



AHCA Community Meeting
October 2, 2018 - 7:30 PM
AcademyHeightsMD.org

Called to Order at 7:35pm with President Joe Shinault presiding.

Board members in attendance (9): Linda Barnes, Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas, Mischa Bowen-Kreiner, Chris Burk, Joe Shinault, Becky Stoll, Chris Waterman, Seth Wheeler, Patrick Young

Members absent (3): Nikki Green, Beth McSweeney, John O'Ferrall

Minutes from June 5 and September 4 were approved.

New members were welcomed; see sign-in sheet for details.

Community Outreach – Joe Shinault invited Officer Boone and his colleagues to attend our Block Party. Officer Boone requested more advanced notice for future events. Chris Waterman reported that he had called 911 recently for verbal harassment. Officer Boone indicated that calling 911 was the right thing to go.

The local gentleman who was causing issues at the gas station and in the neighborhood has been addressed and has dialed back his activities.

A stolen vehicle had been reported via Facebook over the weekend. Officer Boone will follow up via email. He reminds us not to leave valuables in vehicles.

The neighborhood has overall been relatively quiet in terms of crime.

Neighbors can contact Officer Boone directly, through Joe Shinault, or through Cathy Engers.

Treasurer's Report – Current balance is \$11,451.65. An expenditure had previously been authorized for the upcoming Block Party.

Architectural – Nothing too pressing at present. More volunteers always needed and welcomed. Attorney issue is still pending.

Communication – 405 members on Facebook page. Next newsletter will be coming out at the end of this month.

Welcome Committee – Meghan Young will be stepping aside from the Welcome Committee after 5 years. Just made her final delivery to 13 homes. Beth McSweeney will be taking over, with the support of many cookie bakers who were recruited via Facebook. George Brookhart continues to supply the information regarding sold homes. 1 is currently for sale, 1 sold in September, and 6 are pending settlement. Homes are averaging less than a week on the market.

Dues – Participation is at 35% currently. Dues will be collected at the Block Party, as well.

Old Business

Block Party – will be held this Saturday. Everything is in place. Committee has done a nice job. 11 sponsors are on board. Board approved \$1000. Full allotment may not be required due to the volume of sponsorship. 7-8 of sponsors will have tables set up on Northdale. There will be a big menu, a magician, face painting, cotton candy, and a folk rock trio performing. Invitations went out.

Citizens on Patrol – Due to the hard work of Chris Burk, the association has received a grant in the amount of \$590. Ideas were solicited. Quarterly reports are required. \$150 is allocated for administrative costs, e.g. if newsletter includes blurb related to C.O.P, grant money can defray newsletter costs.

\$250 could have been spent for National Night Out, but the designated night did not work out. Those monies must be reallocated. County approval is required for reallocation. Burk has a list of allowable and nonallowable expenditures. Money has already been set aside for safety vests and street signs. One entrance to the neighborhood does not currently have a sign. Burk has the sign and will purchase a post. There were many applicants for the grant this year and a finite amount of money.

Westgate Association will be hosting training and has invited interested parties from our association to join. The training primarily addresses do's and don'ts.

Chris Waterman suggested an evening to share safety-specific information and inquired whether the block grant could be used to purchase food for such an event.

The association will teach out to the community for input. The more involvement, the better in terms of continued eligibility for future grant money.

BGE – is wrapping up. Be sure to communicate issues if any remain. Concerns were voiced regarding whether brick crosswalks would be returned to original condition.

Halloween Party – will be run by Erin Fisher of Overbrook this year since Linda Barnes needed to take the year off. 3:00-3:30 costume parade at the church. Bad weather will move inside.

Yard Sale – There was light participation. Consider annual rather than twice annually. Revisit after upcoming Spring Yard Sale.

Sewer – Digging phase probably won't start until the end of the month. Workers are currently working on clearing shrubs, etc.

Playground – Rick from Christian Temple offered his apologies. They have been working with the county to try to find a solution. The Christian Temple property manager spoke. She offered a thorough explanation as to why the issues cannot be attributed to a broken water main, as has been suspected, and therefore are not able to be remedied by the church. Chris Waterman reiterated our thanks and gratitude to Christian Temple for being a consistently good neighbor to AH.

The county maintains the playground equipment and surfaces under the equipment. Many years ago, the county, association, and church partnered to replace outdated equipment. This may present a similar opportunity for collaborative refurbishment.

Per Linda Barnes, at one point, there was a stream or brook in the location where the water is currently emerging from the hill. None of Christian Temple's drawings show that.

New Business

Elections/Nominations – Seth, Linda, Beth, John, Becky, and Pat still have one year remaining on their terms. All officers are up for reelection, as is Mischa. Chris Burk will be stepping down. There is one open board position and an opening for Vice President. Announcements of nominations will be at the November meeting.

Open Discussion

High School Capacity Study – The survey's availability ends on Sunday evening. Look at the different scenarios on the website. Cathy Engers provided copies of each scenario. All are posted in color on the BCPS website. A decision is supposed to be made by December, but may be delayed to leave it to the new Board to decide. It is ultimately the Board's decision, but county officials and community members can still provide input. Early voting starts October 28 and runs until November 1. Arbutus is the closest location.

Tree Canopy Project – has planted between approximately 40-45 trees in the neighborhood. Contact Chris Burk for volunteer opportunities. A \$2800 grant was received from Home Depot for the second consecutive year. They provided mulch and tools to support planting. If someone is removing a tree and wants to replace it, can that person contact Burk? Yes.

Tree-mendous Dance Party – benefits community programs at Spring Grove Arboretum. It will be held on November 10 from 7:00-11:00 and include music, beer, wine, and chips. BYO food trays.

Grant Opportunity – There is an opportunity to write a grant for up to \$10,000 for environmental and/or public safety projects in the community. Burk is willing to support application process if community members have ideas. A resident suggested that this might be a means to support drainage development at the playground.

Next Meeting: November 6 at Mount de Sales.

Adjourned at 8:24pm. Recorded by Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas.