

Approved Dec. 5, 2017
Admiral Heights Improvement Association Board Meeting
Nov. 14, 2017

Called to order: 7:35 p.m. by President Jim Burdick at 1719 Cedar Park Road

AHIA board members in attendance:

Norm Crews, Martha Thorn, Maria Lebow-Little, Burdick, John Leupold, Ed Cherneski and Grant Garcia.

Not in attendance:

Mario Schiappacasse Brandon Wright, Rachel Breen, Steve Fisher and Scott Gibson.

President's remarks:

Burdick praised the good job that Gibson did during the annual meeting.

Thanked Cherneski for his great idea of inviting Admiral Heights residents to attend a combined tailgater with the Naval Academy Class of 2003. He said that everyone was very nice and it was a very family oriented event.

He said about 100 people turned out for the Candidate Forum which he considered a good turnout. He said Fred Paone's election to alderman for Ward 2 had been confirmed earlier today. He won by 56 votes.

Minutes

The September and October general membership minutes were approved. The general membership minutes can be posted to the web with the following caveat: "Draft as approved by the Board."

Treasurer's Report

For the first time the association received \$9,000 in membership dues. AHIA also received \$460 in donations.

The association has paid its biggest expense which is the insurance. Also, it paid for last year's and this year's block party. Expenses included \$2,509 for insurance, \$110 for the Halloween party, and \$200 for the Navy tailgater.

Thanks to the membership form attached to the newsletter, AHIA didn't have to do a second mailing for membership dues. This saved 475+ on mailing costs.

Traffic circle improvements & Quick Books contributed to the association's being over budget. The association has also paid bank fees when people overdrew their accounts to pay for their dues and/or rack rentals.

The treasurer noted that the laptop runs very slow. It takes 20 minutes to get it up and running. Leupold will look at it.

Gibson has a list of residents who haven't paid for their racks.

Reconciliation and discrepancies in the treasurer's report include overdrafts and other bank fees.

Some confusion existed about how much AHIA would have to pay for the tree removal. Thanks to the efforts of our treasurer, AHIA was able to recoup \$1,500 and only needed to pay \$500.

Events

Santa Run - – Sunday, Dec. 10, 4:45 p.m., Halsey Park. Burdick will bring a table, hot chocolate and either cookies or cupcakes.

Crews said that John Hammond of the Santa Run was happy with the turnout in our community last year.

Garcia said that many people confuse the Santa Run with a 5K. He suggested renaming the event. Other board members noted that since it's not our event, we can't rename it, but we can help educate Admiral Heights residents about it. It's a city-wide event where Santa Claus visits various communities aboard a fire truck. Families bring unwrapped gifts for needy children. Children in the community meet Santa.

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

Grounds Committee

Garcia said after a rain the bottom of Dewey Dock resembled a mud pit. He talked to contractor Christian Zazzali about putting more gravel down. He estimates it to cost \$100 - \$200. The question is, "How far up the bank do we want to put the gravel?" He likes the idea of putting down two or three sections of gravel.

He also talked to Nina Fisher about pulling weeds and English ivy.

He plans to replace boards and do other dock repairs to Dewey Dock between now and April. He made a motion for \$200 in upgrade expenses to Dewey Dock to come out of the Facilities Maintenance budget. The motion was approved with five voting for it, one abstaining from the vote, and one coming in late and not voting.

Next year the funds for the circle will come out of maintenance instead of Capital Improvements. Next year he expects his budget to increase by \$1,000 to \$1,200. He is looking at increased costs, possible improvements to Halsey Park, and putting PVC or metal in the ground or concrete for Breen to attach signs to.

Weems Creek Matters

Cherneski got a couple more volunteers after the last meeting. The City approved the proposed changes to the Hudson Street project after the last meeting. The next step is to get approval for the grading. People can keep tabs on what's going on by looking at the Planning and Zoning spreadsheet.

On Oct. 6 the Severn River Commission wrote a letter to the mayor, the county executive, the City Council and the County Council, saying the 39 Hudson Street project should be reviewed. It was approved anyway.

The commission is concerned because 1.7 acres of mature growth will be cleared and the 14 percent grading is highly erodible. At the same time that this project is putting more silt into Weems Creek, \$9.3 million is being spent to remove silt from Weems Creek. It seems incredible to the Commission that tax dollars are being spent to remove all silt from the creek at the same time that the City is making more silt.

Burdick said two gullies are going into the headwaters of the creek and that the project could be made better. He said that the city and county aren't on the same sheet because these projects no longer go before a planning board. He said the Planning Commission should see these plans and coordinate with the county.

He said the 39 Hudson Street project wasn't approved by the Planning Commission. Burdick wondered how much silt would go back into the creek as a result of the City's approving these plans and ignoring the Severn River Commission's letter.

Cherneski said the project's grading still needs to be approved.

AHIA doesn't post the water quality on our website, but if Cherneski gets the website for water quality, we can post that.

Neighborhood Watch

The next Neighborhood Safety Meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 13 at the Annapolis Police Department at 199 Taylor Ave.

Some block party pictures were used in the Capital. Other block party pictures reached 18,222 people on Facebook.

Traffic Calming and Public Safety

Speed cameras and signs are up on Farragut by Schley and Ludlow roads. An "Autobox" is on the Rowe Boulevard side of Farragut Road.

What do members want from us?

1. Gravel on Dewey Dock.
2. Contract between the Boat Club and AHIA for the dock on Williams Drive with a 70 -30 split in costs for new dock with the Boat Club paying 70 percent and AHIA paying 30 percent.

Questions

1. What are the options to recoup the money AHIA will be spending on the dock on Williams Drive and the loss of the \$500 “donation” that the Boat Club was making to AHIA to improve the other docks and common areas? Should we raise dues, cut back on events, raise rack rentals, all of the above? What other ways can we cut back?
2. For the past few years AHIA has had \$17,000 to \$19,000 in its checking account. We’re anticipating \$12,000 in the future. How much money do we need to have to ensure that we can take care of emergencies or unplanned expenses?
3. What’s the estimate for the dock? What will be AHIA’s share of the cost? Will we have a quote before December? We need to check with Gibson as he’s our liaison.
4. When will the work begin and when will it be completed?
5. What’s our financial goal?

Financial goal

AHIA should have a year’s worth of money in reserve. The top end of this should be between \$18,000 and \$19,000. AHIA is a nonprofit which means it doesn’t exist to save money but to have good facilities for Admiral Heights residents.

However, its cash reserve should not go below a year’s worth of expenses and not above two years of expenses unless the association is saving for a specific goal such as doing something with Halsey Park. Of course, in 2002 a hat was passed to improve Dewey Dock, so this is also an option.

If we ask to raise dues or cut back on events, we need to give a reason for it such as increased expenditures, Capital Improvements, etc. In the case of capital improvements, a target date should be set as to when we plan to achieve our goal.

One board member said that the association’s dues were “ridiculously low.” Another questioned, “Which events would we want to cut?” Still another proposed increasing the dues and the rack rentals. Suggestions for increases included making both \$40, making one \$40 and the other \$50, adding \$10 to the present cost of each, and making our prices the same as the Boat Club’s.

The board has three more meetings (December, January, February) before we have to propose a draft budget to the membership (March). It was suggested that the conversation be tabled until we have a larger quorum.

Mom’s Club

No report.

Webmaster

Leupold received a notification from Go Daddy that to renew our domain name will cost \$20 per year and hosting will cost \$200 per year. He's going to explore the possibility of getting this cheaper. The last time we paid for the Internet was when Bert Collins served as webmaster. We paid for more than one year to save money. Leupold is also going to check if there's a better rate for "not for profit" organizations. He's also going to wait to see if there's a possibility of a better deal. The bill isn't due until Jan. 15 so he has time to explore options.

Next agenda

Garcia proposed putting an update on the Boat Club contract on the next agenda. He also wants to put getting a rack list of who's paid and who hasn't on the agenda.

WNAV property

Tom Baum of Bozzuto Homes says the company no longer plans to have a road "break into" Admiral Heights. The company is still considering purchasing the land but has not closed on it yet. Also, no plans have been submitted to the City Council or Planning Commission.

The letter writing campaign by AHIA members had a huge effect on the company's decision not to break through Admiral Heights.

Communications

At some point it was suggested that something be written about the "State of the Community" or the "State of the Heights." This should include an update on the dock construction, an update on WNAV, and an update on the association's financial situation. This should be disseminated by newsletter or flier, e-mail blast and website.

To do

Send pdf of September and October 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 see who's paid – Gibson

Give Lebow-Little the wording for the rack invoice – Gibson

Write letter to Bozzuto about the cut through – Gibson

Retain counsel – Gibson

Look at laptop – Leupold

Bring refreshments to Santa Run – Burdick

Get the water quality website to Leupold for posting – Cherneski

Post water quality website – Leupold

Look at options that will save on Internet domain and hosting Internet services – Leupold

Update on Boat Club contract and looking at the rack list to month's agenda – Burdick

Write article on “State of the Community” or “State of the Heights - Burdick

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by

Martha Thorn

Secretary