



AHCA Community Meeting  
March 6, 2018 - 7:30 PM  
AcademyHeightsMD.org

Called to Order at 7:36pm with President Joe Shinault presiding.

Board members in attendance (9): Linda Barnes, Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas, Mischa Bowen-Kreiner, Beth McSweeney, John O’Ferrall, Joe Shinault, Becky Stoll, Seth Wheeler, Patrick Young

Members absent: Chris Burk, Nikki Green, Chris Waterman

Minutes from February 6, 2018 were approved.

Several new members were welcomed; see sign-in sheet.

**Community Outreach** – Officer Boone reported that he and his fellow officers have been maintaining an increased presence in schools for the past three weeks, even though no threats have been received. All Baltimore County middle schools and high school have School Resource Officers (SROs); patrol officers visit elementary schools multiple times per shift.

Lieutenant Stork has retired; she was the administrative lieutenant. There is a new administrative lieutenant and a new captain. The new captain has 12 years of experience at Wilkens. He was a shift lieutenant in charge of the patrols. He can be contacted directly.

Baltimore County is bringing back the ride along program; we are invited to participate and can submit paperwork to Officer Boone. The placement would most likely be at a neighboring Catonsville post. To those interested, he would recommend a Wednesday or Thursday rather than a Saturday or Sunday.

UMBC has built a new gymnasium and is looking for community support to attend events there. Crime has been trending down.

Next Tuesday night at 7:00 the PCR meeting (at which members of area associations, the Wilkens captain, Officer Warehime who oversees Citizens On Patrol, and two representatives from Councilman Quirk’s office review numbers, questions, and strategies, as well as networking) will be held at Maiden Choice Elementary School.

The biggest recent problem has been unlocked houses and vehicles. Recently, someone observed and reported with description and direction of travel an offender trying door handles—the responding officers were able to apprehend him. He was local.

A resident asked about an anticipated response since last Spring brought on burglaries; Officer Boone suggested that the majority of offenders are offenders of opportunity, i.e. addicts, so the most important thing is to minimize that opportunity as discussed at previous meetings. There is an increased patrol presence at night in the warmer months.

Another resident asked about a vehicle that had been stolen from the neighborhood. Keys may have been left in the car. Officer Boone will look into it and communicate with Joe. He reminds us not to leave vehicles running.

Officer Boone asks that when we observe suspicious activity, we call 911 rather than calling the precinct, calling him, or taking pictures. 911 is responsible for dispatching cars, which feeds statistics. This applies even after-the-fact, i.e. if a vehicle has been rifled through but there is no suspect in sight. If a nonemergency number is needed, 410-887-2222 is the nonemergency number for BCPD, but this should not be used to report criminal activity or potential criminal activity.

A resident asked how to find out if a building is permitted. Call zoning.

**Treasurer's Report** – Chris Waterman was unable to attend. Joe Shinault reported that dues have been received from many households—upwards of 90 households at this point.

**Architectural** – A certified letter has been sent to 443 Whitfield Rd, and a meeting has been offered. The 60-day window begins upon receipt of the letter. John O'Ferrall would like to have several board members attend the meeting and would like to have greater membership join the committee. The committee is beginning a storm doors campaign; reminder letters have been developed. A copy of the letter was made available. Joe Shinault has reached out to a law firm and received a proposed contract. There was discussion of the regulations governing Air B&Bs since a neighborhood basement had been advertised. Officer Boone asked that the address be sent to him.

**Communication** – A concern was shared about some of the postings on Facebook. There are growing pains. Sam spends a great deal of time moderating posts for profanity, etc. It was suggested to ignore “trolls”; drown them out with positive posts, i.e. pictures of the neighborhood. Someone was removed after a two-week probation due to non-neighborly behavior. Continue to post suggestions and/or bring them to the meetings. Beth McSweeney suggested responding to negative posts.

**Welcome Committee** – Two houses sold last month. There are two currently on the market. Baskets go out biweekly; five were distributed last weekend.

**Dues** – Volunteers will go door-to-door once it's warmer to ensure dues momentum is maintained. The option to submit dues via Venmo will be coming soon. Troy Smith suggested addressing dues when greeting new members to ensure that new residents are aware of the dues.

### **Old Business**

**Citizens on Patrol** – Mike Granito is working to set up the meeting – tentatively scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> at Christ Lutheran at 7:00pm; Mike will send out confirmation.

**BGE Gas Pipeline** – Greenlow Rd will be affected during a different phase. Someone who was walking around with a dog and cart, filming the neighborhood, claimed to be from BGE.

**Royal Farms** – will be at our April 10 meeting. Joe attended the Ingleside meeting a few weeks ago when Royal Farms attended that meeting. The meeting was tense. Harlem and Stoney residents have concerns.

**Dumpster Day** – We're on the waiting list again. The application was submitted in January—should have been submitted in July, according to fiscal period.

**Block Party** – Oct 6. Committee needed. Facebook/email solicitation forthcoming.

### **New Business**

**Easter Egg Hunt** – Beth McSweeney shared that the Easter Egg Hunt will occur March 31 at 10:00am. Help is requested: extra hands are always welcome, beginning at 9:00 for setup and

later for the prize table. 900-1300 eggs must be set out. The rain date would be the following Saturday.

**Bylaws Revision Vote** – Culmination of two-year process. Thanks, Mike. There was an opportunity to address feedback from the community during the notice period, questions, concerns, or general discussion. A motion that regular members in good standing approve followed. Motion passed 16-0; bylaws revisions take effect immediately. The website must be updated ASAP. If passed bylaws are recorded, they must be re-recorded. Brian can provide the last typed copy (which is reflected on the website).

**Restriction Guidelines Vote** – There was an opportunity for discussion. John O’Ferrall motioned approval. Mike motioned for roll call vote. Seth seconded. Motion passed unopposed. Linda Barnes voted yea.

Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas voted yea.

Mischa Bowen-Kreiner voted yea.

Beth McSweeney voted yea.

John O’Ferrall voted yea.

Joe Shinault voted yea.

Becky Stoll voted yea.

Seth Wheeler voted yea.

Patrick Young voted yea.

The proposed revisions to the Architectural Guidelines were approved 9-0.

### **Open Discussion**

**Alleys** – don’t block; remove trash cans. Secure cans and/or lids, as appropriate.

**Trees on Christian Temple Property** – Cathy Engers is working on this concern.

**Maryland Insurance Commissioner Speaking at Goals** – On March 27 at 6:30, local community associations are invited to speak with insurance experts, including the State Insurance Commissioner.

**Code Enforcement** – tentative dates received.

Next Meeting: April 10.

Adjourned at 8:34pm. Recorded by Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas.