

Approved by the Board Nov. 7, 2019

Approved by the General Membership March 3, 2020

Admiral Heights Improvement Association Special Meeting & General Membership Meeting
Oct. 1, 2019

Called to order: 7:30 p.m. by President Scott Gibson at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium's Daniel F. Akerson Tower

Attendance: AHIA Board members -- Bo Conroy, Norm Crews, Martha Thorn, Gibson, Jim Burdick, John Leupold, Tonya McGinnis, Cindy Radulovich, Derek Lotfi and Grant Garcia attended. About 45 residents attended. Special guests included Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley; Jared Littman, Public Works Maintenance Facility Task Force Committee chairman and former alderman; State Senator Sarah K. Elfleth; new Annapolis Chief of Police Ed Jackson; and Alderman Fred Paone.

Not in attendance: Maggie Rogers & Maria Lebow-Little.

Treasurer's report: AHIA has contributed \$8,000 out of its accounts toward the Williams Dock rebuild. Between that and the money raised on its Go Fund Me Page, its total contribution is \$12,300. Its obligation to the dock re-build is \$14,000, so AHIA still needs to contribute \$1,700.

The dues are low. About 110 households out of 600 have paid. More money is needed to provide upkeep to the docks and properties. A nice appearance affects property values. Bills to be paid include insurance (about \$3,000), mowing (about \$1,000) and mailing (undetermined). Next year AHIA will also start contributing to the Dock Replacement Fund that can be used for either Dewey or Williams docks.

To meet AHIA's fiscal responsibilities, the board cut Meet the Creek and has cut back expenditures on the block party. We've asked volunteers to provide tents. We've also cracked down on those who haven't paid their kayak rack rentals. If kayak rentals aren't paid, kayaks will be removed.

Q: If you remove the kayaks, what do you do with them?

A: If they're derelict, we trash them. If they're in good condition, we try to contact the owners and dispose of them in a mutually agreeable fashion. We may hang a tag on the kayak, lock it, email the owner, or notify the police.

The treasurer's report was approved.

Land swap: Mayor Gavin Buckley says because city revenues are flat, the city needs to involve the private sector to improve infrastructure, including the City Dock, parking garages, stormwater drains, bike trails and cleanup of contaminants. He hopes by trading the land on Spa Road where the old City of Annapolis Public Works Department was located for land with a lesser value, he can leverage money for the creation of a pedestrian pathway that will connect Annapolis and for help to defray the expense of removing a salt dome and gas pumps.

The question is: "Do we do this on our dollar or someone else's dollar?" Buckley says. He anticipates getting \$2 million for the property and leveraging it fivefold with matching grants to have \$10 million which would be used to benefit the environment by creating a pedestrian pathway that would decrease the number of cars on the road and help with the environmental cleanup.

He said he had the support of Heritage Harbour and would be able to rebuild Newtowne 20 like Annapolis Gardens.

Public Works Maintenance Facility Task Force Committee: Jared Littman, chairman of the task force, former alderman, and owner of K&B True Value hardware store, said the 20-member task force was looking at detriments and benefits of the swap. They are addressing such issues as the environment, land use, finance and city employees.

He said to learn about what the task force is doing, residents can go to www.annapolis.gov. He said the task force would give its next interim report at 7 p.m. Oct. 24 at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center.

He emphasized that the task force isn't the deciding body but might provide recommendations and advice about the issues. He said some crucial questions are: "Do you want to buy land on Forest Drive? Do you want to do the swap in a more competitive process? Do you want more green space?"

Williams Dock update: Bo Conroy, AHIA dock monitor, said the Boat Club is working on getting approval from the Army Corps of Engineers. After that, the next step is a city Port Wardens hearing slated for Nov. 26. If things go as planned, the plan could be approved by

next year. AHIA needs donations to help with its part of the funding. All donations, no matter what the amount, are appreciated. The Boat Club is on track with its monetary contribution.

Minutes: Minutes for the March 2019 general membership meeting were approved.

Naval Academy Athletic Association (NAAA) Town Hall Meeting: At a town hall meeting Chet Gladchuk, director of Naval Academy Athletics, asked for community input about the concept of building a facility that could be used for a visitor center, indoor high school graduations, Bayhawks games, a hockey rink, etc.

Traffic, parking, the possibility of a bridge to West Annapolis across Rowe Boulevard, and a simple, better way to cross Farragut were discussed. The entry and exit points were to be on Taylor Ave. The location was to be between the stadium and the District Court building.

Bylaws: A proposal was made to change AHIA's fiscal year to conform to the calendar year. This would eliminate the confusion about whether dues had been paid or not. If a check for dues was written in the calendar year, the dues would be paid for that year. For example, a \$40 check written to AHIA in 2019 would mean dues would be paid for that year. The amendment to the Bylaws approving this change was passed.

Senator Sarah Elfreth's remarks: During her 10 months on the jobs she has worked on bills that will help meet Chesapeake Bay challenges, help with the enforcement of environmental laws, prevent runoff, promote agrotourism, speed up the processing of rape kits, and focus on oysters.

During the next session she plans to enable the Department of Natural Resources Police to pick up abandoned boats faster, support veterans, touch base with her constituents to see what issues are important to them, and to gain funding from the state for the county.

In addition to being a politician, Elfreth teaches two college classes.

Annapolis Chief of Police Ed Jackson's remarks: Jackson talked about what makes him uniquely qualified for his job. A career policeman, when he retired from the Baltimore police force, he taught sociology for 15 years at Baltimore Community College where he modeled strategies to help rebuild communities. He also served as an inspector general in Baltimore, providing oversight to command staff and making sure that they complied with mandates.

“Crime is a manifestation of social problems, not the other way around,” he maintains. “We have to talk about and deal with social problems.” He feels uniquely qualified to work with neighborhoods. He feels that too many times there are gunshots and lines of demarcation between communities rather than realizing that what occurs in one community affects neighboring communities.

He also realizes that Annapolis has too many “soft targets.” He sees what happened at the Capital as a “wake up call” and would like to expand police presence downtown and partner with the Naval Academy to tackle safety and security issues. He believes in transparency, being proactive, and balancing public safety with the U.S. Constitution. An active shooter exercise is planned for Dec. 11.

Alderman Fred Paone’s remarks: Paone said the land swap would affect everyone in the city. He encouraged everyone to keep an open mind and to carefully consider the pros & cons.

Of the NAAA concept, he said it seemed like a great idea, but the devil would be in the details.

He said the City Dock plan sounded wonderful with many neat things being offered. He thought it might be a good idea for the board to hear a presentation on the City Dock or the residents might be interested in a town hall meeting.

He talked about the AirBnB issue. He said short term rentals were creating a problem. The number of permanent residents in some neighborhoods is declining. Owners live out of town and don’t collect a hotel tax. When something goes wrong, there’s no one to fix the problem. He feels that residents who live outside the area should have property managers.

He encouraged everyone to take the magnets that were handed out in the meeting. They had the phone number that people could call about stadium noise.

Events: Residents were encouraged to read the slide, the Admiral Heights newsletter, the Admiral Heights website, email blasts and Facebook to find out more about upcoming community events.

Feedback: Residents were encouraged to provide feedback about the meeting. Did they love or hate hearing about issues affecting not only Admiral Heights, but Annapolis in general?

To do: Poll board members for availability for November board meeting & determine location – Gibson

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.
Submitted by Martha Thorn, Secretary