

July Board Meeting Minutes July 8, 2014

Caribbean Festival

Sonja reported that the festival will take place on July 12-13. She explained she represented the community's concerns at the ICE meeting that she had received via email. Unfortunately, it was held only 10 days before the festival so there was not a genuine opportunity for the community's concerns to be addressed. 90 days after the festival, a meeting will be held to debrief the festival and address any concerns about the festival. Sound testing will not begin until 11am and they will have to be off the streets by 5pm. The parade will start at 900 block of 33rd and Ellerslie and proceed toward Clifton Park. Debra asked for clarification about the exact origin point and also raised some concerns about the trash collection and cleanup after the event.

Giant Step Forward Committee

Debra presented on an email from Giant from Mr. Mudd, the manager of Giant, dated July 3. He gave some updates on some areas discussed: a pick up associate is walking the perimeter cleaning up the trash; the landlord had 4 speed bumps added; the designated walking and biking lane cannot be added due to liability; caution signs will be added in the parking lot; the front end manager and staff are monitoring traffic in the fire line; hackers have been told to leave if they don't abide by the rules; the restrooms will be checked every 2 hours; PNC bank will open in July; Giant has hired someone to return shopbacks to the shelves; they have acquired 75 more shopping carts including 3 electronic mark carts, with 2 more on order; they are working on training and improving service standards and the cashier schedule; they are also working on the quality of produce; the community room will be available for community use. Giant and the communities are considering planning a celebration later on to celebrate that changes have been made.

Sylvia Bay, the service manager of Giant, attended the meeting and shared that she is always available to address customer concerns and stresses customer service with her staff. She also shared that the number to the store is 410-649-4180.

National Night Out

Debra shared that she received an email from Patricia Taylor asking about National Night Out. She would like to join us if we are indeed having National Night Out. It is taking place on Tuesday, August 5. Debra shared some past National Night Out events. Ultimately, we decided not to pursue this event at this time.

Safety Update

Joe went to a meeting at Charles Village Community Benefits District. It was for people in sector 1 (one of the three sectors of the Northern District) to prepare to come together for an event. This will be an opportunity to address issues of common concern and strategize solutions. Joe is waiting to hear an official date of the

meeting. The Northern District Community Counsel meeting will take place July 16 at 7pm.

Schoolhouse Garden Ceremony

Joe shared some information about the history of the school and reported on what took place at the ribbon cutting yesterday (July 7).

General Meeting

Joe explained that the general meeting will take place on Thursday, September 25 from 6 to 8pm. Hopkins has reserved space for us at Eastern so that we can hold the meeting there. Elections will take place at this meeting. Joe explained that a presentation typically occurs at this meeting. In the past, Mary Pat Clarke has presented as well as the commander of the Northern District. We will invite Mary Pat, Giant, and Jermain from Waverly Main Street. Sonja mentioned that we need to advertise throughout the neighborhood. Morgan shared that she will be leaving the Waverly Main Street board and is looking for someone from the neighborhood to replace her.

Housing Committee Update

Phil shared that he has been monitoring three properties.

The first is 614 E 31st St of Cindy Hartzler Miller. She is getting new windows and a new porch roof. Cindy has already been to CHAP to verify that the work is acceptable. Phil made a suggestion about the style of gutter.

The second property is 708 Homestead. The owner had previously asked to take off the asphalt shingles. The wood siding is in pretty good shape and only needs to be repaired in a few places. They hold a permit to start on gas, plumbing, and interior doors and have received notice to proceed from CHAP. Three units are allowed in the building.

The third is 615 Homestead. Unpermitted work was taking place and they had not pulled a permit since 2010. A stop work notice has been issued. A new contractor is looking for guidance on what should be done with the house. Phil plans to work with Eddie Leham from CHAP to provide recommendations on the renovations.

Sylvia asked about 901 Goursuch. A stop work order has been issued, but Sylvia and others mentioned that they have seen workers there. Joe suggested that we do a walk in the fall to take stock of the housing in the neighborhood. Morgan has a spreadsheet of vacants and non-occupied that she will share with Phil. Debra also mentioned that 3000 Frisby St, which was given to BWCO about 15 years ago through receivership, still remains vacant.

Sonja mentioned that Robert Hardy is squatting on a house at 3025 Frisby St. He is a registered, tier 3 sex offender (sexual assault on a child under 12). He is using that address on the registry. People on the block have started a petition to have him removed. Josh mentioned that we could check to see if he is on parole or probation

and potentially pursue that avenue to have him removed. Sharneasha, the next door neighbor, also attended the meeting and shared some more information about the situation. Mr. Hardy has been there since March and is now charging rent to others. Joe suggested contacting the Northern District Community Relations Officer to see what his status is to be in that property.

Phil also shared that a meeting will take place tomorrow at the 29th Street Community Center at 5pm to discuss reconstruction on Greenmount Avenue. It will concern 33rd and 29th resurfacing. Joe shared that this is the long fought for thing. Several board members plan to attend. Joe plans to advocate for pedestrian safety.

Youth Committee Update

Debra gave an update on the summer programming at 901 Arts, which includes theater, drums, and art, as well as youth workers. 901 Day, the fish fry, will take place September 4. The sax camp will take place August 4-14.