Minutes

Dec 9, 2014 Guilford Association Board of Managers Meeting

7:00 PM Westcott Room, Second Presbyterian Church

Present: Deanna Karanikas, Francie Spahn, Adrian Bishop, Felix Dawson, Margaret Alton, Tom Hobbs,

Heather Fones, Angela Hamilton, Jeremy Hoffman, Howard Friedel, Anthony Gill, Francisco Castellanos, Sharon Smith, John Doherty, Bernie Shutty

Absent: Lynda Riley, Tim Chriss, Clarke Griffin, Elizabeth Comer, Lisa Gartner, Cathy Boyne, Michelle Trousdale

Minutes of the September 9th Board Meeting were approved

Newly elected Board members were introduced. Officers for 2015 were elected: Tom Hobbs, President; Margaret Alton, Vice President; Lynda Riley, Secretary; Heather Fones, Treasurer. Tom made it clear that this is the last year he will serve as President. We discussed identifying our 2016 President by mid-year. Tom thanked our outgoing Board members for their service.

Dates for next year’s Board Meetings were discussed. They will be finalized by email and posted on our website.

Financials for 2014 and the Budget for 2015 were reviewed by Heather. The Association and Stratford Green are in a good financial position, but SG continues to rely on contributions for everything but lawn maintenance.

Committee Chair Reports:

* Safety-Felix advised that 2014 was a much better year than 2013 with many fewer serious crimes. Major Burris provision of improved police presence is helpful, but may not last. We are getting a new gas powered GSP vehicle which hopefully will be more visible and reliable. A blast email will advise residents of the vehicle change. There is a slight financial surplus this year which can fund increased hours if needed.
* Reservoir- Tom spoke for Cathy and advised that the MOU has us well protected. When final plans are in place this will be posted on our website. As announced at the Annual Meeting bids for the reservoir work were rejected by the City. The new bid schedule and construction schedule are uncertain.
* Traffic- Howard will be our new Traffic chair. Bernie advised that annually the GA provided DOT with a list of street repaving and sidewalk replacement priorities. As there is no designated budget we rely on Councilwoman Clarke for championing our requests. We are usually in a multi-year follow up mode which currently includes a traffic circle at the intersection of Millbrook/Northway/Greenway; traffic calming on 39th St., Eastway and Overhill Rd. Traffic also administers the RPP program for Guilford and Loyola areas. There will be another request for pedestrian lighting on the St Paul St. side of Gateway Park. We are monitoring City plans to have 2-way traffic on streets south of University Parkway. Various efforts to address the increased volume and speed of traffic on Overhill Rd. were discussed and will be followed up.
* Newsletter - Jeremy advised that our newsletter is profitable and we can do more than 2 per year if we have help on content. It was suggested that we contact Loyola and Notre Dame seeking journalism majors to work with us.
* Events - Sharon advised that there will be a meeting on January 23 inviting the community to suggest new events and to volunteer. The 2014 Holiday Party raised $6000 net of expenses. The holiday tree lighting is a lovely addition to Sherwood Gardens. Next year’s schedule includes the Easter Egg Hunt, Dinner at Dusk, tree lighting and the Holiday Party plus new events.
* Architecture - Tom previously provided Board members with the 2014 log of application actions. The committee gets about 10 new applications/month. Tom expressed concern about Guilford’s eastern border and a desire to have available remedies for residents in need of financial help to meet maintenance and Architectural Guidelines. The GA has provided Pattern Books to assist residents of York Courts and a similar guide is being prepared for properties south of 39th Street. We will seek to work with organizations such as Healthy Neighborhoods and the Urban Land Institute for assistance. We’ve also recently taken the staff of Live Baltimore on a tour of the area and they intend to include the homes on the referral to people interested in living in the city. It was suggested that we might look for help from area schools that have Urban Studies programs. Adrian described his relevant experience and ideas. All options, including grants, will be explored.
* Parks - Margaret advised of 2014 tree donations to our parks. She reviewed the City strips, N. Charles St. bump outs, St. Paul St. median, Gateway Park, Bedford Square, The Sunken Park and The Little Park. Maintenance is on the agenda for all with refurbishment of our Guilford sign and the Bouton Memorial in Gateway Park, as well as new trees on the median, bump outs and in Bedford Square.
* Sherwood Gardens/Stratford Green – Margaret gave a 2015 calendar of activities and described a new program with three elements: a landscaper competition for summer flowers ala Olmsted, an education day for children and adults and a garden party award celebration around August 29th. Margaret also described a desire to refocus SG on education to fulfill its mission. Education concepts will be pursued. If funds permit there will be perennials planted to screen meters on the southern edge of the park near Greenway and the flower beds at both Highfield and the corner of Greenway and Stratford will be reconfigured according to the Master Plan. Jeremy presented permanent signage concepts for all our parks which were well received.

There being no other new business the meeting was adjourned.

Margaret Alton, Vice President

Substituting for Lynda Riley, Secretary