

## **Brookdale Citizens' Association Annual Meeting - 7:00 pm May 19, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Richard Podolske, President. Richard (Dick) Podolske welcomed and introduced all new Brookdale residents in attendance.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Heather Paul, Treasurer, reported on the financial condition of the Brookdale Citizens' Association. Currently we have \$9500 in our checking account and \$9800 in a Certificate of Deposit (CD). The CD has accrued over the years and is earmarked as our reserves for special purposes. In 2021 our dues revenue totaled \$7,044. 21% was spent on community events, 16% on our Bugle newsletter and 15% on our website/listserv. Almost ½ of 2021 dues have been carried over to 2022. Last year, approximately 44% of Brookdale households paid dues.

### **Review of the Year:**

Dick Podolske summarized significant Brookdale events and accomplishments during the past year: Fourth of July parade; Rising Start for K-5; Block party; October porch fest; Halloween celebration; Mariachi band in the park with ice cream truck; Luminaria; and Christmas caroling. The Boundary Park has been spruced up in large part due to the efforts of Brookdale neighbor Wendy Smith.

### **Upcoming Events:**

June 18 Music in Brookdale Park.

4th of July Glen Echo Fire Department-led Parade, and Food.

Larry Broadwell at a Brookdale at home event.

### **Park Bench dedication to Amy Rispin.**

The Board sought authorization to spend \$3,500 to purchase, inscribe, and install a park bench in Brookdale Park in honor of Amy Rispin. The membership approved the expenditure.

### **Presentation of first Good Neighbor of the Year Award:**

In the past year or so, Abner Oakes of 4807 Dover Court has given Brookdale neighbors a wonderful way to celebrate coming together again, after the strain of a national pandemic. Music lightens the spirit and Abner has gathered old and young alike to sing, dance and hum to --now for a second time--a Mariachi band and a folk singer in Dalton Park. Abner also was instrumental (pardon the pun) in organizing our first-time-ever front porch music fests. Abner turned to local musicians and singers and asked them to hold mini concerts outside their front doors to the delight of a traveling lawn audience. Abner also has inspired another tradition: a stalwart band of holiday carolers who sing along our streets in December to welcome in the holiday spirit. Because he has created a new and vibrant tradition in the Brookdale Community, with great enthusiasm and ongoing commitment, the Brookdale Citizens Association bestowed upon Abner Oakes our first "Good Neighbor of the Year" Award.

### **Nomination and Election of Brookdale Officers:**

The nominating committee's recommendations for Brookdale officers were as follows:

President, Dick Podolske

Vice President, Brookdale North, Mike Makuch

Vice President, Brookdale South, Jack Morton

Vice President, Wolshire, Tom Husted

Vice President, Orchardale, Manuel Ochoa

Vice President, Park-Newport, Peter Biersteker

Secretary, Darcy King-Leatham

Treasurer, Heather Paul

Representative-at-Large (north of River Road), Adrienne Nassau

Representative-at-Large, (north of River Road), Maha Hadad

Representative-at-Large (north of River Road), Sybil Erdman

Representative-at-Large (south of River Road), Lisa Clark.

The slate of officers was unanimously approved by voice vote.

### **Presentation:**

Natalie Avery of the Friendship Heights Alliance spoke at the meeting. The Friendship Heights Alliance is a new nonprofit organization comprised of large property owners focused on the transformation of Friendship Heights in Washington, D.C. and Maryland through place-based economic development, greater collaboration among stakeholders, and renewed focus on public spaces. Both the District of Columbia and Montgomery County have pledged funds to the alliance. She fielded questions. She encouraged neighbors to complete their retail market survey to learn more about resident preferences and perceptions of Friendship Heights.

**Raffle:** Two beautiful gift baskets were awarded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm