

BWCO Annual Meeting
September 25, 2014

Call to Order/Annual Report

Sonja Merchant-Jones called the meeting to order at 6:15, then introduced the board of directors and gave an annual report overviewing the work of the organization over the year and previewing some of the work to come.

Real Estate Update

Andre from Greater Homewood shared some information about the organization and some loan programs available to help buyers purchase homes and homeowners to renovate homes.

Andre announced the following upcoming events:

- Flea Market October 18-19 to benefit Waverly Elementary School.
- September 27, Buying into Baltimore event, 9-2 at Poly Western
- October 9, Hopkins Home Tour
- October 16, Saturday Open House Event

Department of Public Works

Tiffany Walker, community liaison for the Department of Public Works, shared several updates from her department.

- She explained that residents are discouraged from putting oils, meat fats, salad dressing, butter, and dairy products down the drain as these materials can solidify in your pipes and cause back ups. The department is Encouraging people to collect these materials in cans or plastic bags and throw them away in the garbage. She also provided free lids for cans to collect grease and oil.
- Tiffany also spoke about the Baltimeter program. The city is replacing all the water meters in Baltimore City and County with new digital meters that will provide greater accuracy and enable residents to better monitor their use.. Residents will be notified before their meters are replaced.
- Tiffany also shared information about Home Serve USA program, an optional program that offers homeowners a service plan/warranty program that will cover exterior sewer and water line breaks. Homeowners should check with their insurance provider to see if they are already covered. Home Serve USA has a hardship fund for low income residents.
- Phil LaCombe voiced concern about the markings on trees in blue spray paint. Tiffany shared that they are not yet working in our area so they are not responsible for the spray painting
- Sharon Busching asked about street sweeping. Mary Pat shared that below 33rd should receive street sweeping every week. The streets need to have signs put in place before the street sweeping can start.

Mary Pat Clarke, Councilwoman

- Mary Pat spoke about the upcoming election on November 4, during which city residents will vote to approve 130 million in bonds for capital improvements at various Baltimore institutions.
- A resident from the 900 Block of Montpelier spoke about how safety issues and possible drug dealing on her block and made a request for better street lighting. Phil spoke about what BWCO is doing to address that block. He explained that BWCO is trying to push forward a receivership case at 914 Montpelier and is monitoring other vacant properties on that block. The Greening Committee is working to revitalize the Orchard. Mary Pat shared that she will help with the process.

Police Department, Officer Barnett

- Judy said the drug activity is occurring at Independence and Gorsuch and that there have been break ins on Gorsuch. Officer Barnett said he will notify the drug unit.
- Officer Barnett shared some recent crimes that have occurred in the neighborhood.
 - Robberies on 3200-3400 Ellerslie. The police have a detail unit on that block by a patrol officer.
 - August 24-932 Gorsuch attempted arson between 5pm and 8am. Suspect stuffed paper in the gas pipe, but it did not work. Suspect is unknown.
 - August 24-attempt armed robbery on Matthews Street
 - August 30-2700 Reese, car robbery
 - September 6-residential robbery 1103 Gorsuch, copper pipes stolen from vacant property
 - September 8-6:30 am, residential robbery, Exeter hall
 - September 17-aggravated assault in the morning, probably domestic
- Sharon asked about loitering at steps at Belle Terre and Ellerslie. Officer said to call 911 if crimes are in progress.
- Other residents spoke about problems with loitering at the store at Gorsuch and Independence
- Office Barnett shared his contact information:
james.barnett@baltimorepolice.org, 410-367-6427

BWCO Board Elections

Cathleen O'Neal ran elections for the new board of directors of BWCO. The following residents were elected; Cathleen O'Neal, Phil LaCombe, Joe Stewart, Debra Evans, Abby Neyenhouse, Judy Bellamy, Eleanor Montgomery, Mary Hughee, Violet Wise, Sonja Merchant-Jones, Josh Greenberg. Joe motioned that we accept the candidates, and Winifred seconded. The slate was put to a vote and accepted

901 Arts

Sarah Tooley of 901 Arts along with several students presented on programming at the arts center.