

Brookdale Citizens' Association Annual Meeting

May 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes, prepared by Judy Rivlin (Secretary, 2014-15)

The Brookdale Annual Meeting was held at the Wisconsin Place Recreation Center in Friendship Heights on May 6, 2015. About 50-60 residents attended, with refreshments and social time beforehand. Bob Banach, VP of Brookdale North, led the meeting as there was no President for the past year.

2014 Minutes: The meeting began with review of the minutes from the 2014 annual meeting; after a motion was made and seconded, the minutes were approved by a voice vote.

Directory: There was a discussion of the Directory which has been long in the process of being updated. There was a consensus to ask block captains to update the information previously gathered, after which Bob Banach will likely pass the materials to Amy Rispin to complete.

New Residents: Several new residents stood to introduce themselves and to be welcomed into the neighborhood.

Westbard Sector Plan/Paving: Bob Cope gave an update about the County Planning Department's process for revising the Westbard Sector Plan. On the Westbard Sector Plan, he explained that the Chevy Chase Coordinating Committee for Friendship Heights, a cooperative group of numerous citizens' associations, including Brookdale, have been working cooperatively to help coordinate citizens' in-put to the planning process. The Planning Department staff recently made a presentation to the public at Whitman High School about what they will soon recommend to the Planning Board. Among other items, they will recommend a reconfiguration of the road entering Westbard so there would no longer be a traffic light at the top of the hill after the Manor Care property. They will suggest townhouses be placed on the Manor care property, and would permit a new high-rise apartment building where the bowling alley and gas station are located. They will also recommend allowing buildings of 70' on either side of River Road. The next step in the Plan process is for the Planning staff to present their written report to the Planning Board, which will be done by July. Then the Board will review it, make any revisions, and present it to the County Council by the fall of 2015. There will be additional working sessions at which citizens can provide feed-back. Excessive building heights and overall density are among the primary concerns citizens have raised so far, with an eye to impact on our neighborhood schools.

Roads/Paving: Bob Cope also gave information about road paving. He reported that, by fall 2015, the State should complete paving all of River Road, from 1-495 to Western, while the County will be re-paving throughout Brookdale. Jim Norton raised concerns about noise on River Road, especially from the metal plates being used during the Pepco project to bury power lines. He also asked that the Board see if it could get the speed limit reduced to be more compatible with our residential neighborhood. It was reported that Connecticut Road is posted at 30 mph, while River is at 35 mph (as is Wisconsin Ave).

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Amy Rispin explained her report on the year's financial activity. Income exceeded expenses by about \$2,336. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, her report was accepted by a voice vote. Officers: Chair of the Nominating Committee, Boyd McHugh, proposed the following slate for the Association's officers for 2015-16:

President, Dick Podolske;

Treasurer, Amy Rispin;

Secretary, Judy Rivlin;

VP for Brookdale North, Mike Makuch;

VP for Brookdale South, Jack Morton;

VP for Wohlshire, Tamar Nicolson;

VP for Orchardale, Ally Hicks.

There were no other nominations made from the floor. The vote in favor of the nominated candidates was unanimous. Thanks were extended to the outgoing officers, and especially to Bob Banach and Dan Byerly who served as acting president in the absence of an elected president for the last year.

Crime: Boyd McHugh also reported that his home was recently broken into, and that he was able to recover most of the goods with help from the police. The culprits were interested in small electronics and jewelry. There was also discussion about the recurring problem of cars being broken into throughout Brookdale, though often nothing is taken. It is important that we all lock doors and keep all valuables out of sight.

Stay-in-Place: Amy Rispin spoke about efforts made in the last year to try to launch a Stay-in-Place village for Brookdale. A questionnaire was distributed at the meeting to measure areas of interest among our neighbors. That questionnaire will also be distributed electronically and through the Bugle. The Committee welcomes other who may be interested in working on this project.

Parking: Campbell Graueb spoke about a parking committee he sits on for Friendship Heights. Meters will be installed along Friendship Blvd, Western and Willard to discourage all-day commuter parking, and to promote more use of the public transportation options. However, this may create spill-over parking within Brookdale. There was an animated discussion about the pros and cons of limiting street parking within the neighborhood to those with permits - which can be done if neighbors agree and petition the County. A request was made of the Association leaders to see if they could get permits for all Brookdale residents in view of the anticipated impact from the new metering.

Geico: Bob Banach reported that Geico does permit dogs to cross its property, but only if the owner has it on a leash and also a bag to pick up after the dog. Playing catch with a dog or having a dog off-leash is not allowed on Geico property. Bob Banach agreed to remain as the Association's liaison with Geico.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.