

Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

The 2013 Annual Meeting was brought to order at 7:10pm by President Patrick Nolan. Patrick highlighted the various items under consideration for discussion this evening. First order of business was approving the 2011 meeting minutes and announcing that officer terms had expired and an election would be held this evening. (No 2012 annual meeting was held).

Copies of the last annual meeting minutes of May 11, 2011 were available either online or at this evening meeting. Motion made by Gwen Myers to accept the 2011 Annual Meeting minutes as written, 2nd by Amy Norelius, approved on unanimous voice vote.

Items of Interest/Concern as highlighted by Patrick:

- Dues were \$10 at the beginning of the association in 1959 so our \$20 per year is quite the bargain.
- Memorial for Jim Couling; Andy Anema has made a bench in his honor and we will place it by the ponds with plans for a gathering/event at that time, later this summer. Those who are interested in donations to defray the cost will be able to do so, watch for further information.
- This year's Chilly Fest was skipped in light of doing a memorial gathering instead for Jim.
- Night Out/canceled in 2012 due to concerns over attendance. We need to plan more in advance for this year's event – First Tuesday evening in August.
- Discussion ensued around utilizing a Facebook presence as a possible additional source of information for neighbors and association members - needs to be headed up by someone other than Wayne who currently handles the existing SFA website; any volunteer(s) can contact the officers. There was a 'bulletin board' on our website for interactive communications, but was not being utilized much at all and was costly so it was eliminated.
- Lots of interest again in another neighborhood Garage sale during 2013 Fall. These months compete with a lot of parties so need to avoid early summer dates, as this offers a great opportunity to recruit neighborhood membership as a requirement to participate one needs to be current on dues as an association member. After some discussion by various members in attendance, interest is in September after all the summer activities are over (avoid the big Edina sale weekend, though). So a date will be determined. Patrick reported that we have all the signage, had 25 houses participate a couple of years ago.
- A children's 4th of July Parade had been held for several years. There has not been any interest lately in organizing or holding a parade but it would appear there now are more younger children in the neighborhood so perhaps it's time to revive this particular event. However, it will need a person/persons to coordinate.
- Looking at the possibility of creating a dues payment option on our website – need to pursue the technology available to determine what would work best (lots of interest in being able to pay dues online) for our organization and website to be more efficient.
- Neighborhood Directory: Did try to revive a neighborhood directory a couple of years ago but there was push back against it due to privacy concerns so we are not pursuing it.

Treasurer's report: Wayne Bren

- Last year membership forms weren't distributed– so only 5 folks did pay; hence income was only \$100. We expect 90+ members to pay dues in the upcoming fiscal year.
- Fixed expenses are approximately \$1,300 per year.
- Checking balance is currently \$2,004.08.
- We need a minimum of 90 members renewing each year to break even.
- Worked with Brian Severts in updating our database of home ownership to do an accurate direct mailing this year for membership renewal notices.
- There will be a direct mailing this year with dues reminder, membership information and potential upcoming neighborhood event/activities information with the opportunity to indicate what someone would be willing to help volunteer for.
- 152 active email address in Constant Contact, but only 60% actually opened the notice for this meeting.
- Signup for the Constant Contact email is on the ForestNeighbors.org home page.
- Amy Norelius was given thanks for keeping up the planters at the entrance.
- Have a repair call out for the spotlight at the entrance as it's not working; possibly a wiring shorting.
- Would be hard to replace the existing lighting, as new fixtures aren't the same anymore.

General discussion about the looks at the entrance ponds:

- When the street work was done we were forbidden to do any mowing along the twin ponds with the new planting. It looks messy, as it now exists. City expects neighbors to maintain it, however, most of the wildflowers actually didn't thrive. Twin ponds are owned by the city – need to contact city and ask what we can and cannot do to make it look better. Perhaps we can talk to them about some of the new native grass seeds that don't grow as tall and mowing part of the area fronting the twin ponds.

Facebook

- Wayne volunteered to include Paypal on website to pay dues and setup a web email address for Paypal.
- Sarah Samuel stepped forward to coordinate and facilitate a Facebook and Twitter presence integrated with our website. She was duly named Social Media Coordinator.

Crime Watch Prevention

- Darlene Berzins attends as our Neighborhood Crime Watch Captain. This year consisted only of a canine demonstration so nothing to report. Police no longer send neighborhood Captains regular recaps. City has a website with crime reports for neighborhoods which is accessible by anyone and via our website on the Crime Alerts page. Whenever a report is sent to Darlene she gets it to Wayne so it can be sent out to all households with email addresses entered in our Constant Contact listserv. He also posts those notifications on our website on the Crime Alerts page.
- Julie Freie expressed concern and interest in promoting neighborhood crime info in real time. Discussion ensued around the possibility of Facebook being available as a tool to facilitate more timely information about events within the neighborhood, including criminal activity.

Attendees Introductions

- Took a moment to go around and introduce ourselves to other attendees, mentioning where we lived in the neighborhood and how long.

Additional Items of Concern:

- Speeding issues, not just children, most offenders are neighbors. Mostly adults in their 40s and 50s. You do see people slow for the walkers. City will do a speed trap if requested. Always a concern within the neighborhood.
- City did try to time the lights on Hopkins Crossroads to make it easier to turn north, however with the amount of right hand turns there still are times when it is quite difficult to turn left when exiting Live Oak Drive.
- Concerns were raised about the track team training in our neighborhood. Can we contact the school district to express our concerns – can we encourage them to run single file?
- Drug dealer on Oak Ridge Drive W got picked up again for drugs. He owns the house (not homesteaded, has renters in it). Not as much activity as of late.

Election of 2013-2015 Officers

- Patrick called for nominations from the floor for president. Bill Jepson was nominated and accepted. A call was made for any other nominations. With none forthcoming, the motion was made and 2nd by Julie Freie to approve Bill as the new association president, approved unanimously by a voice vote. Bill spoke a bit about his interest in history (he is a history teacher) especially in Minnetonka and mentioned his prior experience as president of the Minnetonka History Society).
- A call then was made for nominations for VP. Current VP, Son Nguyen was nominated, he accepted, and his re-election was approved unanimously by a voice vote.
- Secretary Christie Boeder volunteered to continue again for another term and was approved unanimously by a voice vote.
- Treasurer Wayne Bren also volunteered to continue again for another term and was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Decision was made that the officers would be meeting soon to finalize this year's membership renewal form, dates for upcoming events and develop a Facebook presence. Also discussion about looking at setting up a few standing committees to handle several areas of association activity: Pond plantings/maintenance; Garage Sale; Minnetonka Night Out and 4th of July Parade, etc.

Patrick Nolan adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Christie Boeder, SFA Secretary.