

White Water Meadows Citizens' Association General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date of meeting: December 15, 2024

Meeting was commenced at 4:29pm by Devon Thawe (President)

Members of the Executive present:

Devon Thawe (President)

Karim Sewell (Public Relations Officer)

Kimberly Moore (Secretary)

Special Guest: Mr. Abdullah Allie

Meeting Agenda:

- **Recap of last meeting**
- **Update on the WWMCA' financial standing**
- **Handing over of the scheme and update on the Irrigation project**
- **Sports development project**
- **Other business**

Addressing Deficit and Security Camera Use

Upon the commencement of the meeting, after sharing the meeting agenda, the Association President advised that Abdullah Allie, a guest was present at the meeting would be discussing with the members the handing over of the scheme. The recap of the last general meeting was done by the Association Secretary who highlighted in her recap of the last general meeting about the sudden increase in rates from Can-Cara. To which the Association

President responded that an in-person visit would be required to address the matter rather than a formal letter which was sent.

For the introductory segment of the meeting, the commencement of the meeting saw the President discussing the financial status of the organization as at August 1, 2024, and the need for residents to pay their dues, highlighting a deficit of \$142,000 for the quarter. He attributed the small income of WWMCA to slim collections that are done at the gate especially on a rainy day. He emphasized the desire of the Executive committee to move away from collecting at the gate of the scheme and emphasized the need for residents to pay their dues, suggesting online payment as a more efficient method. The President also discussed the organization's spending, including a park project and website maintenance.

An update was requested on the cameras which have been installed in the community, to which the President mentioned the need for more volunteers to monitor the security cameras, which are currently not being utilized effectively. He mentioned the importance of a neighborhood watch committee to monitor cameras and prevent theft. The team also discussed the importance of community-based organizations and volunteerism for community development, and the potential of a neighborhood watch and the need for more community members to join the platform. Additionally, a second phase for the camera system that was not completed due to a lack of resources.

The discussion segued into the President highlighting the need for a neighborhood watch committee to monitor cameras and prevent theft in the community. He suggested that a limited number of panic buttons could be provided to strategic points, with the cost of monitoring to be around \$10,000 per month. Karim and Tevin clarified that the cost would depend on the number of panic buttons requested. The President also mentioned the possibility of creative ways to reach out to security personnel if the community watch is not widespread. The conversation ended with Abdullah, a Community Development Officer, addressing the group about the importance of community-based organizations like a neighborhood watch to address security issues. Kimberly had set up a poll in the WhatsApp

group to gauge residents' interest in contributing to the security camera and panic button system.

Handing over the scheme

The President and Abdullah discussed the issue of a community scheme not being handed over to the Parish Council, which is a common problem in their area. Abdullah explained that the scheme was built by private developers, and the land was bought by them, so it's not the responsibility of the Parish Council or the Municipal Council. He suggested getting some legal advice to explore the possibility of getting the scheme under the Parish Council's control. He also mentioned that the counselor had made efforts to get the scheme under the Parish Council's control, but the Ministry of Housing and the Parish Council have no drive to do so. The citizens are now left to take ownership of the scheme. Abdullah suggested getting some legal help to dig deeper into the issue and possibly squeeze some of the past developers or get the government to step in.

The discussion then shifted to the topic of security cameras and panic buttons. The President proposed getting a monitoring system for Whitewaters and asked for commitment from the residents to attempt to get it going. One community member agreed with the proposal and suggested exploring digital panic buttons. Abdullah emphasized the need for active participation in community activities and the establishment of partnerships with various stakeholders, including the police and private security firms. He also highlighted the importance of volunteerism and the need for community members to come out and participate in community activities. The team also discussed the potential of a neighborhood watch and the need for more community members to join the platform.

Community Engagement

It was also discussed that the need for more community involvement and fundraising efforts is evident. Janeen proposed increasing fundraising activities and reaching out to more people. However, The President welcomed the ideas but expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of these methods, citing past failures, due to poor participation by the residents. Karim

shared a personal experience with a resident who criticized the committee, suggesting that some residents may not be interested in community involvement. The team agreed to continue their efforts to improve communication and community engagement.

The President of the Association along with other executive and community members, Mr. Allie discussed the challenges faced by their community association. They pointed out the issues of apathy and lack of interest among some members, which was affecting the community's development. The group considered various solutions, including a fundraiser, a marathon, and a donation drive. They also discussed the need for more engagement and communication within the community. However, some members expressed concerns about the feasibility of these solutions, given the community's history of resistance and lack of participation. The conversation ended with a consensus that more effort was needed to address the community's issues and improve its overall well-being.

Community Development Project Challenges

Gary, a community member, suggested breaking the community into smaller groups for better progress and community interaction. The President proposed a community development project, including a multi-purpose sports complex, but faced challenges in securing funding and management. The project was referred to the Southern Plains Agricultural Development Project and the SDC, but they expressed concerns about the project's management and cost. The President emphasized the potential benefits of the project, including crime prevention and community engagement. The team agreed to draft a project plan and seek a quantity survey to estimate costs.

Community Center and Infrastructure Issues

In the meeting, the PRO and Mr. Allie discussed the need for a multi-purpose community center, emphasizing its importance for community participation and commitment. They also addressed concerns about the drainage system and the functioning of the sewage plant, with Abdullah suggesting legal recourse to resolve

these issues. The President proposed a buy-in for the community center, and Janeen suggested it could be used for various community activities. The conversation ended with The President expressing the need for more people to join the team and the importance of community participation. The status of the postal service was also discussed, with some residents reporting not receiving their mail.

In closing, the next steps were as follows:

- The President to follow up with the post office regarding mail delivery service in Whitewater Meadows.
- The President to get more details on the panic button system and associated costs from Hawkeye.
- Residents to volunteer for a community walk (aiming for 7 volunteers) to engage with neighbors about community issues in response to an anticipated community walk by the end of January organized by the President.
- The President agreed to follow up with Southern Plains Agricultural Development Project regarding the irrigation project and formal response to the community's letter.
- The President to contact Can-Cara regarding the functioning of the sewage plant.
- Residents with legal expertise to assist in exploring options for getting Whitewater Meadows officially handed over to the Parish Council.

The President to seek residents' help in creating a project plan, survey, and cost estimate for the proposed multi-purpose sports complex.

The PRO is to follow up with the MP or councilor about clearing the drainage near the park area.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

