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Admiral Heights Improvement Association Board Meeting
May 9, 2017

Called to order: 7:30 p.m. by Treasurer Maria Lebow-Little at her home.

AHIA board members in attendance:

Norm Crews, Martha Thorn, Lebow-Little, John Leupold, Rachael Breen, Scott Gibson, Ed Cherneski, and Grant Garcia. Also in attendance was Alderman Fred Paone.

Not in attendance:

Jim Burdick and Mario Schiappacasse.

No President's Remarks

Events

Sampson-Porter Circle planting – Another 20 plants and some mulching should complete this project. Garcia has set up an automatic timer and dripper hoses. He would like to have a sign there for a week, saying “Your AHIA Dues at Work.” The planting cost under \$1,000.

Paone said the circle looked great and congratulated Nina Fisher, who came up with the plan that was finally approved, and Garcia, who served as head of the Grounds Committee, for getting the job done.

Meet the Creek – The Watermark taxi made about five or six trips onto the creek. About 25 people attended. Garcia met “key people” who would like to become more involved in the community. At an overall cost of about \$600, this event costs about \$30 per person. He’s considering moving the event to some morning in the summer. Ways to attract more residents were discussed. Representatives of the Department of Natural Resources and the Naval Academy Oceanography Department could be invited. They could bring turtles, oysters, etc. The event could be expanded into becoming an expo and/or kayak or boat day. Residents with canoes could give children rides as either an addition to the day or a replacement of the Watermark taxi. The boat cost is going up again next year because of fuel costs.

Parking meeting – The mayor said that he would give us a list of stadium events by Monday, May 8. Someone said that the community and the Mayor’s Office should reach out to the Superintendent’s Office to try to obtain a list of stadium events and to clarify the definition of a stadium event. Only events where organizers approach the City for help are listed in the notifications Admiral Heights receives from the Police Department.

Most folks don’t want stricter parking. They don’t want stickers, special permits, being charged for parking, additional signs, etc. They do want advance notice of stadium events, a definition of stadium events, better traffic management, and a liaison to work with to help clean up after events. Residents were asked, “Do you want the academy to be a better neighbor? What kind of neighborhood do you want to live in? Do you want to be a parking lot for the stadium?”

Some concerns included the blocking of streets during stadium events, the possibility of being charged for parking, and speeding in the community.

Paone said that the mayor didn't have the list of events yet. Paone said he and the mayor plan to sit down with Chet Gladchuk, the Naval Academy Athletic Association's director of athletics, within six weeks (around mid-June) to discuss concerns. Paone said that some of the resistance to giving out calendars is that they change frequently.

Paone said the academy was a good neighbor. The academy opens up many events for community members to attend and does a lot of good within the community. He said you could have a lot worse neighbor.

Fourth of July Bike Parade - Tuesday, July 4, 10 a.m., Sampson Place. Leupold will ask Mom's Club members about organizing this event. Usually the police and fire departments are invited. Leupold will also ask Kara Blouin, last year's event organizer, for her binder.

Block Party – Sept. 16 time to be determined. Breen, Leupold and Gibson will help with the block party. Lebow-Little will arrange for the tent.

Tailgater – Suggested date is Oct. 21. Lebow-Little to confirm.

Minutes

The minutes were approved with corrections. The information under Weems Creek Matters was divided between that heading and a "Boat Club" heading. The "no report" and "DeWalle" sentences remain under Weems Creek Matters. Burdick's comments are under the Boat Club heading.

The second paragraph under Webmasters was changed.

Treasurer's Report

The balance is close to \$15,000. Dues received as a result of the blue sheet attached to the newsletter and the first mailing and boat rack payments add up to about \$4,200 – almost half of the money we budgeted for (\$9,000).

Breen will collect mail to get a sense of the amount of money coming in and the bank statements. The \$450 spent for plants was put under facilities maintenance. It was originally supposed to be under Capital Improvements, but that category wasn't in the budget. We expect to spend another \$400 on plants.

Cost for Meet the Creek food and supplies was lower because leftovers from GreenScape were used.

Mowing costs seemed high. The treasurer will pull up payments and double check.

BGE bills are running about \$45 per month for the light.

The treasurer's report was approved.

Weems Creek Matters

Kurt Riegel of the Severn River Association contacted Cherneski about the 39 Hudson Street project. This project is on the city and county line near the Harley-Davidson dealership. Cherneski talked about a creek bed, ravine, and two large warehouses that would be torn down. He was concerned about the project's impact on Weems Creek's water quality. Another project on Hudson Street involves a parking lot where the storm water will run into the creek unless there are "proper sediment controls."

Cherneski talked to Paone who, in turn, talked to Planning and Zoning. Paone told the board that the developers would have to follow all the City ordinances, including the Forest Conservation Act and the use of state of the art materials to protect the environment. Paone says that if the developers "jump through all the hoops" and follow all the rules, there's nothing we can do. He also noted that the area is now covered with old refrigerators, tires and other trash which is contributing to the runoff. The developers have pledged to fix this, which is a good thing.

They're also committed to a semi-permeable parking lot, which is also good. That being said, he says there are still "quite a few hoops to jump through." He recommends "being vigilant through the process" to make sure the developers comply with all City requirements.

Paone said the board should let the City know about its concerns and ask to be kept informed about what's taking place.

Cherneski made a motion to send a letter to the City, voicing the board's concerns. The motion was unanimously passed.

Grounds Committee

See Events and Treasurer's Report.

Neighborhood Watch

No report.

Traffic Calming and Public Safety

A report of speeding on Schley Road was referred to Crews and Paone.

Mom's Club

Leupold said the Mom's Club had its walk around the stadium on May 3. Six people came. One mom is a physical therapist who said she would be willing to lead the moms in a workout. They also talked about a baby-sitting co-op and plans for more walks.

Rack Rental Agreement

Breen distributed a draft of a rack rental agreement. Changes were suggested to the draft.

Boat Club

Neither the Boat Club nor the Board has done much to the dock on Williams Drive. The current agreement needs to be enforced. The lease runs until May 20, 2018. Until then we need to adhere to the lease. The Boat Club needs to maintain the dock to a certain level, and the board needs to help maintain the property.

It hasn't been repaired in some time, so we need to determine the responsibilities for the Boat Club and the improvement association. What is our vision for the dock?

A Boat Club member volunteered to do an assessment – examining the pilings, stringers, boards, ladder, etc., look at options, “run the numbers,” and come up with a viable plan. He was asked to present his plan at this meeting. Since the board has heard nothing from the Boat Club since he volunteered to do this on April 18, a motion was made and passed to send a letter to the Boat Club to ask what their intentions for maintenance are for the coming year.

The consensus was that neither the Boat Club nor the board has done much maintenance on the dock. The feeling was that both sides should work hard on the dock before the lease is renegotiated in 2018. Gibson was asked to write a letter to the Boat Club, registering the board's concerns about compliance with the lease and the status of the Boat Club's plan.

To do

Research five houses to see if they already belong to a community - Burdick

Send pdf of approved April minutes to Leupold and Schiappacasse for posting on the web – Thorn

Post approved minutes to web - Leupold and Schiappacasse

Proceed with plans for Candidates Forum – Burdick

Write letter to Boat Club – Gibson

Confirm date for the tailgater - Lebow-Little

Talk to Blouin about Fourth of July binder and members of the Mom's Club about organizing the Fourth of July Parade – Leupold

Write letter to Planning and Zoning about Hudson Street developments – Cherneski

Meet with Gladchuk within six weeks (mid-June) – Mayor and Paone

Make discussed changes to rack rental agreement – Breen

Double check mowing costs - Lebow-Little

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by
Martha Thorn
Secretary