

Brookdale Citizens' Association Annual Meeting

May 4, 2016 Meeting Minutes, prepared by Judy Rivlin (Secretary, 2015-16)

The Brookdale Annual Meeting was held at the Wisconsin Place Recreation Center in Friendship Heights on May 4, 2016, beginning at 7:15pm. About 60 residents attended, with refreshments and social time beforehand. President Dick Podolske chaired the meeting.

2015 Minutes: The meeting began with review of the minutes from the 2015 annual meeting; after a motion was made and seconded, the minutes were approved by a voice vote.

Introductions/Welcome: A number of residents new to Brookdale, or who were attending their first annual meeting, stood to introduce themselves and to be welcomed into the neighborhood.

Treasurer's Report: A written report from Treasurer Amy Rispin was distributed for the FY that began June 1, 2015. It included a list of assets (approximately \$18,000), and delineated expenses, showing a net loss of \$2,885. A number of unusual expenses were highlighted, including the Directory. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the report was accepted by a voice vote.

President's Report: Dick Podolske reviewed the many activities and accomplishments of the Citizens Association over the last year. These include completion and distribution of the Directory, the new/monthly "Brookdale-At-Home" events, the annual July 4 and Halloween parties and the Brookdale North street party, as well as organization of a Brookdale south street party later in May, three Bugle newsletters, one additional entrance sign to Brookdale (separately financed), printing of Brookdale Event signs, and help with parking enforcement problems.

Dick also expressed special thanks on behalf of the Association and Brookdale residents to: Deborah Kalb and Steve Langer for their years of service preparing the Bugle (and appreciation to Sybil Erdman and Jim Hicks for taking over these tasks); Amy and Paul Rispin and Michael Oliwa for production of the Directory and their efforts to update the Brookdale website; Allie Hicks and Tamar Nicolson for their service on the Executive Board as Vice Presidents; all the hosts for the Brookdale-at-Home events; and Judy Rivlin for overall help to Dick as President.

Westbard Sector Plan: Bob Cope gave a final report about the County Planning Department's revisions to and approval of the Westbard Sector Plan. He reminded the neighborhood about the many steps of this prolonged process, the role Brookdale played through the Chevy Chase Coordinating Committee for Friendship Heights (a cooperative group of sixteen citizens' associations), and that the Plan had been approved the day before this annual meeting of Brookdale. Bob summarized the changes that were approved, and noted that many of the light industrial properties, including gas stations, will remain intact and that building on the Westbard Giant site will likely begin in 2017. He highlighted success Berliner effected to reduce density.

Paving: Bob Cope also gave an update on road paving.

New Business:

Participation: Dick raised a concern that many residents do not participate in Brookdale events and fewer than 40% pay dues. Suggestions were made to have the Board communicate more often, and in more ways, to make sure residents know about upcoming events. It was noted that despite repeated notices in the Bugle about how to register for the listserv, many still are not aware of it. (A notice was

made that volunteers are ready to assist, upon request to a Board Member). There was a consensus to begin using the email addresses from the Directory to communicate via email to members (to avoid the expectation such emails would use the "bcc" feature and be not frequent); and to include a list of the VPs and block captains in the next Bugle. As for dues, suggestions were made to send an invoice, and to have the VPs individually thank those who have paid, and remind those who have not. June 1 is the beginning of the fiscal year.

Friendship Boulevard Landscaping/Brookdale Park: Campbell Graueb made a presentation about the trees along Friendship Boulevard, noting that on the GEICO (west) side: of 27 spaces for trees, 18 are vacant while 9 have dead or dying trees, and on the Bloomingdale's (east) side: of 18 spaces, 8 are vacant while 10 have dead or sick trees. The property is owned by the County. Campbell suggested the Board write to Council Member Berliner to request attention. (Note: immediately after this meeting, Bob Cope raised this with Berliner's office.) Campbell also suggested there be a committee to clean up Brookdale Park; no official action was taken on these items.

GEICO issues: Dick gave a report (updating Bugle articles) about the status of efforts neighbors and the Association have made to have GEICO honor its obligations to maintain the wooden fence along the Brookdale property, as well as to have it remove the spikes on its newly-added metal fence. This is an ongoing effort, and Dick assured that no agreements will be made on the part of the Association without first conferring with the most-affected neighbors. Other pending issues involving GEICO include: its noisy AC; having the light on its sign along Western lit longer; and a fallen branch on the smoking hut. Another complaint was the muddy path from its property into Brookdale Park, though it was noted that park maintenance is not GEICO's responsibility.

Easements: A neighbor asked about who is responsible to maintain easements, such as one off Keokuk; he said Berliner's office could not give guidance, and asked for help with this.

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*, Tom Husted; *VP for Orchardale*, Manuel Ochoa. There were no other nominations made from the floor. The vote in favor of the nominated candidates was unanimous.

Officer Janney: Montgomery Police Officer Janney made an engaging presentation about various safety issues affecting Brookdale. Among his key messages: always lock car doors, do not keep spare keys in your car, and keep out of sight any items that may remain in your car; be attentive to what is going on around you and if something seems unusual, report it quickly to the non-emergency number (301-279-8000); keep house doors and windows locked at all times; and the best way to handle yourself if pulled over for a traffic stop. He also answered residents' questions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45.