



AHCA Community Meeting
November 5, 2019 - 7:30 PM
AcademyHeightsMD.org

Called to Order at 7:34pm with President Joe Shinault presiding.

Board members in attendance (6): Linda Barnes, Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas, Mischa Bowen-Kreiner, John O'Ferrall, Joe Shinault, Becky Stoll

Members absent: Beth McSweeney, Chris Waterman, Patrick Young, Seth Wheeler

Minutes from September and October 2019 were approved and will be posted to the website.

Neighbors from Edmondson and Northdale were welcomed.

Community Outreach – Grooming vehicles are within the weight limit to be parked on Edmondson. Code enforcement/zoning/animal control need to be contacted regarding the daisy chain of extension cords, the business being conducted out of the home, and the waste issue. Officers can follow up regarding potential obstruction. Cars parking too close to corners are another obstruction issue. Officer Boone requested that the community be warned prior to ticketing being requested. "No parking" signage is missing at Whitfield and Edmondson. Cathy Engers will follow up regarding the missing signage.

Officer Boone shared that there have been a couple of vehicles stolen in the area. He reminds residents to secure their vehicles and not to warm up vehicles unless using a remote starter. There was a robbery up at the Shell station that is still being investigated. There was also an issue at the Dollar Store at Edmondson and Northdale, in which case offenders were apprehended immediately following.

Treasurer's Report – \$8717.18 is the checking account balance.

Architectural – John O'Ferrall reported that the committee is scheduled to meet with counsel in order to discuss ongoing issues with doors, a façade, and a porch. Letters from counsel will be generated. An ongoing roof issue was discussed. The issue is affecting the adjacent homes and causing structural and safety concerns. The county needs to be involved. O'Ferrall will reach out to zoning. O'Ferrall also shared that he is awaiting a response regarding a deck issue.

Communication – Facebook is up to 436 users. The fall newsletter will go out within the week or next week. Nominations and news about the upcoming election will be included.

Welcome Committee – 7 homes are currently for sale. 5 are pending. 2 were sold over the past month. Beth McSweeney was unable to attend to provide additional details.

Dues – Approximately 26% of households have paid at this point.

Old Business

Relief Sewer Project Update – The contractor has requested an extension. The deadline was the end of the year. Cathy Engers will attend a progress update meeting at the end of this month.

Stop Work Order – in effect to prevent additional flooding into the neighborhood from nearby construction that was out of compliance. A fine has been levied and emergency measures put into place. No flooding was observed on Halloween, but there has not been any harder rain. A resident reported that work was ongoing today, but that work may have been related to the emergency measures.

Royal Farms – Residents have heard that the state purchased the current Royal Farms building. Cathy Engers has heard the opposite. She is waiting to hear from BGE regarding a sidewalk.

Crosswalks – are not warranted per the county due to limited foot traffic. Engers recommends constituent letters to the County Executive. Letters from individual constituents are more likely to be effective than one from the association. Copy Engers when sending communication. She will forward the email she received. There will be a raised crosswalk put in on Harlem along with some additional traffic calming measures near the school.

Santa House – will be held by the firehouse on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Community Grant – Chris Burk has the application, which is due December 5. Someone is needed to take over coordinating the grant; additional input regarding requests is also needed. Support for administrative costs and National Night Out, at minimum, should be requested. The Shinaults will reach out to Burk.

“Slow” Signage – 7 refurbished signs have been installed. Volunteers have come forward to install the remaining 15.

Dumpster Day – will be the first Saturday in June. John O’Ferrall will confirm the reservation.

New Business

Holiday Decoration Contest – Joe Shinault will follow up with Mount de Sales regarding support from the camera club.

Water Meters – are sunken throughout the neighborhood. A resident reported that he called his issue in, and it was replaced within the week.

Board Nominations – Elections occur in December. 4 officers, 11 board members. Alternating 2 year terms for 10/11 board members. The 11th board member is the immediate past president. No incumbent is seeking the secretary and vice president position. Linda Barnes self-nominated. Christie Kearney, Rita Hall, and Doug Kampe were nominated. Becky Stoll was nominated but declined. John O’Ferrall was nominated. Pat Cusick was nominated. Nikki Green was nominated. Chris Burk was nominated and will seek the vice presidency. Chris Waterman was nominated for treasurer. Joe Shinault was nominated for president. Elections will be at the December 3rd Board meeting.

Open Discussion

Sewers – A resident asked for clarification of the term “sewer lateral” from previous minutes. The lateral connects the individual homes to the main line. There is a nonprofit called Clean Water Action that is advocating for the city to allocate resources that would support homeowners who experience basement flooding. There is a new program in the city, but many applications have been denied, so the nonprofit has been advocating for the community. Clean Water Action will seek to replicate their work within the county.

A resident asked who to call regarding erosion adjacent to storm water slabs. Cathy Engers will reach out to someone from Public Works.

Stormwater – A resident asked whether the new Mount de Sales road is complete, as it is not draining properly. The road will not be finished until the construction is finished. Joe Shinault will follow up with Mount de Sales.

Catonsville Tree Canopy Project – planted its 1000th tree in front of the café at Spring Grove. Some local elected officials attended. Academy Heights was acknowledged as the recipient of 5% of these trees. The 51st and 52nd will be planted soon. Another tree will also be replaced. Academy Heights will be used as a model community. Some trees that residents had planted were removed.

Facebook – A resident reported via Facebook a concern about a vacant home. A tenant should be moving into the property soon.

Guest Speakers – Chris Burk asked for ideas of guest speakers from whom community members would want to hear. An item will be placed in the upcoming newsletter. One resident recommended active shooter training. Another resident asked if there is a community alert system. Facebook is the closest thing.

Playground – The church has installed a swing for children with disabilities.

Next Meeting: December 3.

Adjourned at 8:30pm. Recorded by Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas.