

Approved on November 14, 2017  
Admiral Heights Improvement Association Board Meeting  
Sept. 5, 2017

Called to order: 7:40 p.m. by President Jim Burdick at Germantown Elementary School

**AHIA board members in attendance:**

Burdick, Mario Schiappacasse, Norm Crews, Martha Thorn, Rachael Breen, Scott Gibson, Ed Cherneski, Brandon Wright and Grant Garcia. Also in attendance was Kristy Myers of the West Annapolis Civic Association.

**Not in attendance:**

Steve Fisher, Maria Lebow-Little and John Leupold

**Candidates Forum**

The proposed date is Tuesday, Oct. 24 -- after the primary so only those nominated would participate. West Annapolis Civic Association, AHIA and the Germantown-Homewood Civic Association will sponsor the forum. A panel of Republicans, Democrats and Independents will compile questions for the candidates. Gibson volunteered to serve on the panel.

In the past the West Annapolis forum gave the candidates three minutes for opening remarks, one minute for answers and two minutes for closing. Suggestions about whom to ask to be moderator included John Frenaye of Eye on Annapolis. More than 100 chairs will be needed. In the past, an hour time limit was set, but the board members felt more time was needed. Arrangements are made to have the forum streamed. Someone will need to run the sound system.

The cafeteria at Germantown Elementary School was proposed as a venue. AHIA would schedule it. A motion was made to help with the forum.

**Minutes**

The July minutes were approved (no meeting in August).

**Treasurer's Report**

No treasurer's report.

**Newsletter**

Garcia, Cherneski and Thorn are submitting articles. With ads and their submissions, Burdick thinks he will have enough copy for the newsletter. Board members urged him to do a colored front page like he did for the last issue. Crews reminded him to include five extra copies. The newsletter should be out by Sept. 14.

**Events**

**Block party discussion**

**Financial**

Gibson said that our insurance deductible is \$500 and the invoice for taking away the fallen tree(s) was \$2,000. He said we were operating at a deficit and because of the unanticipated expense we would have to dip into our reserves. He suggested that since we were spending more than we are bringing in, we might consider canceling the block party.

Garcia suggested that rather than canceling the event, we find ways to do it cheaper such as asking people to bring their own beer or having pop up tents as opposed to rental tents.

### Questions

- Before we cut events or raise dues, what are we doing to cut expenses?
- Why do people join AHIA? Is it for the social events? The pool bond? For upkeep of the community? To maintain or grow property value?
- What do members want from us? How do they want our money spent?

### Motions

A motion was made to cancel the block party. No one seconded the motion, so it wasn't voted on.

A motion was made to reduce costs by taking out the alcohol as an expense. It was seconded and voted on. Four voted for the motion. Five opposed the motion, so it didn't pass.

A motion was made to proceed as we've already planned and to reevaluate our events and finances next year. Seven voted for this motion. Two opposed it. It was passed.

### Assignments

Gibson will buy food and beer. Lebow-Little will rent tent, chairs and grill. Breen will put up the signs.

### Details

**Block Party** – Saturday, Sept. 16, 4 p.m.

**Yard sale** – Saturday, Sept. 30, 9 a.m. – noon; rain date: Sunday, Oct. 1. Thorn is putting the ad in the paper. Breen is putting up signs.

**Special general membership meeting** – Tuesday, Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. Germantown Elementary School. This is an important meeting because we will vote on the Boat Club lease and repairs to Williams Dock.

### **Tailgater**

#### Motion

A motion was made to proceed with the tailgater and reevaluate the event and finances next year.

#### Details

**Tailgater** – Saturday, Oct. 21, Set-up: 1 p.m.; tailgater: 1:30 p.m.; game time: 3:30 p.m.

**Candidate debate** - Tuesday, Oct. 24, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Cafeteria at Germantown Elementary School. Forum to be sponsored by West Annapolis Civic Association, AHIA and the Germantown-Homewood Civic Association.

**Halloween party** – Friday, Oct. 27, 6 – 7:30 p.m., Germantown Elementary School

**Luminaries & parade** – Saturday, Oct. 28, older children can build luminaries. AHIA is invited. Time to be announced.

### **More financial discussion**

If we continue with our current spending, we will need to raise revenue. Our three major sources of revenue are rack fees, dues and Boat Club lease. We need to examine what we are getting out of each event, our priorities, and whether we want to raise more income.

### **Boat Club**

It's important to nail down what we are going to do about the Boat Club lease and dock because dock maintenance has to be done in the winter. It will be a big expense. Cherneski said he would like to see the lease.

We would like to get the most that we can out of the October meeting. We would also like to get the most that we can out of the new Boat Club lease, including more inspections and more interaction with the Boat Club.

We have four weeks to pull something together to present to the general membership. So far, the Boat Club hasn't responded to our request for a meeting. The lease expires next May, but if work is going to begin this winter, the Boat Club needs assurance that its lease will be renewed. The only reason we're trying to renew the lease early is so we can proceed with dock repairs. It's becoming a safety issue.

The meeting in October has been declared a "special meeting" because it has one purpose only – to let the general membership resolve the lease and dock repair issues. Currently, part of the lease is forgivable if the Boat Club does maintenance repairs. Do we want to flip the burden?

### **Grounds Committee**

Garcia is going to ask Christian Zazzali to look at Dewey Dock. He talked about the erosion and maybe needing more gravel. He also talked about rebuilding the bulwark, moving a sign to the top of Dewey Dock, and about Michael Green cleaning up the dock. He talked about some well used fishing poles and crabbing and a kayak that was left at the dock.

The Sampson-Porter Circle looks great. The credit was given to Admiral Heights resident Nina Fisher and Preem, "a weed preventer and plant food."

A resident wanted to name the circle after Dean Johnson and put up a sign. Since he didn't have anything to do with the circle and we can't put up a big sign, no one had much interest in this.

### **Neighborhood Watch**

The next Neighborhood Safety meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m., Annapolis Police Department, Taylor Ave.

Thorn said that she would call Bill Givens about the stadium website. She passed around an updated calendar.

Gibson asked if the Annapolis Police Department had a plan for the Capitals game to be held at the stadium March 3. No one knew.

### **Weems Creek Matters**

Cherneski handed out 39 Hudson Street project notes from the City of Annapolis Planning & Zoning meeting on Aug. 31. He said the new owners employed 70 people, mostly engineers. The owners submitted new plans for the property that addressed environmental concerns made by Annapolis residents and organizations, including the AHIA.

As a result of community input, the owners reduced the building footprint, reduced the number of trees they are taking down, reduced the parking lot size, and agreed to sign a “perpetual landscape agreement.” The owners are also cleaning up the tires and concrete on the property. They hope to make this “a model for future development.” The meeting was very positive.

However, some land abutting this property is for sale. Depending on the buyer’s plan for this property, more environmental concerns may need to be addressed. Also, the slope of the land and the type of soil makes all these properties prone to erosion which makes stormwater management important.

### **Traffic Calming and Public Safety**

No report, but comments were included under other headings (see Neighborhood Watch).

### **Mom’s Club**

No report, but someone is needed to coordinate Mom’s Club events.

### **Webmaster**

No report.

### **WNAV**

Contrary to previous reports, the WNAV issue **is not** dead. A developer has a contract to buy the property and would like to build houses and a connecting street to Cedar Park Road.

### **To do**

Research five houses to see if they already belong to a community - Burdick  
Send pdf of approved July minutes to Leupold for posting on the web – Thorn  
Post approved minutes to web - Leupold  
Proceed with plans for Candidates Forum – Burdick  
Draft lease agreement with Boat Club – Gibson, Breen and Schiappacasse

Provide list of those who haven't paid for their racks – Lebow-Little  
Give Lebow-Little the wording for the rack invoice - Gibson  
Call Givens to get website address – Thorn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by  
Martha Thorn  
Secretary