

## **DRAFT - Brookdale Citizens' Association Annual Meeting May 3, 2018**

Minutes prepared by Amy Rispin, Secretary

The Brookdale Annual Meeting was held at the Wisconsin Place Recreation Center in Friendship Heights May 3, 2018 at 7:30PM. President Dick Podolske chaired the meeting. Social time beforehand included a wine tasting with a presentation by Rodman's.

2017 Minutes: The minutes from the 2017 annual meeting were approved with a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: In June, 2017, the community voted to shift the fiscal year to the calendar year. Since the new fiscal year ends December 31, 2018, no financial report was given.

President's Report:

*Communications:* In his report, Dick Podolske, President, listed the various ways now available for communications with Brookdale residents:

- the website, BrookdaleCitizens;
- the yahoo group;
- the Bugle, published three times a year; and
- the mass email vehicle, based on email addresses in the Brookdale Directory.

He also noted that a new Directory will be needed in 2018 because of turnover in rentals, recent sales of homes, and addition of three new streets in Brookdale South. In addition, many email addresses have changed recently, especially because Verizon no longer supports email service. Residents may wish to avail themselves of the Directory update form, now on the Brookdale website. The new Directory will be published in fall, 2018.

*Brookdale Events:* Mr. Podolske announced the Spring Block Party to be held west of River Road on May 19; all are welcome. Heather Paul is organizing progressive visits to visit Brookdale artists' homes to see their work. Dick Podolske and Larry Broadwell are planning a joint slide show and talk about the Vietnam war. Amy Rispin is planning a History walking tour of Brookdale and surrounding areas in Bethesda.

The evening at Chatters' restaurant was very popular and the Board is looking into possibly repeating this type of event in additional venues in future. The Board is also looking for additional speakers for at-home events. Hosts are subsidized by the Association for expenses when hosting these events.

Marina Bowsher suggested that we might consider repeating some at-home presentations at one-year or greater intervals, to allow residents with previous commitments to attend. She also suggested that consideration be given to providing babysitting at at-home events to bring in neighbors with young children.

Residents prefer that the next History tour be given on a Sunday afternoon.

### Neighborhood Issues:

*GEICO:* Adrienne Nassau, member at large who has been the Board's coordinator with GEICO, described the fact that we have established ongoing discussions with GEICO. GEICO has cleared the buffer of dead branches and vines. They would like to improve lighting in their parking lots and will consult with the Brookdale community on any changes. She noted that new stanchions in the parking lots with security cameras are not intended to replace regular security details. The security cameras are equipped with pushbuttons to alert GEICO and the police department. GEICO is still working on how to keep the main sign on Western Avenue lighted at night. She is still discussing lighting at the smoking shack and nearby path, but noted that GEICO does not want to encourage people to use the path.

*Bicycle Plan:* Montgomery County's bicycle planning includes a future path in the GEICO buffer, to be installed when GEICO redevelops. Brookdale and other nearby residents objected to installation of a bicycle path on the south side of Willard Avenue because it would cut off parking there for Brookdale residents. The community is also asking the County if a crosswalk could be added where the bicycle path crosses Willard Avenue.

*Willard Avenue Park:* The frame house on Willard Avenue owned by the County may be torn down so that the public can use the space more intensively. A public hearing will be held in future.

*Westbard Development:* Regency has just filed plans for development of the Giant side of the area, having sold Westbard Towers and parking lot to the Housing Opportunity Commission. Development on the Giant site might start in 2019 and take four years, but Regency intends to keep the Giant supermarket open continually during this time. Should the HOC site be developed in future, HOC will have to deal with the African American burial ground there.

*Traffic:* Residents of the 5200 block of Saratoga Avenue would like to see if traffic cutting through the neighborhood can be calmed or otherwise controlled. Dick Podolske is consulting with County and DC officials about short timing of the light at River Road and Western Avenue, which appears to lead to vehicles cutting through the neighborhood. Traffic cutting through Newport Avenue is also a problem and Dick Podolske is coordinating with Newport neighbors on this.

Westport Road and Merivale Road are locations where vehicles speed and fail to stop at stop signs.

One neighbor expressed concern about uncleared sidewalks on River Road when it snows, which force pedestrians to risk their lives by sharing the road with fast-moving vehicles. She offered to research county laws and write an article for the Bugle.

Amendments to the Brookdale By-Laws: Currently the Brookdale President cannot have more than two successive years in office. The Board recommended that in order to attain greater continuity a change be made to the Brookdale Citizens' Association by-laws to allow the Association President to serve a maximum of four consecutive years in office. The change was approved.

Election of the Board: The nominating committee proposed the following slate for the Association's Board for FY 2019: *President*, Dick Podolske; *Treasurer*, Heather Paul; *Secretary*, Amy Rispin; *VP for Brookdale North*; Mike Makuch, *VP for Brookdale South*, Jack Morton; *VP for Wohlshire*, Tom Husted; *VP for Orchardale*, Manuel Ochoa; *Member at Large (consistent with Article IV Section 2 of the Brookdale Constitution)*, Adrienne Nassau. There were no other nominations from the floor. The slate was approved by unanimous vote.