

Approved Feb. 6, 2018 – Amendment in bold.
Admiral Heights Improvement Association Board Meeting Jan. 9, 2018

Called to order: 7:34 p.m. by President Jim Burdick at 1719 Cedar Park Road

AHIA board members in attendance:

Norm Crews, Martha Thorn, Burdick, Ed Cherneski, Mario Schiappacasse, Maria Lebow-Little, Scott Gibson and Grant Garcia.

Not in attendance:

Rachel Breen, Brandon Wright, Steve Fisher and John Leupold

President's remarks:

Bozzuto Homes no longer plans to have a road go through Admiral Heights. The company will donate "the dirt" for the Compass Rose Theater to be built in the new development but the theater will pay for the building. Until then, the theater has moved to Forest Drive. It has begun to seek funding through fundraising letters and approaching Sajak's charitable foundation.

Alderman Fred Paone called a town hall meeting to discuss the Market House and the proposal by Bozzuto Homes for the WNAV property. Because he was under pressure because of the Market House vote, he only gave "26 hours" notice. Because many residents couldn't attend because of the late notice he is rescheduling the Bozzuto Homes part of the meeting. The Market House part of the meeting was held.

Burdick attended the City Council meeting about the Market House. He didn't talk on behalf of the association, but as an individual. A businessman for 39 years, he urged members of the Council to do their jobs. He left early because he didn't think a decision would be made. However, New Market was chosen by default.

Minutes

Minutes for the special meeting Sept. 26 were approved. Dec. 5 minutes were approved with amendments.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer received \$1,700 from the insurance company for the tree cleanup. Our goal was to get \$9,000 in dues. We got \$10,945. There are still some people who haven't paid for their racks.

The theory was that the LED lights installed at Dewey Dock would reduce our electric bills. This hasn't been the case. Electric bills vary monthly depending on how long the lights stay on. Usually the bill is between \$19 and \$27 a month or around \$250 a year. There hasn't been any significant savings.

Block party was more this year because we paid for this year's & last year's block party this year. The insurance was as expected. Mowing costs were on the low side. Office supplies were up due to new Quick Books program. Suggestion - put an asterisk by the expenses that require an explanation. Treasurer's report approved.

Next month the treasurer will present a proposed budget. The following topics were discussed: (1) Doing a survey to determine priorities for future budgets. See <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017AHIACCommunityInput>. (2) Creating a discretionary fund to be used based on the outcome of surveys, meetings, discussions, research and analysis, etc. (3) Raising dues – it’s been about 10 years since dues were raised and costs have gone up. (4) How much the dues should be raised (5) Cost of maintenance and new initiatives (Dock on Williams Drive, playground at Halsey Park, additions to circle). (6) What do we want our neighborhood to be?

Events

General membership meeting – Tuesday, March 6, 7:30 p.m., Germantown Elementary School

GreenScape – Saturday, April 21

Yard sale – date to be determined

Grounds Committee

Capital Improvements to (1) Sampson-Porter Circle and (2) Halsey Park were suggested. Residents have expressed dissatisfaction with the circle, calling it a “bunch of weeds.” They would like something more impressive like a bench, flagpole, bush, etc. Currently, that’s not possible due to height limitations caused by drip lines, power lines, etc. However, these restrictions don’t apply to other circles in Annapolis such as Church and State circles. The reason is that there’s no left hand turn on these circles. If the community will support a no left turn sign or a one way, do not enter sign, then improvements could be made to the Circle. This would require Capital Improvement and maintenance costs.

Residents ask, “Why can’t Halsey Park be like Murray Hill?” **The answer is because the City owns Murray Hill Park. Halsey Park is privately owned.** Right now 80 percent of the cost for Halsey Park is the mowing bill and 20 percent is insurance which amounts to \$2,500 per year. The question is, “What do you want your park to look like and what are you willing to pay in Capital Improvement, insurance, and maintenance? Proposals include waterfront development, a playground for children, and /or something for adults such as a garden, tiki bar, or stage.

Huge risks are associated with these proposals. As a volunteer association, you need volunteers to move these ideas forward. If people don’t want these changes, they aren’t going to be willing to work for them. If improvements are to be made and maintenance kept up, residents must see the value in the projects and be willing to invest monetarily and in sweat equity.

Neighborhood Watch

The next Neighborhood Safety meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Annapolis Police Headquarters, [199 Taylor Avenue](#). This is Valentine’s Day and Ash Wednesday.

Thorn went to Paone's meeting. Annapolis Oyster Co. & New Market LLC made presented. Another meeting will be held about Bazutto. Annapolis Oyster Co. proposes having 12 stalls. New Market's concept was handed around.

Thorn passed out some research and analysis about event attendance during her seven years on the board. These facts and commentary may help if the board has to get rid of some events due to either lack of money or volunteers. Crews strongly supported the block party and Santa Run. Lebow-Little felt that organizers tend to exaggerate the numbers. Burdick said that he counted the attendees. Thorn felt that over seven years the numbers and organizers changed enough to present a good average attendance.

Thorn liked Grant's cost per head idea for gauging the value of some events, but it doesn't work for events like GreenScape. She noted that some events were free & that organizers actually donated to the community for some events. For example, Jon Brianas donated \$1,000 for community support in the early days of the Fun Run.

She wanted to research cost per person per event but ran out of time. She also wanted to get an idea of how much we have on hand each month, but only looked at three months in 2017. She found that in 2017 the checking account varied from \$3,219.34 in July, \$2,816.15 in June, and \$1,531.43 in May. The CD and Pay Pal remained the same each month. Total assets varied from \$16,669.68 - July, \$16,206.49 - June and \$14,921.77 - May.

She helped Germantown-Homewood with publicity for the Luminary Parade that they invited Admiral Heights residents to. She handed around a Capital clipping.

She also handed out an article from 2005 that she thought should be updated. An informative article written by then treasurer Mary Smith, it emphasized the importance of dues by outlining the percentage of the dues that went to various AHIA expenditures. The Board agreed that it was a good article and Garcia agreed to update it.

Weems Creek Matters

Cherneski didn't have anything to add.

Traffic Calming and Public Safety

Residents are complaining about the speed trap on Farragut Road. It was suggested that they call their alderman. The speed trap catches residents both ways. It's believed that residents are speeding to make the light. One board member said that he has seen a benefit from the ticketing as cars now slow down on Ludlow.

Mom's Club

Leupold was absent so no report. However, it was suggested that we ask for more volunteers to help organize events. It was also suggested that we co-host events such as the Halloween party with the Germantown-Homewood CA. Burdick said he would talk with Keren Lotfi to see if she plans on doing an Easter egg hunt this year.

Webmaster

Leupold was absent so no report. However, Thorn said he has renewed our domain name and hosting with Go Daddy for a year. When he returns from abroad, he will explore the possibility of getting the services cheaper.

Newsletter - Deadline is Feb. 12.

Agenda items for general membership meeting in March

- Vote on proposed budgets – The treasurer is making two proposed budgets – One if the dues are raised one amount and the other with the dues raised another amount.
- What does the general membership want to do with Halsey?
- What does the general membership want to do with the circle?
- Development of WNAV property by Bazutto Homes
- Update on the Boat Club lease and the dock on Williams Drive

Dues

A motion was made to raise dues in 2018. It was passed unanimously. It was debated whether to raise dues to \$40, \$45 or \$50. How much is justified? It was also debated how much to raise rack dues. The consensus was if rack dues are raised, we need to enforce payment.

Lease update - The lease hasn't been finalized but will be before the next board meeting.

To do

- Send pdf of September special meeting & December minutes to Leupold for posting on the web – Thorn
- Post approved minutes to web – Leupold
- Finalize lease agreement with Boat Club – Gibson, Breen and Schiappacasse
- Get information on dock improvements on Williams Drive – Gibson
- Provide list of those who haven't paid for their racks and those who have paid – Gibson
- Give Lebow-Little the wording for the rack invoice – Breen
- Look at laptop – Leupold
- Look at options that will save on Internet domain and hosting Internet services – Leupold
- Write article on “State of the Community” or “State of the Heights” – Burdick
- Talk to Nina Fisher about winterizing plants – Garcia
- See if there will be an Easter egg hunt this year – Burdick
- Get date of Citizens Police Academy – Crews
- Propose a date for yard sales – Thorn
- Propose two budgets – Lebow-Little

Meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m. Submitted by Martha Thorn, Secretary