

Juniper Hill Civic Association
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 17, 2010

The meeting commenced at 7:40 pm.

The following officers were present:

Sue Mirialakis, President

Arthur Chisolm, Treasurer

Alphonso Leonce, Vice President

Seth Segall, Correspondence Secretary

Millicent Stewart, Recording Secretary

Approximately 30 Civic Association residents attended the meeting.

Meeting Minutes for March 31, 2010 were distributed, along with an agenda. They were read, and Seth Segall motioned they be accepted; Napoleon Mitchell seconded, and all were in favor of acceptance.

Sue welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming. She mentioned our guest speakers, Fairview Acting Fire Chief Anthony LoGiudice and Sara Bracey-White, Executive Director of Arts and Culture for the Town of Greenburgh. She gave a brief review of the very successful Barbeque, shared photos and thanks all who came and shared.

Old Business

Russell Street Driveway

Russell Street driveway was ruled illegal a year ago, however, the owners of the business appealed that decision to the county and we do not know the current status of that appeal. We are continuing to look for information.

Flooding

Sue spoke with the DPW Commissioner regarding flooding on Juniper Hill, and unfortunately the low curb that DPW installed is not sufficient. Water comes from the school through the back area, and one association member questioned whether the school had gotten the proper permits when putting in the additional impervious parking area. The Association is still pursuing the flooding issue with DPW to see if there is a way it can be resolved. The Association discussed the failure of one of the developers to install storm sewers when five recent houses were put in.

Traffic Safety

The Police Department installed a traffic sensor strip on Juniper Hill the week of July 27th with the following results:

98% of the drivers were within the speed limit

Only 0.6% of the drivers drove over 40 MPH

The Police department allocated officers to Juniper Hill during hours when speeding was most prevalent, but no speeders were apprehended. The Police Department concluded that speeding on Juniper Hill was not a sufficient problem to warrant the deployment of additional resources to the area.

Some association members stated that there was a greater police presence in the community some years ago, but that the police presence has decreased in recent years.

We talked about the roadways and how difficult it is to walk along the streets. Anthony LoGiudice mentioned that historically, although some sidewalks were put in, they were not consistently maintained. When residents rather than the Town became responsible for their maintenance and upkeep, homeowners lost interest in them and additional ones were not created.

Members pointed out that the Russell Street/Fulton Street intersection remains a major safety concern. Cars traveling on Fulton Street often fail to recognize that traffic on Juniper Hill has the right of way, wrongly assuming that it is a four-way stop. In addition, the intersection is such that drivers have to ease into the intersection to see if there is any oncoming traffic. Henry Acosta suggested painting a line where drivers should stop, and although they had been painted before, we have to ask the City of White Plains to do this, since it's their jurisdiction.

The following additional traffic issues were stated by residents:

The Walnut Street garage is difficult to travel near.

Prospect Street has trucks parking in the street.

Prospect & Fair STILL has tall bushes at the corner making oncoming traffic difficult to see.

The Association formed a Traffic Committee to communicate our multiple concerns about traffic to Chief DeCarlo and Supervisor Feiner. Several Association members put their names on a sign-up sheet to be on the committee.

Upkeep of Landscaping Maintenance

It was mentioned that landscaping (shrubs, etc.) under the Group Home on Fair Street needed maintaining, and it was said that the State owns that property.

New Website

Sue shared the new Juniper Hill Civic Association e-mail address: JuniperCivic@gmail.com and the new website: <https://sites.google.com/site/juniperhillca> which is absolutely fabulous. Those already viewing it felt it was beautiful!

Treasurer's Report

Arthur reviewed the Treasurer's Report and additional dues were collected. Millie Stewart motioned that the report be accepted, Ilayne Parker seconded, and the report was accepted. The Treasury currently has a balance of \$507.78.

Sarah Bracey-White, Executive Director of Arts & Culture, Greenburgh, was introduced, and she spoke on how she created the job she now holds. She feels that the Town Hall is the "people's building and Art created by the Community should be shown within its walls." She gave an overview of the wonderful programs available to our youth, including an annual poetry contest, photo exhibits, writing workshops, and Matters of the Heart, which supports "creative aging through the arts." They also offer guided tours, and welcome donations, since all the programs are funded through donations. There are Galleries at the Theodore Young Community Center, Anthony Veteran Park, and the Town Hall.

Anthony LoGiudice, Acting Fire Chief for the Fairview Fire Department was introduced and talked about the history of Juniper Hill, focusing on the schools in the area. He also updated the Association on the Fire Department's current plans (www.fairviewfire.org). The Commission tasked with studying the feasibility of consolidating the three Greenburgh Fire Departments has made its report and recommendations. Mr. LoGiudice provided the Fairview Fire Department's response to the Commission's findings. He discussed Fairview's concern about how consolidation might negatively impact response time, how the use of overtime can reduce the need for additional firefighter's without additional benefit costs, and how consolidation might effect staffing levels. He also shared how the Fairview FD has fostered interest in the profession, including the Explorer Group for youth 14 to 21 years old and volunteers for those who are 18 years old and up. They canvas schools for those interested in participating in the programs.

New Business

Sue brought up the subject of a Community Garden that would teach our children about plants, flowers, etc. and foster a love of nature. She also shared that we had considered purchasing a small parcel of land, but it was not a viable option for a garden, so the Association had written to the Principal at the Lee F. Jackson School to discuss the option of using school property for a community garden. She asked if anyone was interesting in mentoring or participating in a garden project, and unfortunately, there is not enough interest at this time.

Sue mentioned that new elections for Association officers should occur at our next meeting and asked for nominations. Napoleon motioned that the current office holders should remain in office. All present agreed but Sue mentioned that this did not constitute a formal vote and new nominations can still be accepted at the next meeting when a formal vote will be taken.

The Civic Association needs a Chairperson and a School Board Representative/Liaison to help with communicating with the school district. Peter mentioned that we need to stay informed about our schools as residents, parents, and taxpayers. He suggested we ask Sharon Maxwell to come and present to the Association and give us an update on school information.

Sue shared that a resident asked if anyone had a garage they would be willing to rent for a short period of time.

Napoleon suggested a competition for Best Lawn or Best Garden that could be “spotlighted ” in our newsletter and website resident. Another resident suggested spotlighting residents gardens without making it a competition. There was also discussion of putting photos of resident’s Christmas decorations up on the website.

Henry suggested we could share Tips and Ideas on home ownership, i.e., lawn maintenance, suggestions, referrals. It was suggested that a registry for “Skilled Residents” be compiled and put on the website.

S. David Bailey asked if the Association had 501(c)3 status and discussed the benefits of applying for such if the Association does not yet have it. He volunteered to develop a resident survey to ascertain Skills for our Skilled Residents Listings on the website and offered to help apply for 501C3 status if we do not already have it.

Sue asked members to visit and “talk up” the new website with the neighbors who were not at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Millicent Stewart, Recording Secretary

Sue Mirialakis, President
Juniper Hill Civic Association