

Brookdale Citizens' Annual Meeting Minutes- May 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Richard Podolske, President at 7 pm after a one-half hour social period. Richard (Dick) welcomed all newcomers. He also thanked outgoing officers Sibyl Erdman and Tom Husted for their service and Lisa Clark for all her hard work on Brookdale publications.

Treasurers' Report

Heather Paul, Treasurer, reported that as of May 1, 2023, we have \$3,900 in our checking account and approximately \$9,900 in our CD, which accrues interest each year with no new investment. In total, we have \$13,800 in assets.

In 2022, we collected \$5,300 in dues and our expenses were \$10,480. This dip in cash flow is attributed to two factors. First, we purchased a memorial bench for \$3,500. This expenditure was approved by the membership at large at last year's annual meeting and is unlikely to reoccur. Second, only 33% of residents paid dues, which is more than 10% less than in prior years.

The breakdown of expenses is as follows:

- 33% memorial bench
- 16% website maintenance
- 15% music concerts
- 11% meeting expenses
- 10% events
- 9% Bugle printing and distribution
- 5% signage.

Review of the Year

Dick Podolske summarized significant Brookdale events and accomplishments over the past year:

- Two-day October porch fest organized by Abner Oakes
- Halloween parade, party and spookiest decoration contest
- Four music events¹
- Annual block parties
- Luminaria and caroling
- Reprinted Amy Rispin's *History of Brookdale*

¹ Mariachi el Rey, Pete Papageorge and Russell Sturm (classic folk/singer/songwriter stuff), - played at 2022 porchfest), Gabe Hutter Trio (jazz standards, Dylan, etc.), and Relix (classic rock).

- Liaised with GEICO representatives

In addition to the above events, the Association has been active on additional fronts, including but not limited to:

- County installed signage for a 20 mph speed limit and removed 25 mph signs.
- Held a public forum on Thrive 2050.
- Formed a study group to become better informed about Thrive 2050.
- Contacted DC Transportation Dept. to ask that they paint crosshatching on Western/Harrison to prevent cars from blocking Harrison entrance.

Future events:

- Dedication of Amy Rispin Memorial Bench
- Halloween celebration
- 4th of July parade
- Four music events in the park arranged by Abner Oakes
- Fall block party
- October porch fest
- Luminaria and caroling

Nomination and Election of Brookdale Officers:

The recommendations of the nominating committee was as follows:

President, Dick Podolske

Vice President, Brookdale North, Mike Makuch

Vice President, Brookdale South, Jack Morton

Vice President, Wolshire, Maha Haddad

Vice President, Orcharddale, Manuel Ochoa

Vice President, Park-Newport, Peter Bierksteker

Secretary, Darcy King-Leatham

Treasurer, Heather Paul

At-Large Representative (Liaison with GEICO): Adrienne Nassau

At-Large Representative (Brookdale Website, Bugle, and Directory): Lisa Clark

At-Large Representative (Focus on THRIVE 2050): Matt Pacinelli.

The slate of officers was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Discussion

To foster discussion, attendees placed post-it-note responses to the three categories: activities enjoyed; what we are missing; and most important role for the Brookdale Citizens 'Association Board. Post-it and discussion is as follows:

Activities enjoyed: music events; parades; listserv; community social events; communications; pickle ball; block parties; events at which development issues are explored; The Bugle; and family activities.

What we are missing: block captain outreach to residents; focus more on environmental issues (e.g., water quality); garden tours; table at events to solicit dues; a vendor database for routine services; regulating traffic on listserv; resume Brookdale-at-Home events (perhaps with new committee); community briefings on going solar and perhaps organize a solar cooperative; pickle ball court; and granting special benefits to dues-paying residents.

Most important role for the Brookdale Citizens 'Association Board: representation; monitoring zoning changes and development issues; coordinating with adjacent neighborhood associations; keeping residents apprised of construction; taking collective action on Thrive 2050; organizing social events; trying to gain consensus on issues but respecting minority views; advocacy (e.g. proposed bus depot and density issues); represent Brookdale in negotiations with county and developers; keeping community informed and engaged; and standing up for safety and well-being of Brookdale community.

Award of raffle prizes

Two gift baskets were awarded.

The meeting came to a close at approximately 9 pm.