



AHCA Community Meeting
September 4, 2018 - 7:30 PM
AcademyHeightsMD.org

Called to Order at 7:32pm with President Joe Shinault presiding.

Board members in attendance (7): Mischa Bowen-Kreiner, Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas, Nikki Green, Beth McSweeney, Joe Shinault, Becky Stoll, Chris Waterman

Members absent (5): Linda Barnes, Chris Burk, John O’Ferrall, Seth Wheeler, Patrick Young

Due to lack of a quorum, approval of June minutes was tabled until the October meeting.

New members and Albert Nalley, candidate for County Council, were welcomed.

Community Outreach – Officer Boone communicated thanks to community members for calling to report suspicious activity and giving good descriptions, including direction of travel, so that the department has been able to make arrests. 7-8 patrol cars handle all of Catonsville. A resident asked about a heavy police presence on Northdale recently. Officer Boone will follow up. Dirt bikers continue to cause significant concerns. Officers have to analyze cost and benefit of pursuit. If residents can identify from where the dirt bikers are coming, officers can make home visits. Residents shared traffic/parking concerns since students return to school and inquired whether traffic control could be done. Officer Boone will be meeting with some MDS faculty soon and will raise concerns. A resident asked about how to respond to an abandoned bike. Officer Boone recommended calling it in. Another resident asked if the Christian Temple playground had been closed due to vandalism. The closure was instead due to drainage issues, which have been communicated to the county.

Treasurer’s Report – Currently we have \$9642.58 in our checking account.

Committees

Architectural – Committee is looking for more volunteers to assist with community inspections for covenant violations and will likely meet within the next week or two. There is a pending application for slate roof replacement. A recent shed application was approved via email voting.

Communication – The Facebook page now has 400+ users. A newsletter went out on July. Copies were made available at the meeting and in the Little Library. The next edition will go out in late October.

Welcome – Two homes are currently for sale. 11 sold since the last meeting in June. One member of the Welcome Committee is planning to move. If anyone is interested in baking cookies to distribute to new residents, please contact Meghan Young.

Dues – The percentage of households that have paid is currently at 35%, which is over double the percentage at this time last year. Dues will be collected at the Block Party.

Old Business

Block Party Meeting – preceded this meeting. Thanks to everyone who has assisted thus far. Sponsors and donations are still sought. Currently there are 5—looking for another 4 or 5. Sponsorship and donation letters are available; please distribute to anyone who may be interested. Sponsors may set up tables.

Please bring a side dish or dessert. There will be raffles. A flyer will go out ahead of time. That day, there will be no parking on Northdale between Greenlow and Whitfield.

July 4th Parade – was a hit. Thanks to everyone who helped, e.g by providing refreshments. The McSweeneys have the decorations if someone new has taken ownership of this event.

Public Works Meeting – was held on August 15th. Sewage issues had occurred July 21st, as well as over Memorial Day weekend as previously discussed. Questions and answers from that meeting have been posted to the website.

Royal Farms – intends to build a new store where the liquor store and car repair shop are located, next to the Crown station on Edmondson. Over the summer, there were meetings with Public Works and the Ingleside association to discuss traffic concerns. Public Works will reach out to all “little” Harlem homeowners re: making that street one way.

An additional meeting was held with the owners of the Crown station, who secured an attorney and have filed with the county to request a new hearing. A list has been compiled of about 100 names in support of a new hearing since the public was unaware of and absent from the previous hearing. Royal Farms might delay the construction for 2-3 years due to being overextended. They have not closed on the property, so the deal could fall through between now and October.

BGE – is wrapping up in the neighborhood, going back to some areas they missed. There is no known date for sidewalk/street repair; the work has not been contracted out yet. Dates will be communicated once known. Call BGE ASAP if there are issues, i.e. damage to underground pipes that carry storm water out to alleys. (Contact info will be posted via Facebook.) Residents can test the underground pipes for damage by running a hose. There are a couple of small sinkholes that have opened up due to damage to the underground pipes.

New Business

Fall Yard Sale – will be held September 22, which is about 3 weeks away. It will be advertised locally. There was sporadic participation in the spring.

Halloween Party – Linda Barnes is unable to coordinate. Can anyone step in? Christian Temple will also be having a function (Trunk or Treat) the same day, so co-coordination is a possibility.

Citizens on Patrol – We received a \$600 grant thanks to the efforts of Chris Burk! The Board must decide how to use the money to support the community.

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors” – would offer services to other residents. Some mowed lawns, did gardening for elderly neighbors over the summer. Contact the Board to get involved. A resident asked if this has been advertised on Facebook. The vision is to have a list of names who are willing to help and then people could suggest those potentially in need of assistance. Sam is working on a way to support this initiative digitally.

Open Discussion

Redistricting – Meetings/workshops upcoming in October.

MDS – is building a new performing arts center near their exit. The exit will be moved. The campaign will kick off next weekend, on Sunday. Parking will be at a premium then, but additional parking will be added along with the performing arts center. A resident asked how relocating the exit might affect snow removal. The school has been keeping the association in the loop and will probably meet with us again.

Donations – It was asked whether donations have been made to MDS and Christian Temple in recognition of their affording us meeting space. A donation to MDS was made this year, and in turn, MDS is sponsoring our Block Party. Chris Waterman sent a thank-you note to Christian Temple for housing the Public Works meeting.

Block Party – will require a list of all who have paid dues.

Parking – Be considerate. Suggestion: dashboard index card with house number on it so that people can let you know if you've left your lights on, if your car could be moved to create an additional space, etc.

Next Meeting: October 2.

Adjourned at 8:13pm. Recorded by Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas.