



AHCA Community Meeting
December 3, 2019 - 7:30 PM
AcademyHeightsMD.org

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

Board members in attendance (7): Linda Barnes, Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas, Mischa Bowen-Kreiner, John O'Ferrall, Joe Shinault, Becky Stoll, Chris Waterman

Members absent: Beth McSweeney, Patrick Young, Seth Wheeler

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

President Joe Shinault thanked the outgoing board members who will not be seeking reelection. Thomas from Stratford was welcomed.

Community Outreach – Officer Boone reminds the neighborhood: “Tis the season to be thieving.” Please do not leave anything visible in your cars. There were recent theft from vehicle attempts on Whitfield. Offenders were apprehended. Wilkens Precinct Police-Community Relations yearend celebration will be next Tuesday at 7pm at the Arbutus library. The county executive has been invited. Other county officials typically attend, as well. Most recent complaints have been regarding abandoned vehicles. It is a myth that a car has to be moved every 48 hours. It was suggested to include an item in the newsletter reminding neighbors with multiple vehicles to be mindful of their parking choices. Regarding the concern that a business may be operating out of one of the neighborhood homes, there was discussion regarding zoning and pulling articles of incorporation to verify the business address.

Treasurer's Report – \$7804.53 is the checking account balance. There are no outstanding bills.

Architectural – A Board motion is required to move ahead with legal action in cases where property owners have not been responsive for a year or more when provided in-person visits and multiple letters, including certified letters and correspondence from our attorney. A complaint that could lead to litigation would be filed against each property owner. Neither property that currently meets the above criteria is a rental property. The most recent time that a legal complaint was made, the issue was resolved without court proceedings, but substantial legal fees were incurred. Board approval is required to incur legal fees. There was discussion of whether lattice work is acceptable to add to a deck. The purpose in this case is enhanced privacy. The height of the proposed lattice is needed. The Board received a letter today from an attorney representing a homeowner who has been ordered by the county to replace their roof by December 20. The roof has been covered by a

tarp for approximately three years. Given the deadline, the attorney requests expedited approval, if required, for this replacement, which is intended to restore the roof to its original condition. John O’Ferrall will make contact with the homeowner.

It was also mentioned that the guideline for deck staircases still needs to be revised in the new year.

Motions to pursue legal action in the matters of 5826 Edmondson and 323 Greenlow were approved without dissent.

Communication – Next newsletter will go out in late January or early February.

Welcome Committee – 4 homes are currently for sale, 4 are pending, and 2 sold in the month of November. Beth McSweeney was unavailable to provide an update on baskets.

Dues – 33% of dues were collected for 2019. 38% were collected for 2018. The association is now collecting 2020 dues. Venmo and PayPal are both options now. Envelopes for cash will go out with the next newsletter.

Old Business

Citizens on Patrol – Chris Burk provided the grant application that he had submitted so that it could be replicated for the upcoming grant year. The approval process last year took approximately 3 months. July 1 would be the first date that any monies received could be spent.

Relief Sewer Project – Cathy Engers communicated with Joe Shinault via email that progress continues, but the contractors keep hitting rock. An update was provided on the scope and order of work. Peak Incorporated, the contractor, will ask for an extension of the timeline.

Sonya, our new outreach person with the county executive’s office, addressed concerns regarding the Mount de Sales (MDS) development. Since MDS enrollment is not increasing and the relief sewer is scheduled to be completed prior to the opening of the new building, the county approved its construction. Chris Burk requested that an emergency contact number for the contractor be given to all property owners on the 5800 block of Edmondson.

A resident asked whether a representative from Mount de Sales has visited since the construction-related issues have occurred. None has.

Playground – issues have been resolved for now. The new swing set has been erected.

New Business

Holiday Decoration Contest – will be happening again this year. Mount de Sales students will be judging on the night of December 18th. Karen is creating ornaments for the winners. It was asked whether Santa will come in his fire engine. The schedule on the Arbutus website has not been updated. Joe will follow up.

Election & Appointment of AHCA Officers and Board – There are four officer positions and five board member positions, as well as two open positions from last year. Seven have been nominated for board seats. Joe Shinault motioned to appoint Linda Barnes and John O’Ferrall to fulfill the remaining year of the open two-year terms, but there was discussion of whether all nominees are members in good standing. Two are not, so the motion was revised to elect the remaining five, such that those two nominees who owe dues may be appointed once their dues have been paid. The five nominees in good standing were elected by acclamation since all were running essentially unopposed. Chris Waterman had been nominated for treasurer, Chris Burk

for vice president, and Joe Shinault for president. All were elected by acclamation. A secretary will be appointed once a candidate is found.

2020 Meeting Times/Location – Meetings will continue to be held at the same time, in the same place, with the exception of the January meeting, which will be held in the cafeteria rather than the Bird room.

Open Discussion

Guest Speakers for 2020 meetings – Chris Burk put a draft list together, distributed it, provided additional details about his suggestions, and solicited further suggestions from attendees. It was suggested to invite candidates for the special election. The Ingleside association has invited 15 candidates to their January meeting, which will be held the day after ours. It was further discussed how the agenda is developed for each monthly meeting. Any board member can submit items for the agenda.

Public Art Installation – December 7 at 2:00pm. Joe will advertise to the community.

Community Grant – Chris Burk suggested applying for a grant through Exelon to improve safety in the neighborhood, if people in the community have ideas. He shared a few. There was discussion of lighting. BGE may be able to provide LED bulbs for free. There is also a streetlight program to apply for additional lighting, though it would not be able to be used for “security purposes.”

Next Meeting: January 7, 2020 in the Mount de Sales cafeteria.

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