

Minutes of CCH 11-18-09 Board Meeting

Attendance: Hildie Carney, Alyssa DeLutis - Hoeth, Andy Pachuta, Nina Prescott, Stephanie Uttenweiler, Steve Caruso, Dia Pullen, Ernie Klimonda, Judy Fraser. Alyssa DeLutis- Hoeth was introduced to the Board as the Chair of the Community Appearance Committee.

Treasurers Report: \$1,563 restricted funds and \$2,531 unrestricted funds
Andy will send one invoice to Mr. Margrave and if he chooses not to pay, there will be no further attempt at collections.

Secretary: Minutes from the August 19, 2009 meeting were approved as read

President's Report: Carney reported that the students from GMU for "witch watch" were thanked for their patrolling of the neighborhood
Carney will feature Steve Caruso for the "getting to know you" article this quarter.

Civic Affairs: Judy spoke to the City's Director of Public Services (Rusty) about clearing the path along Old Lee Highway as you approach St. Leo's. He expressed concern as there had been a past incident of the homeowner on that route verbally abusing the work crew. **Hildie** will call Rusty again to escalate issue.

Judy mentioned that there was a motion by the City to create a hoarding task force for the city.

Judy and Hildie attended a Council of Associations meeting, comprised of representatives from various civic and home owner associations in the city. This new (or new again as Ernie pointed out) Association will meet quarterly.

Judy has been appointed to the city's Environmental Sustainability Committee:

The Environmental Sustainability Committee will have eight members appointed by the City Council to serve two-year terms. The committee is expected to meet bi-monthly. The committee will be tasked with submitting an annual report to the City Council that includes findings on the current condition of the city's environmental resources; proposed policies and programs that support the preservation, protection and enhancement of the city's environmental resources; and evaluation as to the effectiveness of existing programs and policies to protect the environment."

Block : Steve discussed the flyers that are still being delivered hard copy. Next flyer should have reminder that email is an option! The "membership push" was successful and worthwhile as the membership was increased from 78 to 144 members.

Publications: Andy asked for the newsletter articles. Submission date has

been moved to November 27th.

Ernie discussed including photos of Rita Lamb from 1954 currently available on the website in the article about her life and passing in the next newsletter. All liked the idea and Hildie said she would meet with daughter Jill and write the article.

Discussed an "in memoriam" section to include Tommy Ross and Mr. Gerson. Steve mentioned a neighbor may write a piece about Tommy, if so, he will forward to Andy for the newsletter.

Directory: Ernie reported that the city charged us for the cover paper for the latest Directory Addendum. Ernie will continue to keep the official members database but he suggests that a Directory Committee be formed to write the next Directory. Carney to appoint.

Ernie pointed out the babysitting directory could be more up-to-date and informative. Dia volunteered to organize. She will reach out to the neighborhood Mom's group for help and ideas to improve.

Marketing: A person is needed to handle looking for ads for newsletter/directory. Board needs to be looking for someone.

Social: Nina and Stephanie were pleased with the Halloween turnout despite the spotty weather. 24 pizza were ordered and the 4 extra at the end of the event, GMU's Witch Watch happily took back to their dorms. Everyone was pleased with the addition of the Witch Watch and we would invite them back next year. Stephanie felt that the Halloween costume contest portion of the evening seemed to upset the children. Noone objected to coming up with a different activity next year – ideas of a fire truck parade or a raffle are possibilities.

Stephanie will forward Nina the contact info for Santa – Marty Farmer. He needs to be called immediately so the dates can be submitted for the newsletter. Steve Caruso volunteered to drive one night. We need to solicit for another driver in the newsletter article as well. Possibility of utilizing the Harley group's Mr. and Mrs. Santa and the sleigh was brought up, but the consensus was that we liked the consistency of the same Santa. As was last year, the parents will be responsible for providing the presents. Hildie was going to provide Nina a backup Santa's name for the records.

Community Safety: In the absence of Thomas, Hildie discussed including some of the City emails referring to safety in the next newsletter. We agreed to include the texting/sexting ones. The Street Smart could be included in the following newsletter.

The police ticket report was discussed, no surprise that the greatest number of tickets were handed out around Fairfax High School.

Community Appearance: Alyssa reported on the Margrove project. Neighbors have donated more hours to helping with the bamboo and Jeff Seffens took care of the mowing.

The Holiday decoration project is placed under this committee. A committee will be formed to create the categories (Ernie has sent previous year's) and a date for judging will be set. Allysa to write up for the newsletter.

The house at Cornwall and Park Hill was mentioned as one that may need help.

Adopt a Spot: Discussed Adopt a Spot, fall event did not happen. Spring event normally scheduled to coincide with the city's Adopt a Spot day. Hildie will nag Mr. Horn to ensure it happens.

Welcoming: in absence of Yanji, Ernie welcomed 9 new neighbors and 7 joined as members.

Historian: Ernie spent 62 hours (ERNIE ROCKS!!) scanning documents from Steve Lescure's historian stash onto our website. There are over 200+ documents available. Hildie will nag Steve to write an article on the variety and availability for the newsletter.

Publicity: Hildie will nag Katie about getting the third sign for community announcements.

New Business: Ernie motioned (Nina seconded) to upgrade the Community Appearance committee from special to standing. This will require writing a description and amending the bylaws. Judy was volunteered to chair this committee and Alissa, Ernie and Hildie will serve on the committee. There was a general discussion of the tone of the committee – it was agreed that a Home Owners punitive model was not the goal but instead neighbors helping neighbors. Houses in disrepair or becoming unsafe or just short term help due to an illness or elderly on their own are examples where we could lend a hand. Alissa mentioned larger projects could be teamed up with local church organizations or teens needing community service hours.

Judy Fraser proposed a new social event for the Spring – evening walks to meet your neighbors. Idea was well liked and can be further developed at the next Board meeting.

Discussed supporting ODB with a \$75 neighborhood deduction. Agreed and

Dia will go to the website and click the "donate now" button and submit receipt for Andy to reimburse. Alyssa will contact Maggie at Lanier Middle School for the name of a family we can donate Christmas funds. Ideally the family will be on the ODB list. We want to support ODB but also have insight into the family so we can properly tailor the donations to their needs. Dia will write the newsletter article and organize. Hildie and Alyssa will be in charge of actually delivering donation.

Old Business: The Committee to rewrite the guidelines for the yahoo group met and finalized them. Ernie, Hildie Lisa Whetzel and Katie Gagen were on the committee. Ernie will post the guidelines, ideally so they pop-up as a reminder before a member submits. There was a discussion on the screening of non-relevant submissions. Not all agreed with Ernie's analysis. But he pointed out he hasn't had any cancellations since he cleaned up the email addresses and started managing, so we will defer to his wisdom. Also discussed whether second posting when an item was no longer available for sale was allowed, and group conclusion is that was not kosher and Hildie will remove from the guidelines before they are posted on the website.

Adjournment: Closed by deciding next meeting will be on Thur. March 11th at 7:30 at Steve Caruso's house.