



AHCA Community Meeting
November 1, 2016 - 7:30 PM
AcademyHeightsMD.org

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

Board members in attendance (13): Linda Barnes, Chris Burk, George Brookhart, Mike Granito, John & Beth McSweeney, Matt McKnight, John O’Ferrall, Troy Smith, Becky Stoll, Chris Waterman, Pat Young.

Members absent: Amanda Clark, Nikki Green.

Minutes from October 4, 2016 were approved.

The President provided the following updates:

Halloween was both big and successful. Mount de Sales is in the process of re-accreditation.

Community Outreach – Officer Rubie introduced Officer Ben Cumerlowe, a local traffic officer. Officer Cumerlowe is interested in becoming our community liaison and is shadowing Officer Rubie, who will retire effective December 15.

Officer Rubie shared that thefts from vehicles remain a concern. He reminds us to keep vehicles locked and not to leave valuable items within sight in vehicles.

He also reported a heroin overdose in the neighborhood and advised increased awareness of this epidemic. If encountering a suspicious substance, do not attempt to handle it; contact the police.

Mike Granito asked regarding a sex offender adjacent to the neighborhood. Officer Rubie indicated that without a court order forbidding residence within range of a playground, that person is unrestricted. He suggests advocacy to legislators. Information can be disseminated in the newsletter because it is public information.

Matt McKnight provided an update on the damage to the mini-library and plans to repair it.

Treasurer’s Report – Chris Waterman will have an updated balance for us once dues from the Block Party are processed.

There was a recent withdrawal of \$250 to support the Tree Canopy Project, per the board’s October 4, 2016 vote.

Names of Block Party Sponsors were shared ...

Candle Light Funeral Home by Craig Witzke

Di Roma’s Café’ – Yvonne Haddaway

The George Brookhart Team at Keller Williams Integrity Real Estate

Maryland State Delegate Patrick Young

Sierra Pacific Mortgage – Barry Heisey

Committees:

Architectural – John O’Ferrall shared that the Committee met October 19, 2016 to discuss improvements to their process, including letters. They approved two requests and requested additional information from a third. The committee received a response to their letter to the holding company of 421 Greenlow regarding the glass block violation. John O’Ferrall provided copies of that response. The Architectural Committee is seeking the Board’s advice as to how to proceed.

The President shared that he had added to the website that glass block is prohibited. Those in attendance discussed that the bylaws address conditions that homes must meet – precluding glass block – and cannot enumerate all possible violations; additionally, the civic association has in the past taken the glass block window issue to court.

George Brookhart shared that the responsibility lies with the seller and their realtor to ensure purchasers’ awareness of the covenant of restrictions.

Matt McKnight consulted past minutes relevant to the glass block issue; the Covenant of Restrictions was lengthier in the past, with glass block among the enumerated violations.

No response from the Northdale property with the doorframe that is out-of-compliance.

John O’Ferrall invited additional participation on the Architectural Committee.

Mike Granito proposed consulting with legal counsel. Suggestion was tabled.

Website – is up and running.

Welcome Committee – reported two recent deliveries and two homes for sale currently.

Dues – Block Party collection was productive. Total forthcoming (see below).

Newsletter – goes out this week. The President invited residents in attendance to assist with distribution.

Bylaws – Mike Granito and Beth McSweeney, along with any additions to the committee, plan to propose amendments/revisions to the bylaws by January or February, following the seating of new board members.

Old Business

Block Party – George Brookhart reported that the 2017 Block Party will be on October 7 because this year’s October date was preferable to prior dates in September. He expressed thanks for the contributions of the volunteers, including those who set up and broke down tables, painted faces, and made balloon animals, and the fire department. BYOB worked out well.

5 sponsors contributed \$200 each for a total of \$1000 in sponsorship. \$280 in dues were collected. The 50/50 raffle brought in \$118 (The firefighter who won the 50/50 gave the money back). The cooler raffle brought in \$86. The total proceeds were \$484. The approximate total cost was \$2250, of which \$766 remains to come out of pocket as a balance due. Beth McSweeney motioned to cover the \$766 net. Troy Smith seconded. Motion passed unopposed. George Brookhart plans to solicit additional sponsorship next year, including website sponsorship. Some sponsors have not remained current with their payments.

Halloween Party – Linda Barnes thanked those who assisted with cooking and flyer distribution. 22 children attended. The date may have impacted turnout. Sam's Club, Safeway, CVS, and McDonald's all contributed donations. Additional help with tables is needed for next year. Dancing, parade, and food were all popular with the children in attendance.

Christmas Décor Contest – Beth McSweeney reported that a back-up plan is needed because we have not heard back from Karen Dietzius regarding ornaments. Matt McKnight will follow up regarding signage.

Dog Receptacles – Nikki Green was not in attendance but provided information via email. The service discussed at the last meeting would not come out if we only installed three receptacles.

Tree Canopy Project – Chris Burk reported that trees are coming Thursday. The project will be trying something new at Stratford and Edmondson, staggering elms and cherry blossoms, as well as planting additional elms throughout the community. Volunteers are welcomed and will be solicited via email. Mulch will be provided for some existing trees. Burk forwarded our donation to the Tree Canopy Project.

Elections – Notification of pending elections is included in the November newsletter.

New Business

2017 Meeting Times/Location – The President proposed that we consider alternative locations, i.e. Christian Temple or Mount de Sales, and/or timeframe. Potential conflicts with Westowne PTA meetings and meetings of the Edmonson Heights association (which our police liaison also attends) were discussed. The discussion was tabled.

Early voting – can be done at any Baltimore County early voting location. Volunteers needed to support voting at Westowne. Contact poll captain/neighbor Patrick Young.

Open Discussion

Sewer line – Chris Burk asked if we'd received a response from our councilman regarding the sewer line. We have not despite our request two months ago of a reply to schedule a meeting with the councilman and director of public works. Writing another letter, contacting our liaison, contacting the director of public works directly rather than via carbon copy, or calling were all proposed. The President offered to call. Chris Burk reiterated that around two dozen homes were impacted during the historic flood, which affects everyone's property values.

Officer Rubie's retirement – Karen DeHoff and Linda Barnes proposed that we recognize Officer Rubie's service. George Brookhart suggested a gift card to Chef Paolino's or Trolley Stop. Those in attendance expressed interest. The President asked about an amount. Chris Waterman will look into any limits of what Officer Rubie may be able to accept.

Catonsville Elementary School – Chris Burk asked what level of involvement we want to have. Patrick Young indicated that there is a plan to be presented for public input. There will be a meeting on November 22.

Adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Recorded by Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas.