

Washburn Life
(Washburn Area Improvement Association)
(Official)
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2025

Location: Washburn City Hall

Board Members Present: Donna Sommer/ Rhonda Johnson/ Staci Berube/ Mark Lelm/ Rashel Crowell

Board Members Absent: Savannah Hyttinen (e)/ Richard Perkerewicz (e)

Others Present: Ashli Laducer

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by President Donna Sommer.

- 1) Approval of the August 12th meeting minutes: Mark made a motion to approve the minutes as written. 2nd by Staci. **Approved.**
- 2) Financial Report: Staci reviewed the financial report as of September 9th. (Mark made a motion to approve the financial report as presented, 2nd by Rhonda) **Approved.**
- 3) Old Business:
 - a) **Board Position Appointment (Vacancy):** Donna went over the requirements to be a board member. There is an interested candidate for one of the 2 open positions.
 - b) **Washburn Life Golf Scramble Update:** No update from Alyson or Rachel on the event. Donna mentioned that \$1500 was raised for the Washburn Park Board for mulligans (\$1,000) and a business donation (\$500). There were 20 team/hole sponsors: 6 dinner sponsors and 2 hole-only sponsors.
 - c) **Hwy 83 Billboards:** Donna attended the city commission meeting to ask for Lodging Tax to help pay for the billboard signs along Hwy 83 by Cenex. Request died for lack of a second. Discussion on going forward with the billboards and purchasing banners.

Mark made a motion to order the banner/sign for the 8'x12' billboard and get it installed. Also give the committee the option to purchase the banner/sign of their choice. 2nd by Rhonda. **Approved.**
 - d) **Light-up Washburn:** Rashel led the discussion on putting up more lights at Riverside Park. The committee will meet at Riverside Park on Sept 18th to hang up more lights. Oct 11th was discussed to have an event to invite the public to help hang more lights and have yard games.
- 4) New Business:
 - a) **November 11th Meeting date:** November is Veteran's Day, and the city hall will be closed. Discussion on moving the date and location of the meeting. Board decided to move the meeting to Monday, Nov 10th and have it at the city hall.

- b) **2026 Budget:** Donna led the discussion on working on the preliminary budget for 2026. The budget committee will meet later this month to work on the budget.
 - c) **Office Space:** There has been an opening for an office space at the Mike Nelson building. It was discussed the possibility of moving Rhonda's office there to be more visible to the public and there would be more room to have meetings. No decision was reached; the topic will be visited at an upcoming meeting.
- 5). **Coordinator Report:** Rhonda gave an update on what she has been doing the past month.
- a) Small Business Saturday Craft & Vendor Show (Nov 29): Rhonda gave an update on the vendor show. There are 22 vendors/crafters signed up so far.
 - b) Candy Caravan (Oct 31): Rhonda mentioned that an email will be going out to businesses soon about candy caravan and phone calls will start on Oct 1st to the businesses. Rhonda and Staci will work on the event together. Rhonda asked the city to block off Main Ave from 6-9th street.
 - c) Halloween Movie Night: Rhonda attended the city commission meeting on Sept 8 and was able to have the memorial hall rental fees waived for the event. Rhonda and Kandi (Washburn Library) are collaborating to host a movie and haunted hallway on Oct 31st at the memorial hall (movie-upstairs/haunted hallway-basement).
 - d) Taste of Washburn: The date has been reserved for April 11th.
 - e) AmeriCorps: Rhonda has been working on the "End of Term" items to exit her term with AmeriCorps.
 - f) EDND Fall Conference (Oct7-9): Rhonda mentioned that she would like to attend the conference in Minot. Staci made a motion to send Rhonda to the conference. 2nd by Mark. **Approved**
 - g) Santa Day: Rhonda attended the city commission meeting on Sept 8 and was able to have the rental fees waived for the event.

Next Meeting: October 14th at 12 pm at **Washburn City Hall**

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm by President Donna Sommer.

Rhonda Johnson
Community Coordinator

Minutes submitted 9/11/2025
Minutes approved 10/14/2025