**Guilford Association Board – March 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Zoom Virtual Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (16): Tom Hobbs, Margaret Alton, Jon Kucskar, Sarah Crowe, Josh Angulo-Bartlett, Emily Brennan, Tim Chriss, Elizabeth Comer, Kevin Creamer, Danielle Curry, Alan Garten, Clarke Griffin, Jeremy Hoffman, Kelly Maher, Brandon McCullough, Erika Nolan

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT (2): Cathy Boyne, Richard Yost

OTHER ATTENDEES: Councilman Mark Conway, Councilwoman Odette Ramos, David Pontious (from Conway’s office), Lia Lynch (Mayor’s Liaison), Patrick Nolan (GA)

**Motion to approve the January 2022 minutes –** All in favor

**Finances (Tom H.)**

Reviewed financial reports through February 2022. Approx. 26 properties have not paid annual maintenance fees and were issued lien notices on March 9th. Several properties, including 4300 Rugby and 201 Chancery Rd, owe >$7k and are both listed for sale. An investment change was made as $300k was moved from M&T Bank to Morgan Stanley account.

**Issues with City Departments (Tom H. with input from Mark C. and Odette R.)**

1. Sewer Line Replacement/Re-lining work along Norwood Rd and sewer manhole work along Whitfield Rd. Initial request to 26 Whitfield Rd resident to provide City with an easement was incorrect. Most of the sewer work to occur in Roland Park. Odette and DPW will provide construction schedule.
2. Incorrect Sidewalk Replacement, including recent white concrete pour at Millbrook Rd and Northway. City departments need to use Guilford standard ‘exposed aggregate concrete.’ BGE has numerous blacktop patches that need to be restored to aggregate concrete. Odette states this is a City-wide issue, as there is little to no oversight of contractors and their adherence to contract specifications, and little enforcement if work is done incorrectly. Recently, a City working group has been formed with the utility companies to ensure acceptable work in completed.
3. York Courts Hedge Replacement, as many hedges were destroyed during water line repairs. York Court #3 also requires grass seeding and/or sod. Odette will remind DPW of their commitment to restore the York Courts now that weather is warming up.
4. Greenmount Avenue street repairs to take place in 2022.
5. Guilford Elementary/Middle School Deposition. GA has clarified what educational use means in the Deed & Agreement. Mark C. states there is no schedule, no updates. His office will follow up with City Real Estate. Loyola U. and JHU both had interest in the site. City school police are patrolling the site, but the longer the school is vacant, the more dilapidated and dangerous the site becomes.
6. DOT Traffic Calming guidelines and Guilford’s response. There is no mention of involving an HOA when considering traffic calming devices.
7. Street Lights. Less intense LED bulbs have been installed south of E. 39th Street. North of E. 39th Street is a mix of yellowish hue, ultra-bright LED bulbs, and very few correct LED bulbs. Difficult to determine if BGE or DOT is responsible. Pat N. to work with David P. regarding installing correct bulbs throughout Guilford.
8. Trees, including dead trees, stump removals and planting of new trees. Best way to get a response is to use 311 for each tree/tree site. Mark and Odette suggest sending our full list of tree needs to them. Two years ago, Jeremy H. canvassed the southeast quadrant of Guilford and identified tree issues, but little has been done by City Forestry.

Washington, DC has enacted a Heritage Tree Law that requires that any live tree taken down needs a permit. Fines of >$40k have been issued for unpermitted tree removal. Mark C. has been working on similar Tree Law for Baltimore for the past 3 years.

1. Traffic Triangle at Millbrook/Northway/Greenway. Guilford has tried for 12 years to have the triangle reinstalled. Estimated cost is only $25k. Odette and Mark suggest that funds should be requested from state (43rd delegation), not the City.
2. Violent Crime in Baltimore City and what City Council is doing to prevent. Tim C. adamant that violent, repeat offenders should be incarcerated / taken off the street. State delegates and City Council seem to be very quiet regarding rampant crime. Mark C. suggests an issue is that the police dept. is run by the state, not the City. Police have been making more arrests, but many of these criminals find their way back onto Baltimore streets. Odette states that the Council is constantly talking about crime and ways to diminish. Odette suggests that vacant homes/buildings breed violent criminals.

***Life Among the Tulips* Magazine confusion / controversy (Tom H.)**

Issue is addressed in the current Newsletter. *Tulips* magazine is published by a national company, N2 Publishing. Their goal is to entice advertisers that would like to work in affluent neighborhoods, like Guilford. Guilford has previously stated that ‘Guilford’ may not be used by N2. Melissa S. from *Tulips* magazine has been denied use of Guilford’s parks and made a donation to Sherwood Gardens that has been returned. Melissa’s marketing and events filled a void that Guilford Association could not fill during Covid-19. Roland Park and Homeland have both been able to get rid of N2 publications in their neighborhoods. Overall, Guilford needs to protect its brand ‘Guilford / Guilford Association.’

**Community Engagement / Events Committee (Erika N. and Kelly M.)**

For the closed, Guilford-only FaceBook page, the Committee has prepared a FaceBook Handbook and provided to the Board and the Association’s attorney. The goal is to go live with this FaceBook page by the end of March. An events schedule has been drafted and includes April 10th Egg Hunt, May 6th Food Truck Friday/Tulip Bloom Party, and May 29th Sherwood Gardens Tulip Dig. The Committee needs help / volunteers and suggests having a Day Chair for each event. An email to the neighborhood will be sent soon for more community involvement. Other events later in the year include Movie Nights and Family Day. New Guilford families must be better welcomed through a series of emails. There is an existing Welcoming Committee group that will be re-engaged post-Covid. Erika N. asks Alan and Danielle about progress on setting up Block/Area Captains; no progress to date.

**Assistance for the Ukrainian People (Margaret A.)**

Guilford will be donating $1250 total to be split amongst 5 reputable charities. Board all agrees with initiative. The charities are The International Rescue Committee, CARE-Ukrainian Crisis Fund, UNICEF, Save the Children’s Ukrainian Relief Fund, and Catholic Relief Services.

No other business – Meeting concluded at 9:33 pm