

BROOKDALE NEIGHBORHOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Meeting on September 21, 2023

Those in attendance: Dick Podolske, Manuel Ochoa, Abner Oakes, Jack Morton, Adrienne Nassau, Mike Makuch, Heather Paul and Darcy King-Leatham. Absent: Maha Haddad, Peter Biersteker and Matt Paccinelli.

Administrative

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

The minutes of the last board meeting were approved.

Next meeting will be held on October 18.

Treasurer's Report. Our total balance is \$12,857.38. We hold \$2,921.59 in a checking account and \$9,935.79 in a CD. We incurred expenses in the amount of \$774 over the past two months (including \$574 for the Bugle). We had credits in the amount of \$348.66.

Presentation

Two staff members of the Montgomery County Planning Department made a short presentation to the Board to explain the Friendship Heights Urban Design Study. She emphasized that this is a study and not a plan. They want to elicit information from all who visit the area as to how they experience the area (e.g. do you walk to buy groceries, do you use the park, what modes of transportation do you use, etc.) They encouraged us to attend one of two open house engagements: October 24 at Wisconsin Place Recreation Center from 5:30 to 8:30 pm or October 30 at Village of Friendship Heights Community Center from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. The two events are identical. An online survey is forthcoming. Contact information is below.¹ Anyone can sign up for their newsletter to receive updates at www.montgomeryplanning.org/FHUDS.

Discussion

Finances. Our checking account balance continues to decline. An aggressive effort to collect dues is planned. We will include dues envelopes with the new directories.

New Directory. Heather estimates that the cost of printing 450 directories is \$1,300. She anticipates that the directory will go to the press at the end of September and will be ready for distribution in October. Becca Adlin is willing to distribute copies. Heather said she would include an explanation of what "unlisted" and "not listed" signify in the directory. The former indicates no information was available and the latter is intentional by the resident.

Timing and content of the Bugle. Abner said that he will issue the next Bugle in December. Adrienne expressed interest in writing an article about the Mazza Gallery development.

Events

— Porchfest: October 13 and 14.

¹ Atara Margolies at atara.Margolies@montgomeryplanning.org. 301-495-4558. Larissa Klevan at larissa.Klevan@montgomeryplanning.org 301-495-1326.

The band Song Riot will play Oct 13 on Dover Court. We are having dinner catered by Taim on Oct 13 (falafel and chicken pitas); the realtor Dana Rice is covering that with a \$1000 donation to Carpe Diem Arts, once again our non-profit partner. The Pepe food truck from Jose Andres will once again be here on Oct 14, from 4-7. It will park near Dover Court. Nolan Rodman of Rodman's will give us beer and other refreshments. T-shirts have been ordered. Dominique Rychlik has donated \$1000 to cover their cost. All t-shirt sales are donations to Carpe Diem Arts; each shirt is \$25.

— Brookdale Fall Block Party

The forecast for the weekend of the block party is for cold, windy and rainy weather. A decision was made to cancel if the probability of rain is 60% or higher.

— Potential shredding event

Darcy suggested that we sponsor a shredding event in the spring. Shred-all charges \$350 an hour plus a mileage surcharge. Darcy suggested that we charge participants \$5 or \$10. Other board members opined that it was unlikely that anyone would want to pay for the service. Manuel said he would approach the Friendship Alliance to see if they would like to cosponsor such an event.

Brookdale at home events

— Deborah Kalb's book discussion. Dick said he would ask Marie if she would be willing to hold this event at her home in November.

— Maha's film. Maha has to obtain permission to show her film. Abner suggested that we have an outdoor showing in the spring.

— Eric Sanne's pilgrimage. Mike is going to join Eric on a pilgrimage in Spain. Dick suggested that we hold an event to showcase their adventures.

GEICO. Adrienne has been discussing needed improvements along the boundary with GEICO.

Boundary Park. Dick will contact Parks to ask them to clear sidewalk on Western Avenue.

Brookdale Signs. Additional signs have been vandalized. Dick said he would seek information about obtaining vandal-proof signage.

Respectfully submitted,
Darcy King-Leatham