

Approved by the Board April 4, 2019  
Name corrected by the Board May 9, 2019  
Correction in bold

Admiral Heights Improvement Association General Membership Meeting  
March 5, 2019

**Called to order:** 7:35 p.m. by President Scott Gibson at Germantown Elementary School

**AHIA board members in attendance:** Norm Crews, Martha Thorn, Gibson, Jim Burdick, Maria Lebow-Little, John Leupold, Mario Schiappacasse, Derek Lotfi and Grant Garcia. Also in attendance were more than 20 Admiral Heights residents, including Fred Paone.

**Not in attendance:** Bo Conroy.

**Minutes:** Minutes for the October general membership meeting were approved.

**President's Remarks:** We have achieved 28 percent of our fundraising goal for the Williams Dock through contributions on Go Fund Me. Contributions made by checks will make this percentage even higher. The successful rebuild of the dock is up to you. If all 600 homes in Admiral Heights paid membership dues and made a small donation, the project would be done. If not, we will be dipping into our savings to build the dock.

The plans for the dock are coming along. We're going to raise the level of the dock and replace it. We are exempt from having to get a state permit. We expect to get the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Annapolis permits by May.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dues are down. Newsletter advertising is up. Admiral Heights bumper stickers were donated. Some events like the block party came in under budget because of donations.

The insurance increased last year and then increased again by 20 percent this year. In a recent settlement a person who fell off a dock received millions of dollars.

The average cost of mowing is about \$3,200, but last year was less than that. Last year we budgeted \$12,245 and only spent \$9,157.44. It's good to have something left over in case of an emergency.

The \$8,000 that we raise will be spent on the dock. If we fall short by a little, we can take money from savings. If we fall short by a lot, we may have to renegotiate. These payments are required by the lease and must be in the budget for bookkeeping purposes.

We pay for the web site and the domain.

We have made cuts in events to put aside money for future dock repairs and replacement. We don't want to repeat the situation we have now, wondering where the money is coming from to replace the dock(s).

The best way to invest in your community is to pay the \$40 dues that ensure that the community properties are mowed and kept in good repair. Next year we will start putting aside \$750 for the dock. An increase in membership of 20 households would cover this amount. Someone suggested charging \$5 per child for some of the events.

Reminders to pay dues were sent to all who didn't join last year. In 2017, for a variety of reasons, AHIA had 300 members. Since issues have been resolved, memberships have fallen off. In addition to more members, we need more volunteers.

The 2019 – 2020 budget was adopted.

**Election of board members:** Officers are automatically elected for the next year. Officers are Scott Gibson, MariaLebow-Little, Jim Burdick, and Martha Thorn. Board members on the slate for reelection are Norm Crews, Bo Conroy, John Leupold, Mario Schiappacasse, and Derek Lotfi. Grant Garcia tendered his resignation at the meeting. That makes three vacancies.

The slate was accepted and two Admiral Heights residents -- Tonya McGinnis and **Cindy Radulovich** -- volunteered to fill two of the vacancies. There is still one vacancy.

**Grounds Committee:** Garcia thanked everyone for helping him during his three years as chairman of this committee. He said family obligations led to his resignation. He urged everyone to participate in GreenScape on April 28. He said the event was tied to Earth Day. Local governments donate plants and mulch to communities to use to spruce up public grounds. Garcia ordered 100 plants and some mulch from the City. He is also ordering some gravel to place at the bottom of the path at Dewey Dock to help stop erosion.

He said that however much time that people can donate would be appreciated. Whether they plant one, 10 or 100 plants, we would appreciate their efforts. He said Dewey Dock is holding

up well. “A few new screws” have been put in the dock. That will be enough to hold it together a little longer.

Despite raising the rates for kayaks a couple years ago, a waiting list still exists for them. Seven to nine people have gotten racks, but about 10 people have replaced them on the waiting list. There’s been no recent movement on the list.

Garcia will help Schiappacasse on the renegotiation of the two year lawn contract. He’s confident that it can be done within the approved budget. He said invoices for the kayak racks haven’t been sent out and will be hand delivered. The kayak fee is \$45.

Grant thanked Nina Fisher for her help with GreenScape and Michael Green for emptying the trash cans at Dewey Dock.

**Neighborhood Watch:** No meeting has been set. Since other community groups have been meeting, attendance has fell. Also, firing of the Annapolis Police Department’s police chief may impact this program. Its future has yet to be determined.

**Traffic Calming and Public Safety:** Everything has been calm.

**Webmaster:** Everything has also been calm on the web.

Questions & answers: Q. Has anyone heard of a recent incident at the Phoenix Academy when a kid was arrested for having a gun in his pocket? A. No

Q. Does anyone know what group runs around the neighborhood at night? A. A Striders group. Note: I later found out that this group wasn’t sponsored by the Striders although the group leader is a members of the Striders. Observation: The running group is difficult to see. The lights seem to be focused on their feet. They need reflective vests.

Q. Can we get some of those dog waste stations on Cedar Park across from the Phoenix Academy? People aren’t cleaning up after their pets in that area, and kids are waiting for the bus there. A. If it costs money, it’s probably not going to happen. People who have looked into this before say that companies charge from \$30 to \$65 a month minimum to maintain the stations. There may also be a liability issue involved.

Alderman Fred Paone remarks/questions: He's working on the budget and hoping that there won't be a tax increase.

Q. Why was the police chief fired? A. Paone said that he didn't know. He said the police chief appeared to be doing a good job and to have the support of the community, council and department. He said crime was down, so logically it didn't make sense, but if the mayor's not comfortable, he has the right to fire department heads. Paone noted that the city attorney has also resigned.

Q. Will any of the streets in Admiral Heights be resurfaced? A. The schedule for resurfacing streets is on the City website. Most resurfacing has been done in Admiral Heights. We have a better chance of the outfalls being regularly maintained. The decision to dredge has been discussed through the county and is now at the Department of Natural Resources.

For the past 20 years promises have been made about dredging and articles have appeared in the Capital when the hospital was built and when Route 450 was expanded. Silt washed down and now "waterfront" homes have become "mud front" homes and the Boat Club is losing slips. They don't want to dredge unless there's a major change in depth and the water stops moving in the middle of the Williams Drive – West Annapolis Corridor. However, they've made improvements upstream at the mouth of the creek.

Q. Is there any update on the WNAV property? A. There's no update. There's an outside chance – maybe five percent – that the Department of Public Works could go there. Right now the mayor is focusing on building bike lanes and hiking and walking trails at the property at Forest Drive and Hilltop Lane. It's the City's property, but there are obstacles to overcome.

Q. What's happening to the area across from the Annapolis Police Department? A. Public Works left an access road there that goes to the Loews Hotel. A proposal is being made to put a 140- 150 bed hotel there. The plan hasn't been approved yet. When Paone sees the plan, he'll decide whether he's for or against it based on such considerations as traffic and noise levels.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.  
Submitted by Martha Thorn, Secretary