



AHCA Community Meeting  
October 3, 2017 - 7:30 PM  
AcademyHeightsMD.org

Called to Order at 7:37pm with President Joe Shinault presiding.

Board members in attendance (10): Linda Barnes, Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas, Mischa Bowen-Kreiner, Mike Granito, John & Beth McSweeney, John O'Ferrall, Joe Shinault, Troy Smith, Becky Stoll, Chris Waterman

Members absent: George Brookhart, Chris Burk, Nikki Green, Matt McKnight, Patrick Young

Minutes from September 5, 2017 were approved.

Beth McSweeney inquired whether a donation has been made to MDS on our behalf, in gratitude for their accommodating our meetings. This will be added as an agenda item for a future meeting.

Many neighbors were welcomed; see sign-in sheet for details. Delegate Sydnor joined the meeting, as well.

Joe Shinault thanked George Brookhart, on behalf of the Board, for his longstanding service to the community, as well as Mischa Bowen-Kreiner for repairing the community sign.

**Community Outreach** – Officer Boone shared that there has been a change in Captain at the Wilkens precinct. The Captain who had attended an earlier meeting has since been promoted. There will be a Town Hall from 7:00-8:30pm at the Arbutus Library on October 17.

Officer Boone took residents' questions. Joe asked about the vehicle theft yesterday morning, which is the third on the same block in the past two months. This last stolen vehicle had been locked and was stolen between 6:50 and 7:20 AM. Officer Boone clarified how quickly a vehicle theft can occur and asked that we continue to call in any suspicious activity to 911—ideally at the time of the observation, but also later on if something seems off in retrospect.

A neighbor shared that tires were stolen from another vehicle in the area. Many residents have spotted teenagers checking vehicle contents, trying doors, etc., and are making reports via 911. Officer Boone asked that we continue to call and report such sightings and report direction of travel.

The contact for Citizens On Patrol(C.O.P.)/Neighborhood Watch, as well as the community grant program, is Officer Warehime. In order for C.O.P. to be officially reinstated, he must be contacted since the approach has changed. C.O.P. will be addressed again next meeting.

A resident inquired as to possible reasons behind the increase in crime. Spikes typically occur when the weather changes and prior to the holidays. In addition, the spike in crime is likely connected to the spike in opiate abuse.

A resident referred to a cat burglary in the neighborhood and inquired as to how to improve her safety in her home. In addition to locking windows, Officer Boone recommends installing stop sticks, removing bushes that block visibility from windows, ensuring that all outside lights are operational and either turning them on at night or ensuring that they are automatically activated (either when it becomes dark or via motion). Lighting not only deters crimes but assists police. Beth McSweeney advised speaking personally to neighbors who are not turning on their porch lights.

Officer Boone further suggested that interested residents invite police to do a home survey via 410-887-5165. Officers will give feedback as to how to make the home less appealing to criminals.

In response to a resident's question, Officer Boone clarified that no particular model of vehicle is currently being targeted.

Chris Waterman asked where to find crime statistics. The county does make this information available on the web. Officer Boone will follow up with comparative statistics (this year to last year). Waterman articulated a sense that there has not been a police presence and asked why. Per Officer Boone, detectives are working overnight in unmarked cars rather than marked cars, in order to make arrests rather than merely deterring criminal activity. Arrests generate information that can lead to more arrests. Reports filled out online are received and reflected in statistics and at police meetings. While most who have been arrested lately are coming in from other jurisdictions, that is not necessarily due to policing in their own communities. It is common for offenders to commit crimes outside of their home communities, where they are not known.

Mike Granito requested additional clarification regarding the recent incidents on Regent Park. Officer Boone stated that the shooting was an isolated armed robbery in which there was history between the victim, who had drugs and was armed at the time of the crime, and the suspects. That same night and the next day, suspicious vehicles were reported as potentially related to the shooting; these reports resulted in elevated police response as a result. Both incidents led to arrests.

Officer Boone clarified that reports can be made anonymously if the reporting resident does not want an officer to come to his/her door. Residents can also contact him directly via his email address, [kboone@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:kboone@baltimorecountymd.gov), or via Joe.

Chris Waterman recommended writing representatives, as well.

Kathy Engers, who works for Councilman Quark and was in attendance at the meeting, offered cards. She invited us to community meetings, held at 7:00pm on second Tuesdays, in the Maiden Choice School.

A resident asked about installing lighting in the alleys. Per Kathy Engers, alleys are considered private.

There was additional discussion of lighting options, i.e. battery powered, motion sensing, photo sensing. Mischa Bowen-Kreiner will refer options to Joe for communication to the community.

**Treasurer's Report** – The current balance in the checking account is \$6821; the money market balance is approximately \$19000 as of the last quarterly statement, which was reported in the September minutes. 15.4% of the neighborhood has paid dues for the calendar year. For the Board's review prior to the November meeting, Waterman will email a proposal for reallocating

the money market account to laddered certified deposit accounts. Joe Shinault shared that the association just paid for the PO Box for the year and that the longstanding PayPal issue was resolved; he will communicate to Waterman those households that have paid dues via PayPal.

**Architectural** – Two violations have been remedied since the most recent sweep. The committee will meet again between now and the next Association meeting.

Mike Granito brought up the hazardous tree on the 400 block of Stratford and moved that it be added as a maintenance issue to the list of letters to be sent. John McSweeney seconded. The motion passed unopposed. Beth provided a point of clarification that putting the concern in writing protects the neighbors.

Joe Shinault mentioned that there have been inquiries about soliciting a county sweep due to concerns about rodent activity. John O’Ferrall will make contact. Beth McSweeney suggested that a flyer go out prior to the next sweep; notice has been given this way in the past. She suggested we include the information when we communicate Halloween and upcoming topics that require a vote.

Joe provided an update on the consideration to change counsel. He will contact candidates. Henry Bodensine asked whether a new Facebook administrator has been found; his wife is willing to take that on. Joe Shinault clarified that some Board members do have administrative rights. He will touch base with Bodensine following the meeting.

**Website** – is up and running. Nothing new to report.

**Welcome Committee** – remains active along with the community’s home market. Currently there are 4 Academy Heights homes on the market, 4 were sold in the past month, and 10 in the past three months. Beth will follow up with Meghan to ensure the committee is still getting notice of neighborhood sales.

**Newsletter** – The next one should go out in October or November, including items addressed above.

**By-laws** – Mike Granito provided an update to the residents in attendance on where the association stands with respect to the proposed by-law revisions. See below for additional information.

### **Old Business**

**By-law amendments** – An updated proposal to enable voting via email had been reviewed prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the proposal passed without further discussion or dissent. Granito proposed a special Board or officers meeting to determine logistics for by-law revisions. Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas will contact Board members in order to get a meeting on the calendar prior to the end of the month.

**Architectural Guideline/Covenant Revisions** – were discussed. See above.

**Block Party** – remains canceled.

**Yard Sale** – was a big success, per Joe Shinault.

**Halloween Party** – Linda Barnes needs help with setup (day of) and flyer distribution (in advance... by the 22). Flyers will be ready Sunday the 8th. She will deliver the flyers and rubber

bands to those who can distribute them. Beth McSweeney will assist—she has a list of those who can deliver.

**Nominations/Elections** – There are many upcoming openings on the Board.

**New Business**

**Parking Issues** – See emails from Chris Burk. This will be added to the November agenda.

**Open Discussion**

**Tall Trees on Playground Property** – Linda Barnes asked who is responsibility for the maintenance of these trees. Mischa Bowen-Kreiner shared that BGE will trim them if there are lines in the area. Kathy Engers will look into it.

**Sun Article on Sewer Lines** – Chris Waterman asked how this article came about. The Board was not involved, though at least one individual member was. Per Kathy Engers, for further progress on widening the sewer line, rights of way are still needed from 2 more properties (previously 4).

Next Meeting: November 7.

Adjourned at 8:41pm. Recorded by Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas.