
		<b>(210.83)</b>	<b>2,273.23</b>	<b>718.00</b>	<b>1,555.23</b>

## Announcements

### Open Position: Membership Director

The RGNA needs a friendly face to be our Membership Director. Duties include keeping track of new residents and assembling welcome baskets. If you are interested in helping, please contact Martin Tennant or attend the RGNA meeting on May 14 at the Waldo Library.

### Seeking Block Captains

With so many houses in Rockhill Gardens for sale, this summer promises a large number of new neighbors. To welcome them and to strengthen the relationship among all neighbors, the RGNA is seeking block captains from throughout the neighborhood. If you are interested in serving, please contact Patrick Tuohey at 268-1296.

## To Dog Walkers

There is a proposal to create a dog park somewhere in Waldo. As I do not have a dog, I haven't been paying attention to the issue. Judging from the email I see, people are getting involved on both sides.

My main concern is that a dog park might take away those wonderful people who walk their dogs up and down my street—and all around Rockhill Gardens. Anything that gets us out of our houses and onto our streets is a good thing. It helps bring together the community and even, I suspect, acts as one more small thing to prevent crime.

If the dog park is established, and you choose to take your dog, please consider traveling there on foot.

-Patrick Tuohey

# RGNA Meeting Minutes Summary for April 9, 2008

## Board Members:

*Present:* Martin Tennant, Patrick Tuohey, John Ritchie, Ronda Sprick, Kristen Williams, Sarah Blasi, Janie Weeks, Christine Ritchie

*Absent:* John Cigas

## Others Present:

Captain Scott Caron, KCPD; Captain Robin Houston, KCPD; Officer John Trainor, KCPD; Officer Chris Young, KCPD; Susan Mikkelsen

## Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Martin Tennant

- The Board recognized the election of the new RGNA Board of Directors: President Martin Tennant, Communications Director Patrick Tuohey, Crime Prevention Director John Ritchie, Events Director Ronda Sprick, Finance Director Christine Ritchie, Marketing Director Kristen Williams, Property Management Director Sarah Blasi, Public Affairs & Development Director John Cigas, Special Needs Director & Family Network Liaison Janie Weeks.

### Crime Prevention

- John Ritchie asked officers present for recommendations on improving communication between the Board and the Kansas City Police Department, especially regarding crime statistics;
- Captain Caron remarked that crimes statistics have been difficult to compile due to several computer technical problems within the KCPD; he advised the Board of progress in developing a web-based crime reporting tool that will overlay with Google maps;
- Officers Houston and Young recommended that neighbors be alert to unusual or suspicious activity in the neighborhood and that residents call police with specific information such as license plate numbers and descriptions of people and activity and that they leave contact information so that officers may follow up should they have additional questions; and
- Officer Trainor committed to providing the Board information about the vehicle that destroyed the RGNA marker at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and Holmes Street.

### By-laws

- Patrick Tuohey requested that copies of the RGNA by-laws be made available to post on the RGNA website; and that the Board then convene a task force to suggest by-laws revisions at a future Board meeting.

## Block Captains

- Patrick Tuohey asked that the Board recruit block captains from the RGNA to (1) aid in distributing association newsletters and other communication and (2) help identify new home owners to the Board. Block captains could also be useful should the Director of Crime Prevention decide to form a neighborhood watch.

## RGNA Newsletter

- Board members discussed options in printing and distributing future newsletters. It was generally agreed that resources are best spent on printing newsletters rather than in distribution. Patrick Tuohey assures that newsletters will be delivered in a timely fashion each month. Resident Susan Mikkelsen offered to look into alternate printing options for the Board.

## Events

- Ronda Sprick selected June 21 for the 2008 RGNA block party from approximately 5pm to 9pm. The Board discussed locations and generally agreed to Campbell Street between 74<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> Streets. Ronda will seek permission from homeowners in that area, and will convene a task force to deal with the specifics of the block party.
- Board members discussed interest in a neighborhood Garden Walk and asked that the next newsletter include a call for homeowners to participate.
- Janie Weeks indicated the RGNA all-neighborhood Garage Sale will be June 6 and 7—the same dates as those for bordering neighborhoods.

## Finance

- Christine Ritchie distributed a year-to-date budget and asked that directors be prepared to submit budgets for 2009 at the next RGNA meeting. Previous years' budgets are available on request.

## Membership

- The Board has no Membership Director. Martin Tennant asked that a call for volunteers be placed in the next newsletter.

## Property Management

- Sarah Blasi also reported on initial efforts to rebuild the RGNA marker at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and Holmes Street and on other property management endeavors.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

## Advertisement

### BLANDO MOWING

*Making Rockhill Gardens Beautiful One Yard At A Time Since 1996*

Front and back	\$25.00	• Trimming is free to summer long cus-	• Rockhill Gardens residents only please.
One or the other	\$15.00	tomers! Leaf raking and general clean	
Bag front and back	\$30.00	up available, please call for quote.	For more information, contact Tom at:
Corner lots	\$35.00	• We live right around the corner. Fast and	Phone: 444-3407 Cell: 816-824-1719
Bag corner lots	\$40.00	reliable service.	Email: tcmdsg@aol.com

## Crime Tips

The following are some things homeowners can do to help prevent crime.

- If you are going to be away, please let a neighbor know so that they may look after your property.
- Have outdoor lighting installed that illuminates your entire property.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that would-be thieves have nowhere to hide.
- Leave interior lights on when you are gone. You may purchase timing devices that turn on and off at programmed times.
- If you receive the newspaper, call to have your service interrupted while you are out of town. You may donate your papers to a local school.
- Do not leave the your car unattended while the motor is running.
- Don't leave notes on your door announcing when you will be home.
- Have dead bolt locks installed instead of push button locks.
- Lock your storm doors. You may think they are flimsy, but robbers would rather not shatter glass to break into your home. It makes more noise than kicking in a door, and the sound is a clear sign that something is wrong.
- Never give information to an unknown caller. Report nuisance calls to the police and the telephone company.
- Keep your shades or curtains closed at night.
- Write down license numbers of suspicious vehicles to give to the police, if necessary.
- If you are suspicious of something in your neighborhood, call 911.
- When in doubt, call the police. They are better equipped to decide if something is worth investigating.

## Important Dates

- April 28:** The KC Area Transit Authority is hosting an open house to discuss the new Troost MAX bus route. The meeting runs from 6pm to 8pm at the Cleaver YMCA.
- May 4:** Ice Cream Social from 3pm to 4pm on Cherry Street between 72nd Terrace and 73rd Street. Ice cream is free to all paid members of the Rockhill Gardens Neighborhood Association and their families.
- May 14:** RGNA Board Meeting at 7 pm at the Waldo Branch Library. (Board meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month.)
- June 6-7:** Neighborhood Garage Sale. The RGNA is joining with adjacent neighborhood associations for this all-neighborhood garage sale. If you are considering having a garage sale, these are the days to do it.
- June 21:** Annual Block Party from 5pm to 9pm. Join your neighbors for this annual summer event including food and drinks, games and attractions! The exact location of the party is to be announced.

If you have dates you would like to add to the RGNA calendar, please contact Patrick Tuohey at 268-1296.

## RGNA Officers

President	Martin Tennant	444-5349
Communications	Patrick Tuohey	268-1296
Crime Prevention	—VACANT—	
Events	Ronda Sprick	333-9265
Finance	Christine Ritchie	361-6262
Marketing	Kristen Williams	361-5155
Membership	—VACANT—	
Property Management	Sarah Blasi	361-9856
Public Affairs & Development	John Cigas	363-7178
Special Needs & Family Network	Janie Weeks	363-3388

## Useful Numbers

Emergency	911
Police (non-emergency)	234-5111
KCMO Action Center	513-1313
Mayor Mark Funkhouser	513-3500
Councilwoman Beth Gottstein	513-1616
Councilwoman Jan Marcason	513-1617
Parks & Recreation	513-7500
Animal control	513-9800
Curb and sidewalk repair	513-7951
Waldo Area Business Association	523-5553
Waldo Library	701-3625
Cleaver YMCA	285-9622