

Corrections in bold.

Approved Dec. 5, 2019

Admiral Heights Improvement Association Board of Directors Meeting

Nov. 7, 2019

**Called to order:** 8 p.m. by President Scott Gibson at home of Maria Lebow-Little

**Attendance:** AHIA Board members -- Bo Conroy, Norm Crews, Martha Thorn, Gibson, John Leupold, Tonya McGinnis, Lebow-Little, Maggie Rogers, and Grant Garcia attended.

**Not in attendance:** Jim Burdick, Derek Lotfi, & Cindy Radulovich.

**Minutes:** Minutes for the September 2019 meeting were approved. Minutes for the October general membership meeting were approved by the board so they can be posted on our website. In October the general membership will vote to approve them.

**Treasurer's report:** Dues are up since the meeting but down for the year.

During the general membership meeting the proposal to amend the bylaws to make AHIA's fiscal year conform to the calendar year was approved.

It was decided to wait to January to do the dues mailing.

The treasurer hasn't received any mowing bills. The November treasurer's report includes the block party and newsletter expenses. Leftover food from the block party will be donated to the Light House Shelter.

Some people have double paid their dues. We should check to see if they would like to donate the second payment to AHIA. Donations to AHIA aren't tax deductible.

Is PayPal set up so people can automatically renew their membership? Yes.

The treasurer's report was approved.

**Discussion about special tax districts:** There's a provision under Maryland law where special community tax districts can be formed for broad purposes such as erosion control or to protect the shoreline. In these districts special taxes or dues will be added onto the property taxes.

The district can be set up in different ways. The county, which collects the money, can disperse the money or fund the association. The county takes a \$2,000 administrative fee. No bank will lend to AHIA, but AHIA would be able to go through the county to get a loan.

Hillsmere, Bay Ridge, and Owings Beach in Deale have benefitted from this arrangement.

Gibson has talked to Lisa Rodvien who “runs the process.” The process can be set up using a flat amount like dues or a variable amount such as basing the taxes on property values.

Before proceeding, we need to know more. To establish such a district, would we need 50 percent plus one of the property owners in the proposed district to sign a petition in favor of the proposal? Or would we need 2/3s of the homeowners or about 400 homes?

What would the money be used for? Racks? Social events? Infrastructure? What are the legal boundaries of what can be bought with the money? If the money were to be used for more than one thing, would it have to be collected separately? Are there limitations on what the money can be used for?

What are the boundaries that define Admiral Heights? Are the townhouses on Cedar Park considered part of Admiral Heights?

Arguments for establishing the district: 1. Philanthropy - this is an easy way to give back to the community and feel good about participating. 2. One storm could destroy the dock. 3. If fire suppression equipment is needed for the dock, this would be our only viable path to building the dock. 4. This would be a way to get the landlords/tenants to contribute to the community. Everyone should contribute, not just a few.

In the December through March meetings we should consider the possibilities. If money wasn't an object, what would we want to do in Admiral Heights? Playground in Halsey Park? New and expanded kayak racks? Boat slips at Dewey Dock? Replace Dewey and Williams docks? Re-gravel Halsey? Replace signs? Improve the traffic circle? Dog waste stations? Have Mission Barbecue cater an event? Have an ice cream truck at an event? Have more children-oriented events?

**Santa Run:** Normally we have hot chocolate, cookies and a table. It's scheduled for 5 p.m. on Dec. 15. Fire pits, hot dogs and s'mores were discussed for this year. Everyone was asked to remember the true meaning of the event. “The Annapolis Santa Run visits communities throughout the Annapolis area to gather gifts for needy children.” Santa comes in an antique fire truck which is accompanied by an ambulance. Unwrapped toys for needy children are collected in 50-60 communities. Last year more than 1,000 bags of toys were collected. **This event isn't the 5K Santa Speedo Run.**

**Williams Dock update:** Bo Conroy, AHIA dock monitor, said the Army Corps of Engineers approved the dock plan. The Port Wardens hearing is slated for Nov. 26.

Conroy has 10 people on the kayak waiting list. He likes the idea of putting stickers on the kayaks and “policing” them.

Anne Faust wants to conduct kayak events/classes for children at Dewey Dock. Gibson says he doesn't see an issue as long as she's with a nonprofit organization.

AHIA's first \$750 payment toward dock rebuilding is due in March. If standpipes are needed, the deal may fall apart.

**To do:** Get mowing bills to Leupold – Conroy

Send September and October minutes to Leupold for posting on the web - Thorn

Think about/research/discuss special tax districts -All

Next meeting: First Thursday in December (Dec. 5) at the home of Tonya McGinnis.

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