

Better Waverly Community Organization December Board Meeting

December 9, 2014

Sonja began the meeting at 7pm. All present introduced themselves and welcomed the new residents and visitors in attendance.

Minutes Approval

Sonja asked if any corrections should be made to the minutes. No corrections were put forth. Debra motioned that we accept the minutes. Joe seconded. The minutes were accepted.

BCPD Report

Officer Doug gave us a snapshot of crime stats for the year. Total crime (violent and property) is down 8% for the year, though violent crime is up 8%. Aggravated assaults are up 5%. Armed robberies are up 15%. An increase in robberies is typical at this time of year. Shootings are down 18%. Officer Doug expressed that these numbers will probably be what we end up with, though there could be some changes as the year comes to a close.

Andy asked if the police were doing anything to respond to the recent cases of police brutality throughout the country and in Baltimore City. Officer Doug responded that no tactical changes have taken place and nothing specific has been said to address the issue, but that he is likely the point person. Debra expressed concern about package theft in lower Charles village and Ednor Gardens. Officer Doug explained that the package thief, Lance Sturgess, has been identified and the police are working on building a case against him. Debra expressed concern that the officer in a recent video of Mr. Sturgess said there was nothing the police could do about him because he had a mental problem. Officer Doug expressed that this is not the case. Officer Doug also explained that Marvin Wilson, a man who stands in the middle of Greenmount and causes trouble for the businesses, is back. Officer Doug said that the police are working on the issue. Phil noted that brutality complaints for BCPD have been cut nearly in half this year. Officer Doug said that improvements were being made to identify problem officers to address the issue.

Board Assessment: Phil, Abby, and Andy

Phil outlined the process and gave the directions for the planning activity. Tonight, we will name committee members and meet in small work groups to discuss our goals and objectives for the year. After this meeting, each committee is expected to come up with their own fundraising plan and determine what events they want to hold. In January, the planning group will review the plans and give feedback. In February, we will approve the plans. In March, we will be able to present the plan at the general membership meeting.

Phil suggested that we first name the chairs of the committee and explained that according to the by-laws, the co-chairs are supposed to appoint chairs. Sonja

recommended that members volunteer to chair committees. Our committees are as follows, with the chair indicated in **bold**.

- Safety-**Joe**
- Finance-**Debra** and Eleanor
- Fundraising-**Sonja**, Darcia, Andy
- Greening-**Andy**, Cathleen, Abby, Joe, and Phil
- Housing, Sanitation, and Code Enforcement-**Phil**, Joe, Andy
- Land Use and Architectural Review-**Phil**, Judy, Josh, Debra, Dani
- Activities and Events-**Abby**, Sonja, Eleanor, Joe
- Youth-**Debra**, Dani, Mary, Eleanor, Darcia

After the planning session, Andy called the groups back together. Abby explained that she, Andy, and Phil will compile the notes. Each committee should determine their goals and responsibilities by January's meeting.

General Meeting Planning

Debra suggested that we determine a date for the general meeting. Joe suggested that we combine the board meeting and the general meeting into one and have it at Serenity Place. Phil motioned that we hold the board of directors at Hopkins in a smaller space. Abby seconded the motion and recommended that we have board members at the door to welcome participants.

Eleanor made a motion that we hold the General Meeting on at March 26, 6:30-8:00 at Eastern, with a fall back snow date of April 2. Abby seconded. Motion passed. Sonja volunteered to coordinate with Hopkins to reserve the room.

Announcements

Andy requested permission to shut down iNeighbors. He has the authority to shut down the site since he created it. He will send reminders and urge everyone to join Nextdoor as an alternative.

Andre announced that the Second Saturday Open House will be held this Saturday, December 13. 921 Gorsuch will be included this weekend. Andre urged everyone to attend, even if they are already a homeowner, to promote the neighborhood.

Youth Committee

Debra reported that students from 901 Arts performed at an arts space on Oliver Street and at the Charm City Craft Show. 901 Arts students are selling art at the MICA art market from 10-6 this Saturday. They will also be at Pat's Art Show this weekend at 808 Gorsuch.

Housing Committee

Phil gave an update on the house that burned at the corner of Frisby and Homestead. Repairs are in progress. 615 Homestead St has changed ownership and the new owner has hired an architect who has experience with historical properties.

They are committed to properly restoring the property. Construction should start in February. 708 Homestead is stalled currently because the owner did not show up to a scheduled meeting.

Abbottston ES

Sonja shared that there was a meeting concerning Abbottston ES. She asked if the board would like to support a letter. Andy said we should send a letter expressing one position or another since we were asked to take a position. Since we did not seem to have a consensus, it was determined that individuals would send letters instead of BWCO.

Cathleen made a motion to adjourn. Abby seconded.