

Juniper Hill Civic Association
Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 13, 2009

The meeting commenced at 7:40 pm.

The following officers were present:

Brenda Mattavous, President

Arthur Chisolm, Treasurer

Alphonso Leonce, Corresponding Secretary

Millicent Stewart, Recording Secretary

There were 23 Civic Association members present, and Paul Feiner, Town Supervisor and Chief Kapica joined us.

Meeting Minutes for June 23, 2008 were distributed, along with an agenda. Minutes were available in Spanish, thanks to Claudia Lavado.

Brenda opened the meeting by welcoming new residents who have moved into the neighborhood or who have not attended a meeting before. She also asked that we review the June 23 meeting minutes. The minutes were reviewed and accepted by those in attendance.

Arthur, the Treasurer, reported that the treasury has \$938.10, which included interest. Brenda motioned that we not collect additional dues, because the balance is sufficient at this point. It was seconded and accepted.

It was asked that residents volunteer to be block captains for Russell Street and Greenvale Circle, even if they don't live on those streets. Midge Varvarro initially volunteered for Russell St, but later "volunteered" the resident, Rosann Motts, who lives at 105 Russell St. to assist with the distribution of correspondence and notices. Greenvale Circle still has no block captain.

Volunteers are also needed to plant flowers by the Civic Association Signs, and Sue ____ again offered to handle the sign on Juniper Hill Road. No one volunteered for the sign on Fair Street (perhaps because of the debris, uncut grass, etc.)

The by-laws were distributed, noting that officers should be elected, by vote, for a term of one year. It was agreed upon that the civic association is important in order to know and help each other, come together as a community, and address problems that need to be corrected.

Therefore, the following positions were opened for election and nominated as follows:

President – Sue
Vice President – Alphonso Leonce
Chairman – unnamed
Recording Secretary – Millicent Stewart (continues)
Correspondence Secretary – Seth Segall
Treasurer – Arthur Chisolm (continues)

John Malone motioned to accept all nominations, and all in attendance agreed.

General Information Update

Paul Feiner joined us and spoke on the following:

Job Club: posted daily online and since it's inception, 11-12 people have received jobs. He spoke of a company coming to our area (*Biotech?*) in the fall of this year, and if anyone is interested, they should apply online or contact Paul.

Budget/Taxes were brought up, and Paul shared with us that there had been a tremendous loss in mortgage taxes, sales tax, and other revenues. And because expenses have not decreased, where should budget cuts be made? A Fire Consolidation Commission is being put in place to review possible fire department cuts John Malone serving as a representative from our neighborhood, and they will meet and look at the operations and finances to consider a transition team.

A Budget Citizens Committee is also being put together to discuss other areas of possible budget cuts, and because the community is needed to get involved with suggestions and decision-making, he is asking residents to volunteer and participate on this committee and others.

In addition, the town is looking at raising fees in order to maintain a financial balance.

Paul shared that the town is promoting **energy conservation** and has 3 electric cars (only \$10/month) as a result of a special program.

Because DPW wasn't represented at the meeting, Paul asked that Brenda email him with the issues that can't be addressed today, and he will get responses back to us.

Water problems on Juniper Hill – directed into people's homes: Paul will meet with Ms Gray at 36 Juniper Hill on Tuesday, July 21 at 12:30 pm to gain perspective on the seriousness.

We, as a group, have petitioned against the commercial opening/access directly onto a residential street (Russell St) and in our residential neighborhood and are waiting to hear back. We were told that the Zoning Board voted "no" but the Planning Board has the last say. With regard to construction on Russell Street, truck entries, etc., Paul will speak to the Commissioner of Planning.

Chief Kapica addressed the following:

We have seen an increase in **shopping carts** in the neighborhood. The Chief told us that they are trying to get establishments that have shopping carts to install electronic wheel locks to keep the carts from leaving the premises and that this is the best option. They charged fines to the establishments (\$35) and summons to people (\$25), but this is not effective - some of the violators are seniors.

“No Parking” sign on Russell will be taken care of.

“Cut outs” on Russell a problem when snow; they try to balance enforcement when vehicles are in or on the street and cause safety concerns.

“Stop Sign” not always enforced at the bottom of Russell & Fulton. Unfortunately, it’s a bad intersection and is dually owned by White Plains and Greenburgh. Not much can be done.

“Speeding” cannot be managed by speed bumps because of issues directly caused by them, i.e., water redirects, ices in winter, and would cause more accidents than would be alleviated. Yellow “Caution” signs are not enforceable and speed limit on Juniper Hill is 30MPH.

A resident asked if we could have more patrol cars in the area, and because of cutbacks (6 less patrol officers), priorities have to be made. **Crime Update:** lowest level of crime in 2007, increase in burglary in 2008, and burglaries targeting Asian families in 2009.

Residents asked about the “closing” of Juniper Hill last week, and Chief Kapica informed us that a resident threatened to take his own life and that of his family members. This was avoided, and the update was communicated to Napoleon Mitchell.

Zoning Problems: Unauthorized trucks parked in driveways and yards in a residential area were again brought up, and the Chief informed us that police couldn’t issue or enforce summonses for this. Only the Building Department has the authority, and they will act based on the strength of a police report submitted. Midget suggested we start attending the zoning board meetings and speak up about our “quality of life” issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Millicent Stewart, Recording Secretary

Brenda Mattavous, President

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