



AHCA Community Meeting
April 2, 2019 - 7:30 PM
AcademyHeightsMD.org

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

Board members in attendance (9): Linda Barnes, Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas, Mischa Bowen-Kreiner, Beth McSweeney, John O'Ferrall, Joe Shinault, Becky Stoll, Seth Wheeler, Chris Waterman

Members absent: Patrick Young

Minutes from March 5, 2019 were approved and will be posted to the website.

Shelly from Greenlow was welcomed to the meeting. Cathy Engers from Councilman Quirk's office sent regrets, but encourages the neighborhood to continue to reach out. Mary Clay from the County Executive's office attended and shared that the recent Town Halls are online. Feedback is still being accepted electronically. The office is hearing a lot about issues with roads, water, and sewer. Ms. Clay met with residents of the Maple Ave. area where there is a proposal to put in an additional 19 homes. There is no news regarding the old funeral home property. Ms. Clay will look into it and get back to the association. There was further discussion of whether the signage on the old funeral home property meets the new expectations for zoning notice. Ms. Clay shared that the comprehensive zoning process is starting in August. Here in Baltimore County, any interested person can file a request for a change in zoning. A resident inquired as to why homes have been torn down at Wilkens Ave and Maiden Choice (diagonally from the Giant). Some others have heard that a drugstore may be going in there. Cathy Engers had made a request for information from planning but has not heard back as far as Ms. Clay knows.

Community Outreach – Officer Boone asked if there were questions. There were none. The biggest complaint in Academy Heights recently is parked vehicles. Please speak to neighbors before calling these in. Panhandling has also been reported. One gentleman was addressed yesterday and informed that he was trespassing. A resident expressed thanks for the regular patrols. One dirt bike owner has been tracked down and addressed. Officer Boone asked that neighbors keep doing what they've been doing. Police are hosting a free baseball clinic this Sunday morning from 10:00-12:00 in Lansdowne off of Annapolis Rd. They are expanding from basketball to baseball with future plans for football and soccer, as well. See Baltimore County PD Facebook page for events.

Treasurer's Report – \$10037.82 is the checking account balance. There was a \$132 expenditure to Wix for the website. Waterman will verify whether he cut a reimbursement check for the welcome baskets.

Architectural – The committee recommends approval of the parking pad proposal by 418 Greenlow. The motion was approved without dissent. The committee also brought up for discussion a proposed bathroom vent that would go through the slate roof. In the past, vents of similar design (small and black) have been approved, so the committee recommends that this request be approved, as well. There was a further recommendation to update the covenant of restrictions, as it currently only addresses attic vents.

After discussion, the application from 332 Stratford was approved without dissent. Stipulations to ensure that the change will not affect the appearance of the home will be included in the approval letter.

More information is needed about the one pending application that remains.

O'Ferrall will include the Board on continuing correspondence with counsel regarding noncompliant doors.

Communication – Newsletter will go out at the end of April. Posts to Facebook are now being moderated, requiring preapproval, for a limited time.

Welcome Committee – Beth McSweeney is awaiting an email with the latest information from March. Four homes are currently awaiting delivery. There were no sales in February. As of today, Joe saw two pending, one sold, and two for sale.

Dues – continue to be collected. There will be another push via the newsletter and Facebook.

Old Business

Playground – Rick from Christian Temple shared that a strong coalition has been assembled to deal with the water issue. The water was tested by Baltimore City Public Works and reported to contain fluoride. Baltimore County has now done its own testing, showing no fluoride and no fecal matter and concluding that the water is groundwater. The church hopes that the county will remove and relocate the affected swing bay. If that does not happen, neighborhood assistance may be required. The church plans to clean up the area soon. Rick will keep us posted.

Dumpster Day – June 1, 8:00-12:00. (Dumpsters arrive at 5:30). Volunteers still needed. John O’Ferrall will not be here to secure the area as he has done in the past.

New Business

Easter Egg Hunt – will be held on April 20 in the courtyard area at Christian Temple. This will need to be communicated to the community. Volunteers are needed to monitor the sidewalk area to keep children out of the street. Beth McSweeney is going candy shopping on Friday.

Block Party Planning – The event is scheduled for September 28. Joe will put out communication so that a committee can start meeting, probably before the regularly scheduled meeting, next month.

Community Signs Plantings – The garden committee was allocated \$100 last year and is requesting \$200 this year since costs exceeded expectations last year. It was proposed to consider utilizing perennials or a mixture of annuals and perennials, in order to control costs. Motion to disperse \$200 was approved without dissent.

Open Discussion

MDS donation – has not been made since December 2017. The previous donation was in the amount of \$200. There is an option to donate toward the capital campaign for the Performing Arts Center. A board member proposed donating \$500. The motion was approved without dissent. The capital campaign recently hit a \$5 million goal, but the building will cost more than twice that much. A rendering can be viewed in the MDS atrium. Representatives from MDS are interested in attending a future AHCA meeting to share more information as breaking ground approaches.

C.O.P. Grant – Monies need to be allocated prior to April 15 or will be lost. Ideas are needed. One idea is to hold a community gathering, inviting the police to provide crime prevention education, and to provide food. It would be difficult to use the money in this way on such a tight timeline, but it may be possible to put something together before the firm deadline when money would need to be returned in May. The April deadline is for a financial report. Chris Burk has more information, including a list of what has been funded for other communities.

5k Race – This Saturday, St. Agnes school is having a family race that is coming through the neighborhood, along Whitfield and Northdale, on Saturday morning.

Garden Plots – are available in the Christian Temple community garden. Rick would like to post this on the Facebook page. The church may post anything that is open to the community there.

Next Meeting: May 7.

Adjourned at 8:29pm. Recorded by Jeannette Bonomo-Thomas.