

**Better Waverly Community Organization**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2015**

Sonja asked if the March minutes were accepted. Joe moved that we accept the minutes. Phil seconded. The minutes were accepted.

Othniel Hutchinson of HUDU Clothing Company

Sonja introduced Mr. Hutchinson, with HUDU Clothing and Company. Mr. Hutchinson is planning to have a Father's Day Cookout, Saturday, June 20, 2015 in Clifton Park from about noon to 9pm. There will be food, music, and children's activities. Mr. Hutchinson is interested in partnering with BWCO to make the event a success and have it serve as a partial fundraiser for BWCO. This event will be the first annual one and HUDU Clothing Company plans to hold the event each year. Mr. Hutchinson explained that he needs to partner with a non-profit in order to hold his event in a public park. BWCO will not have any financial obligations. Debra asked if Mr. Hutchinson had approached CHUM to see if they would like to partner. He reported that he had reached out to them, but had not heard back. Sonja expressed her interest in BWCO moving forward with the partnership as it would allow us to raise money for the board. Judy expressed that she can see both sides. Joe expressed his concern about the event and possible connections to the Caribbean Festival. Joe would like to see us focus on events in the neighborhood, rather than sponsor new events outside the neighborhood. Phil expressed his thanks to Sonja for thinking outside the box in looking for funding, and stated his support for the event given that it is a positive event and Mr. Hutchinson's connection to our neighborhood through his sale of clothing on our main street. Debra asked about how the financial aspects and bills would work. Mr. Hutchinson confirmed that everything is attached to his name and address, so he would be the responsible party.

Phil made a motion that we refer this issue to the activities and Events Committee to have them make a recommendation to the board. Joe seconded. The motion was approved.

Youth Committee

Debra shared some information about having Sarah become an employee of Greater Homewood, meaning they would handle all the financial aspects of her position (ie taxes, benefits, etc). Her immediate supervisors would remain Debra and Eleanor. Debra made a motion that BWCO would approve Sarah Tooley to be an employee of Greater Homewood as the director of 901 Arts. Judy seconded. The motion passed.

Finance Committee and Activities and Events Committee

Sonja shared the progress she made towards securing the MECU grant for our June Love where you Live Fest. She shared that remaining funds could go towards National Night Out . We received \$400 this year. Dorthea, the grant manager, explained that our community appears fairly well off and is not in as much need as other communities. Sonja shared that Doretha told her that next year communities that appear to have funds will not be considered for the grant. Poojay Sanpathi from the Office of Promotion also confirmed this. Joe asked if Sonja was planning to attend the mandatory grant workshop. She confirmed that she will attend. Joe also shared that the activities and events committee discussed this within the

committee. Eleanor asked if the events committee will coordinate these events. Joe said that the committee will take the lead, but will reach out to other committees for support.

#### Safety Committee

Joe reported the Better Waverly is one of five neighborhoods in the Northern District chosen to participate in a neighborhood pilot project for 90 days. We have been assigned Officer Bruce Hub. Joe and Office Hub walked around the neighborhood and Joe sent an email around asking what we consider the top safety issues and quality of life issues in the neighborhood. Joe requested that everyone send him a response to that query. Joe explained that this is part of the police department's attempt to build community trust. Joe shared that he signed up for the community cadet police program. Joe also announced the Blue Mass at St. Johns in the Village on Tuesday, April 28 at 6:30, followed by a reception. The next Northern District Community Council will be held on Wednesday, May 20 at 7pm. Joe sent a message to the state's attorney's office about the carjackings to get an update, but has not yet heard back.

Officer O'Donnell stressed the importance of communicating safety issues, even concerns about the elderly, to the the police department. Officer O'Donnell stated that he will work on cutting the grass at the sculpture garden.

#### Greening Committee

We will participate in the Mayor's Clean Up Day on April 25. We will meet in the Montpelier Orchard (918 Montpelier) and will work in the orchard and on other areas in need of cleaning in the neighborhood.

Homestead Harvest is interested in joining the Baltimore Toolbank. You must be a non-profit to join. Cathleen would like to pursue this on behalf of BWCO so that various groups in the neighborhood can have access to the Tool Bank. It is free to join, and you rent the tools at a reduced rate. Cathleen made a motion that the board approve the Greening Committee pursue an application to the Baltimore Tool Bank. Phil seconded. The Board approved.

#### Land Use and Architectural Review

The committee met April 13. Phil shared that the committee heard a proposal from Pastor Jackson of Greater St. Stephen's Church to construct an apartment building on the lot across from the church on the 1100 block of Montpelier. The committee asked the pastor to come back with plans when he is ready to pursue the project. Phil shared that there is little movement on 708 Homestead. The committee also talked with Mary Pat Clarke about foreclosing on 816 and 818 Homestead (lots adjacent to the sculpture garden) so that the lots could be for community use. Work on 615 Homestead is proceeding as planned.

#### Treasurer's Report

Debra reported that the tax return was filed. We also received the certificate that we are in good standing as a charitable organization. Debra shared an updated profit and loss report for BWCO between July 2014 to March 2015. Sonja asked what money outside of the youth committee and Artlink goes to other operating costs of BWCO. Joe stated that the Community Outreach and General Operating columns show the money available for other purposes.

#### Announcements

Debra shared that the Drum line will perform at MICA on April 16. 901 Arts will host an Earth Day celebration at the Sculpture Garden on April 22 from 3-6pm.

Sonja announced that on May 7 Mary Pat's kickoff for reelection for the 14th District will take place from 5-7. Debra is selling tickets, for a donation of \$25.

Cathleen announced the Greater Homewood Neighborhood Institute on April 18.

Joe motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Phil seconded.