

Approved by general membership: Oct. 12, 2021
Approved by the board: April 1, 2021

Admiral Heights Improvement Association's Spring General Membership Meeting
hosted by Scott Gibson on GoToMeeting on Tuesday March 2, 2021

Call to order: 7:30 p.m. by President Scott Gibson

Attendance: AHIA Board members – Martha Thorn, Scott Gibson, Cindy Radulovich, John Leupold, Maggie Rogers, Grant Garcia, Bo Conroy, Jen Hall, Joe Flasher, Lizzie Coelho, Derek **Lotfi**

In addition to the board members, about 47 Admiral Heights residents attended, including Alderman Fred Paone and speakers from the Annapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) -- Sam Brice, Chief of Engineering and Construction, and Jennifer Feight, project manager **for the paving and sidewalk plan.**

Absent: and Tonya McGinnis

President's remarks: Scott Gibson welcomed everyone to the spring membership meeting, the second membership meeting to be held online.

The meeting is being recorded and will be posted on FaceBook. The chat function will be used for questions and answers.

Scott showed pictures, showcasing a year of accomplishments:
new racks at Dewey Dock
new dock on Williams Drive
a new event sponsored by AHIA (making scarecrows)
an old event done in a new way (socially distanced Santa visit),
and the one we're most proud of -- the Cedar Park sidewalk project being included in the City's capital budget.

Scott, who is stepping down from his position as president, thanked the board and spoke of the dedication of the team. He especially thanked Martha Thorn, the longest serving board member during his tenure.

He also thanked the neighborhood for its ability to discuss difficult issues such as how to replace the Williams Drive dock and considering the Special Benefits District.

He reflected on a year of social distancing and coming together as a community. The spirit of community was illustrated by Wendy Hickok and Liz Uehlinger's porch photo sessions, by Karma O'Neill's Lights in the Heights and Gingerbread Run, and by the many neighborhood food drives.

Minutes: Minutes have been shared online. Seeking unanimous consent of the minutes. If a member in good standing objects, they can enter their objection in chat or file objections by email to President prior to March 3 at 7 p.m.

Treasurer's Report: John Leupold

140+ neighbors have paid 2021 dues so far (two months into the fiscal year)
Ability to sign up to have dues via auto-renew
2020 ended with a surplus
Social events costs were down due to Covid
Property expenses were up – new dock at Williams, new kayak racks, etc.

We're on track to the "Better Case Budget" (from October meeting) allowing for larger capital expenditures to be discussed.

A new webpage automatically updates with dues paid by members.

Renewal of landscaping contract will invest more money to include more work around Porter Circle and the neighborhood signs.

Increased property expenses - contribution to Williams Dock, removal of trees, etc.

CD is still at \$5k and general checking has \$20k

A lot more advertising dollars have come in via the newsletter.

A fair number of donations have come in from neighbors adding to the operating budget.

Survey Results: Joe Flasher – 47 respondents to the survey

Primary concern - Upkeep and beautification of community properties, most popular by far of the concerns considered.

Project interest - Appearance of Porter Road circle, Halsey Park playground, information sign. There was no clear winner among these proposed projects.

What is AHIA doing that we should continue doing? Communicating well, getting feedback, virtual meetings, interface to city, keeping in contact with local officials, keeping up with landscape and preservation efforts.

What is AHIA not doing that it should be doing? More traffic calming, more walkability, more social options, crosswalk from stadium over Farragut to Schley, more online interaction, more social activities for adults.

Additional surveys can be conducted in the future since a framework has been established.

Cedar Park Road Sidewalk Project: Sam Brice, Chief Engineer and Construction & Jennifer Feight, Project Manager for the paving and sidewalk plan. Both are from the **Annapolis Department of Public Works**

The Cedar Park Road Sidewalk Project has appeared in the City of Annapolis capital budget for the first time.

Last year it was introduced into the capital budget to install a sidewalk alongside Cedar Park connecting with Windell to go just past Halsey

The work will occur in two phases. The first phase will involve a temporary sidewalk, using bumpers and flex posts repurposed from the Main Street bike path. This will be up for the immediate future, because the funding grant has not come through as quickly as anticipated.

Upon reviewing the area, significant grading issues exist. The entire length of the sidewalk slopes up 10 to 15 feet onto private property. To mitigate the effect on homeowners the plan is to take the space for the new sidewalks off the street. The new sidewalk will be installed six feet off the existing curbing which means a five-foot sidewalk between the old and new curb. There won't be room for parking along the new sidewalk. It will also provide traffic calming as people generally go slower on narrower streets.

There will also be new driveway aprons and the work on Fisk and Ford circles will accommodate stormwater management practices.

The plan is to install it in April. It will take about 2 ½ weeks to install.

General Scope:

- Provide a sidewalk connection from existing sidewalk to Windell Avenue (Approx. 1800LF)
- Temporary sidewalk/walkway and no parking signs place in April 2021
- Sidewalk will be 5' wide extending from existing curb line into Cedar Park Road

General Details

- Parking will be removed on Cedar Park Road adjacent to proposed sidewalk
- The temporary walkway will remain until permanent installation is completed.
- The project will include new driveway aprons and minor driveway adjustments.
- ADA truncated domes will be placed at every crossing,
- Storm drain inspection and adjustments will be made to accommodate storm water management practices and new curb line.

The second phase will depend on funding, weather, and the traffic and driveways impacted. It will probably take at least a month for each segment to be completed. The temporary sidewalk will remain in place as long as necessary. Phase 2 will be implemented as funding becomes available. Home owners will be kept apprised of what's going on.

Proposed Capital Investments \$7,500 budget:

Lizzie Coelho – Entrance to Admiral Heights on Cedar Park – She discussed adding benches, another Little Free Library, add maybe an info sign like that on Poplar Trail (if permitted by code). The cost would depend on how many (maybe two to four) and the materials (teak, metal, etc.).

Grant Garcia – Presentation of bids for Dewey Dock Re-decking - The 2x8 boards need to be pulled, stringers need to be treated and then new deck boards put down. Dewey Dock was done in 2004, making it 17 years old. A quote of \$5k was given for work to be done.

Approval of these projects was sought by unanimous consent (see minutes for how this is done).

Miscellaneous comments from presenters and chat: It was good that traffic calming was being considered because there have already been two single car accidents along that stretch of road.

Funding and the possibility of getting a grant were discussed. There was never a grant. However, there was a proposal of HOW this would be funded. The ask was for \$250K, but there wasn't a match in the budget.

Typically, if projects don't cost a half million, it's not worth the effort to seek a grant. Most grants are for "big ticket" projects of a million plus.

The study of the extension of Poplar Trail to Route 2 isn't funded either so this means going after another grant.

Stormwater management was also discussed. After the project is completed, an engineering team will determine what is needed. The focus will probably be near the pumping station.

Residents wondered how many cars would be affected. They estimated 10 – 15 cars in the middle of the day.

Q: What about islands? A: No additional traffic calming is needed.

Admiral Heights might be able to get help from the Rotary on the Little Free Libraries.

Q: What about having food trucks visit the neighborhood? A: Need to get City Code approval. Must be on private property. Maybe the pool?

Q: Since AHIA has three people vying for one board spot, is there any way to have more people on the board? A: To have more people on the board, we would have to amend the bylaws. However, we need volunteers to help with other activities, not just the board. There's helping with community grounds, Independence Day, Walkability, safer crossing on Farragut, expanding the size of the board, **etc.**

Is there a social chairperson or committee? Would people be interested in forming a Green Team to look for invasive plants?

A request that people be respectful around the public properties.

Board Elections: Ballot will be available online. Ballots are due by Wednesday, March 3, at 7 p.m. Officers – Scott, John, Cindy and Bo – are automatically reelected. Membership will be verified by who has paid dues. Thirty checks were received today. Stay involved. We desperately need volunteers.

New candidates are asked to post something about themselves on Facebook.

Results will be known by Monday, March 8.

Updates from City Hall: Alderman Fred Paone

City Hall has been closed to the public since last March. The City Council continues to meet remotely.

The City budget is having budget problems and is wondering what to cut.

Project impacting Admiral Heights – Tucker Street boat ramp in West Annapolis will **be** open to all city residents but requires a permit to use it. It'll be a first-class facility.

NAAA has been silent about what it's doing, but it may have some monetary problems, having canceled five home games.

If anyone would like to receive Paone's newsletter/agenda for City Council meetings, you can get in touch with him. His contact info is in the Admiral Heights newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Submitted by Cindy Radulovich, Secretary and Martha Thorn, Co-Secretary