

Highlands Community Association

Spring Meeting Agenda

Delaware Art Museum

Kentmere Parkway

May 17, 2017 @ 7:00PM

(Denison Hatch, President; Rachel Macha, Communications & VP; Herb Inden, Treasurer; Rich Macha, Secretary; Sean Goodrick, Zoning & Land Use VP; 8th District Neighborhood Planning Council: Michele Madeksza (absent); HCA, Nominated Treasurer : Michael Drake)

- I. **Treasurer's Report—Herb Inden** provided the attached report
- II. **Election of new Treasurer: Michael Drake** was elected with no objection
- III. **City Update by Mayor Michael Purzycki** - Mike provided a summary of the 3 primary challenges he has identified:
 1. Budget – A 4-year view of the Wilmington City budget disclosed significant gaps in revenue. Therefore, Mike has proposed 29 positions to be cut and a tax increase of 7.5%. We also need healthcare concessions.
 2. Operational -- Efficiencies are being identified daily to drive costs out and be more effective.
 3. Poverty/Crime – This has been the toughest challenge. Mike is working on rebuilding our communities. Mike determined we needed a new police chief. A national search was conducted and 10 candidates were interviewed. Bob Tracy was selected.
- IV. **Report from the Wilmington Police Department:**
 1. **WPD Chief Tracy** – We need a strong partnership with the community, business leaders, elected officials, teachers, etc. Bob is bringing back police continuity to home areas.
 2. **Capt. Matt Kurten** – Matt is looking at YTD trends. Matt shared these YTD results for our area west of I-95: No murders, no shootings, and no rapes. 6 burglaries versus 3 in 2016; 16 shop lifting (mostly around Union Street Walgreens) versus 5 last year; 14 thefts from vehicles versus 13 in 2016; 7

thefts from buildings versus 6; and 3 autos stolen versus 8 last year.

3. Lt. Dan Selekman – Suggest getting on www.nextdoor.com to stay current on what is happening in the neighborhood. It is an excellent communications vehicle. We are setting the tone for other neighborhoods in Wilmington.

- V. **Report on Mill Fire Investigation: WFD Capt. Robert Pryor** reported that the Mill Fire is still open. Testing is underway to determine the cause and origin of the fire. Everyone is encouraged to report any information that may be helpful for the investigators to know.
- VI. **Report concerning status of development on Riddle Avenue extension & Bancroft Mills: Michael Hare from Buccini/Pollin Group** reviewed the approval, construction, and environmental phases for the Rockford Falls development. The upper section is being planned for 32 town homes built by Montchanin Builders with the lower section being planned for 343 apartments.
- VII. **Report on FBI Program: Andrew Fairchild** spoke about the Citizens Academy which includes sessions on terrorism, active shooter program, victim assistance, and gangs. Contact Andrew to learn more.
- VIII. **Delaware Art Museum** – Rachel Macha spoke on behalf of Museum Director **Sam Sweet** and Development Director **Molly Giordano**. The DAM will be announcing a series of summer events that the Highlands Community will be invited to including happy hours on Thursdays, family themed events, and a sculpture and meditation series. More information on these events will be sent in June. Tonight's happy hour was compliments of the Museum.
- IX. **Report on 2017 Tree planting program in Highlands: Larry Bryce** reported 25 trees were planted in the Highlands last year. Ten neighbors have contributed towards more plantings in 2017.
- X. **City Council report: Councilman Bud Freel** – all topics Bud was prepared to cover were already addressed.

XI. **State legislative report: Rep Gerald Brady** covered 6 topics including:

1. HB 110 Marijuana Act – Gerald is undecided and wants your input.
2. HB 125 Death Penalty Reinstatement – Gerald voted not in favor.
3. SB5 Roe vs. Wade Late Term Abortion bill – just passed.
4. HB 89 Primary Election Date Change
5. VW diesel settlement - \$9M for air quality control to State of Delaware
6. Delaware State Budget summary