



AHCA Community Meeting
November 5, 2017 - 7:30 PM
AcademyHeightsMD.org

Called to Order at 7:40pm with President Joe Shinault presiding.

Board members in attendance (9): Linda Barnes, Chris Burk, Mischa Bowen-Kreiner, Mike Granito, John O’Ferrall, Joe Shinault, Becky Stoll, Chris Waterman, Patrick Young

Members absent: Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas, Nikki Green, Matt McKnight, John & Beth McSweeney, Troy Smith

Minutes from October 3, 2017 were approved.

Beth McSweeney inquired whether a donation has made 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.

Treasurer's Report – The current balance in the checking account is \$6901; the TRowe money market balance is \$19,501. Chris Waterman will email a proposal for reallocating the money market account to laddered certified deposit accounts.

Architectural – A letter formally requesting a community sweep(rodent roundup) by the county was signed by J. Shinault. There is currently an outstanding violation of new white PVC railings at 433 Whitfield. An application will be requested of the homeowner for review by the Arch. Committee. Notice will be given to the neighborhood prior to the sweep.

The Board approved a fence new fence for 310 Stratford via email. The Board also approved via email, a violation letter to be mailed to 433 Whitfield.

Website – no news on the website, but a new Facebook page went active 3 weeks ago. The new admin is Sam Bodestine. There are already just over 200 residents who have joined the Facebook group. Residents are welcome to share ideas and suggestions for the site.

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 latest issue was distributed two weeks ago. Copies are also available at the Little Library and viewable on the website.

Dues – Collection of 2018 dues has begun. Many residents are making use of payment via PayPal. There was discussion on a deadline date for yearly dues. Also, some residents have volunteered to collect dues door to door (in warmer weather), and are looking for assistance. Dues notice will be posted on Facebook.

By-laws – Mike announced that the vote on the by-law changes will be pushed back into the new year (Feb or March) in order to allow residents time to pay 2018 dues, which would allow more participation in the vote. The AHCA will give 35 days' notice of the vote, by distributing the proposed changes to each household.

Old Business

Architectural Guideline/Covenant Revisions – Due to time constraints, the proposed changes will be discussed at the December meeting.

Halloween Party – Linda Barnes reported that the Halloween party was another success. Linda thanked those who assisted and over 20 children attended.

New Business

MDSA Presentation – An initial presentation was given on the construction of a Performance Arts Center, presented by Mark Cohagan, Tom Walters and other MDSA staff members. Conceptual images of the proposed building were shared along with the relocation of the current exit on Northdale Road. Timelines are very fluid, but fundraising is still progressing; construction could commence in about 18 months and last for 15-18 months. There was groups discussion on off street parking (additional parking will be included on campus). Concerns were also heard about construction, traffic flow, speeding, and the new entrance/exit being moved up Northdale to the edge of the MDSA property. A storm management pond will be relocated to the current exit, which will also be the temporary construction entrance. Much discussion on keeping the communication lines open between the school & neighborhood as the project progresses.

**Nomination of Officers – The Board approved the nominations for the 2018 AHCA election.....
President – Joe Shinault, Vice President – Matt McKnight, Treasurer – Chris Waterman, Secretary – Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas. Board of Governors- Linda Barnes, Beth McSweeney, John McSweeney, John O’Ferrall, Becky Stoll & Patrick Young
The list of nominated names will be distributed to each household this week.**

Decoration Contest- Mt de Sales Photography Club students will be judging AH house decorations on the night of December 14. Winners will be announced about a week later, and will receive a personalized ornament.

Open Discussion

Next Meeting: December 5, 2017 at MDSA

Adjourned at 9:25pm. Recorded by JMS