

## **Juniper Hill Civic Association Minutes - General Membership Meeting April 29, 2019**

**Attendance:** Manni Areces, Rachel Schoolcraft, Illayne Parker, Teresa Toscano, Seth Segall, Sue Mirialakis, Martin and Corinda Hanlon, George Tutein, Mary Jackson, Maryory Mendoza, Louis Sanchez, Johann Snaggs, Trevor Plummer, Andre Burroughs, Carol and Tywana Felton, John Malone, Alfreda Williams, Katherine and Dana Kirtin, Lance D.

1) The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM. The minutes from the October 29, 2018 meeting were approved. The Treasurer's Report provided by Teresa Toscano and approved. The Civic Association has a current balance of \$716.25. Teresa announced that the 2019 dues of \$10 per family were now due, unless people paid ahead during the summer BBQ.

2) President Manni Areces called for nominations for the Board of Executives. Manni (President) and Rachel (Vice President) agreed to stand for re-election. Teresa (Treasurer) and Seth (Corresponding Secretary) indicated that they would not be running for re-election to their current positions, and the Recording Secretary position has been vacant for the past year. The membership present unanimously re-elected Manni and Rachel. Sue Mirialakis nominated Corinda Hanlon for Treasurer and Andre Burrows for Recording Secretary. Their nominations were seconded and they agreed to accept their nominations. The membership present unanimously voted in favor of their election. Seth said that if anyone would step forward, that he would help coach them in the corresponding secretary position and be available to consult with them about their duties. He also said that he would continue his role as webmaster for the Civic Association's website. Johan Snaggs said that he would give the role consideration, but was not ready to make the commitment at this time.

3) Johan Snaggs presented the report of the Traffic Committee including proposals to extend the sidewalk from Fair Street up Juniper Hill Road to Saratoga Road, to make Juniper Hill Road a one-way artery, and to lower the speed limit on Juniper Hill Road to 25 MPH. Dana Kirtin asked if homeowners were responsible for cleaning snow off of the sidewalks by their property, and Seth answered that they were. A member (name unknown) asked if property owners would be compensated for the property taken by sidewalk construction. Seth explained that the property used was not the homeowner's property but part of the Town's right-of-way. John Malone and Mary Jackson raised objections to the one-way proposal based on the inconvenience it would cause residents to drive further to gain access to their homes from certain directions. John said that a number of people he had talked to on Saratoga Road were opposed to the change, and that he doubted everyone would legally observe the direction restriction based on his experience as to the way people ignored the one-way restriction on Fulton Street. Andre Burrows spoke on the importance of the sidewalk for pedestrian and motorist safety. Johan presented arguments in favor of the one-way restriction, stating that safety concerns and the desire to reduce cut-through traffic should outweigh some concerns about inconvenience, which he argued were minor. Seth suggested that the Civic Association would only promote one-way restriction if its utility was supported by an independent traffic study and if the community was able to reach consensus as to its value. He asked if anyone had any objections to the extension of sidewalks to Saratoga Road. There were no objections. Manni pointed out that the Town Engineer had discussed steps that could be taken to improve sight-lines along Juniper Hill Road by removing some rock and soil that obstructs views of oncoming traffic around the turns. Rachel reminded residents to report any property damage

caused by motorists driving too fast or erratically to the police, even if they could not identify the vehicle that had caused it. This would help document continuing problems on Juniper Hill.

4) Manni opened a discussion of what residents thought the Greenburgh Central School District ought to do in the wake of their failure to get the community to support it's consolidation plan. Seth and Manni argued that the school should enter into dialogue with the community before drawing up any new plans. They need to hear other perspectives and get a better sense of how much the community is willing to invest and can afford on any plans going forward. Alfreda Williams suggested that the school board ought to consider consolidation with other neighboring school districts given the low enrollment in it and adjacent school systems. This would allow administrative, capital, and operational savings as well as address racial imbalances. John Malone seconded the idea of cross-district consolidation, pointing out that attendance at Woodlands today is half of what it was when he was a student there as an adolescent. John also questioned school administration estimates as to how much it would cost to repair Highview and Bailey schools. Alfreda and John also questioned estimated of how much the school system might recoup from the sale of those properties. Seth pointed out that the school board has said that any monies recouped from the sale of those properties would not be used to offset capital borrowing costs, and that was probably a strategic mistake on the school board's part.

5) Mary Jackson reported that her daughter, Gina Jackson, a long-time resident of Juniper Hill Road, was running for the opening on the Town Council resulting from Councilman's Kevin Morgan's unfortunate passing. Alfreda Williams and Luis Sanchez pointed out that Gina's candidacy was supported by the Greenburgh Democratic Party. The Juniper Hill Civic Association's by-laws do not allow it to endorse candidates, but it was of interest to the membership that a member of our own community was seeking office. The the Democratic primary will be held June 25th. Eric Zinger from Hartsdale and current Town Council member Kenneth Jones are also running in the primary. The two highest vote-getters will win Democratic Party nominations for the November election.

6) The school board elections and budget approval vote will be on May 21st. The PTA will hold a meeting on May 1st at 6:30 PM in the Woodland's cafeteria to allow candidates for the school board to present arguments for their candidacy.

7) Westchester County legislator Alfreda Williams discussed recent legislative developments. She covered a number of topics including 1) the passage of an early voting law, 2) the passage of a law keeping convicted minors out of the adult prison population, 3) progress on a law to decriminalize marijuana and to expunge marijuana felony convictions from criminal records, 4) passage of a law giving sick-leave provisions for all full-time workers, 5) a county sales tax increase of 1% to be shared with schools and towns (passed but still needing the governor's approval), 6) a single-use plastic bag ban starting in 2020, and 7) the County's revocation of its understanding with Standard Entertainment to manage Playland. Alfreda encouraged all unvaccinated residents to get vaccinated for Measles.

8) The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Seth Segall

Acting Recording Secretary