



AHCA Community Meeting
February 7, 2017 - 7:30 PM
AcademyHeightsMD.org

Called to Order at 7:33pm with President Joe Shinault presiding.

Board members in attendance (12): Linda Barnes, Mischa Bowen-Kreiner, Mike Granito, Matt McKnight, John O'Ferrall, Joe Shinault, Troy Smith, Becky Stoll

Members absent: George Brookhart, Chris Burk, Nikki Green, John & Beth McSweeney, Chris Waterman, Patrick Young

Minutes from January 3, 2017 were approved.

Community Outreach – Officer Boone reported repeated robberies at the nearby Today's Pizza. The offender was caught in the act on his fourth attempt and is now in custody. There was also a second-degree burglary on the 300 block of Whitfield; that offender is in custody, as well. There have been theft from vehicle calls, but the overall crime rate has dropped both in the neighborhood and the greater Catonsville area. The area has been flooded with increased plainclothes police presence.

Joe Shinault reported neighborhood concerns regarding potential illegal activity at a home that was recently raided. Officer Boone will communicate the concerns and solicit additional information. Karen DeHoff asked about another burglary that had been mentioned on the listserv; that was the incident Officer Boone reported. He will communicate additional suspect/vehicle information as it arises. He asked that any information of this nature be forwarded to him, preferably via phone.

Treasurer's Report – Chris Waterman was unable to attend, but Joe Shinault relayed that after a \$100 deposit last month, there is a \$6015 balance in the checking account as of the most recent statement. The T.Rowe Price account has a statement balance of \$19439.39. Some dues have been coming in, and there is a personal property tax form to submit within the next month.

Committees

Architectural – John O'Ferrall reported that the committee met on January 17. Updating the covenant of restrictions and application procedures on the website was discussed. Minutes from the meeting were submitted. There was one application from 343 Stratford. With one member abstaining, the committee recommended approval of the application to vent a bathroom fan through the roof. The vent proposed fan would be black. Joe Shinault motioned to approve the application. Mark asked whether this would fall under the same category as an attic fan, since attic fans are required to vent out the rear of the structure. Additional information was provided

regarding the need to make the change in order to meet code and the profile of the proposed appliance. After discussion, the committee's recommendation was approved without dissent. The committee will generate and dispatch an approval letter.

Mike Granito inquired as to the status of the proposed process update whereby the architectural committee would make recommendations to the Board and the Board would make final decisions. There was further discussion as to the current and past informal, non-codified procedures, including escalation procedures. Granito has reviewed archives to determine whether the Board had officially delegated their authority to the Architectural Committee; he did not find evidence that the Board had done so.

The architectural committee has proposed a new procedure. Board members will review the proposal and vote upon it at an upcoming (Spring) Board-only meeting. Mark DeHoff pointed out that homeowner approval will be required to enshrine a new procedure in the bylaws, but the proposed procedure could be implemented in the interim.

Website – is up and running. Karen DeHoff asked if an updated calendar of events has been posted. Joe Shinault will check.

Welcome Committee – Meghan Young was unable to attend. Joe Shinault indicated that welcome packages may need updating.

Dues – need to be paid. Linda Barnes asked for the current dues amount. Dues are \$20.00. There is a discount for seniors 62 and over.

Newsletter – were sent out this week with envelopes for dues. Thanks to everyone who helped distribute.

Bylaws – Mike Granito summarized the distributed Bylaws Review Committee Report. Identified areas for improvement included procedures for determining a quorum and removing a Board member. Areas for additional discussion included aligning bylaws language with meeting practice, instituting summer meetings, and clarifying requirements that funds be held in federally insured accounts. Mischa Bowen-Kreiner indicated that CDs, which have been previously proposed, are FDIC insured. See report for additional details.

Old Business

Dog Receptacles – An item was placed in the newsletter to solicit feedback.

Sewer Line – The announced January meeting was postponed to February 21. Chris Burk and Joe Shinault will attend this meeting. Plans for projected work were provided and are available.

Little Library – is being repaired, as is the fallen street sign. Mischa Bowen-Kreiner, Chris Burk, and Matt McKnight were all thanked for their contributions to repair efforts.

Dumpster Day – will be June 3rd. Mike Granito asked that we consider making participation in Dumpster Day and similar programs, such as the Tree Canopy Project, dues-dependent. With respect to Dumpster Day, the county subsidizes the event, and so anyone with a Baltimore County license is eligible. A dues table is typically set up at the event, per Karen DeHoff, and Mark DeHoff indicated that the board had passed a resolution in favor of there being a dues-collecting table at all events. Newsletter wording, past and present, to promote prompt payment of dues was discussed. It was suggested that wording in the forthcoming newsletter mention the charter purpose of AHCA and the benefits it affords the community. Matt McKnight proposed a

thermometer-style display that would indicate the threshold that must be met to fund each event. Linda Barnes also mentioned that dues-paying members were once entered into a drawing for a gift card.

Decoration Winners – got their ornaments.

New Business

March Board Meeting – will be held, most likely at Mount de Sales, in late March or early April.

Open Discussion

Rat Inspection – happened.

Adjourned at 8:45pm. Recorded by Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas.