GUILFORD ASSOCIATION BOARD –JUNE 7, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2016

7:00 PM

Westcott Room, Second Presbyterian Church

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Margaret Alton, Joshua Angulo-Bartlett, Adrian Bishop, Francisco Castellanos, Elizabeth Comer, Howard Friedel, Anthony Gill, Clarke Griffin, Angela Hamilton, Jeremy Hoffman, Tom Hobbs, Lynda Riley, and Francie Spahn.

Tracey Clarke, Office Manager, was present.

Major Richard Gibson, Commander of the Northern District, spoke to the board.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jarrod Bolte, Cathy Boyne, Tim Chriss, Carl Coscia, Felix Dawson and Sascha Sheehan.

PRESIDING: Tom Hobbs, Guilford Association President

The minutes from the March 1, 2016 meeting were approved.

Cathy Boyne has resigned as Treasurer. Clarke Griffin has accepted the position as Treasurer.

John Doherty has moved to Chicago and resigned from the Board.

**Dues Collection**: Tom Hobbs and Tracey Clarke

Over 90% of houses within Guilford have paid the mandatory maintenance charges. At this point, half of all Guilford residents not residing on Greenmount have paid the Guilford Security Patrol (GSP) and 58% have paid the Guilford Association (GA) dues. Two-thirds of York Courts residents have paid their mandatory charges, thirteen have paid the voluntary GA dues and ten have paid GSP. Out of the approximately 60 houses south of York Courts on Greenmount three paid the voluntary GA dues and one paid the GSP.

For those residents who have not paid the mandatory charges, lien letters will go out later in June.

**Baltimore Liquor Board**: Tom Hobbs

The Board of Liquor License Commissioners (BLLC) for Baltimore City who had been appointed by Governor Hogan in July 2015 were not approved by the Maryland Senate. Guilford, Pen Lucy and the York Road Partnership had not found these commissioners to be sensitive to the needs of the community. The new commissioners are Chairman, Albert J Matricciani, Jr, Commissioners, Aaron J Greenfield and Dana Moore, and Alternate Commissioner Harvey E Jones. The Guilford Board will request a meeting with this new liquor board.

Francisco attended a hearing for the Stadium Lounge on York Road which had been shut down by the former Liquor Board for illegal gambling and reopened by the Hogan appointed Liquor Board. The issue was raised at this hearing that the owner of Stadium Lounge is not a city resident. Being a city resident is a requirement to own a liquor license but is not always followed. The decision on whether to close down the Stadium Lounge was postponed to June 9. (It was closed down at a Liquor Board hearing on June 23.)

**AIRS Housing for Homeless Youth:** Tom Hobbs

A $4 million building will be built on York Road across from the Guilford entrance at Underwood Road to house 42 youths aged 18 to 24 years old. (Most will be former foster children who have aged out of the system.) AIRS is currently running another home for homeless youth in Baltimore which is well regarded. AIRS has received funding from the state and federal government. The will also get assistance from Section 8.

The Guilford Board has no objections to the use of this building. The Guilford Board is concerned about the appearance of this building given that it is visible to houses within Guilford and will have impact on our historic neighborhood. As part of the required Section 106 review process when an historic district is impacted, the Association has provided comments to the state. A meeting has been set for June 21 with the neighbors and developer.

**Reservoir**: Tom Hobbs

Construction to encapsulate the reservoir will begin June 13 and is expected to last three and a half years. The first phase will include the excavation of Reservoir Lane and bypassing the 48’ water main. The second phase will drain the reservoir. The third phase will include the installation of the tanks and construction of the pumping station addition.

The workers are not allowed to park on Guilford streets.

**Security:** Angela Hamilton and Major Richard Gibson

Major Richard Gibson gave an update of the Northern District. There are 61 neighborhoods in the Northern District. There are fourteen officers per shift (three fewer than two years ago). There are five to six plain clothes officers on duty who are primarily focused on burglary. Burglaries in the Northern District thus far this year are down 40%. There have been 22 shootings so far, up from 18 shootings last year.

There have been complaints of drug activity at Southway and Greenmount.

The number one complaint to the Northern District Police Department is for panhandlers. Aggressive panhandling is illegal. It is hard to get these people to stop panhandling because they can often get $200-300 per day! Major Gibson is going to start a committee of community members to investigate how to deal with the panhandlers. Guilford will have a member on this committee.

Another issue, particularly in Oakenshawe and Charles Village are college parties. If the party needs to be shut down due to noise violations, underage drinking or other reasons the host is fined $500 and the building owner is fined another $500. Forty-five violations (15 for Hopkins and 30 for Loyola) were issued this year. Hopkins students can be expelled after the third infraction.

There were a number of questions to the Major by board members concerning security in the Guilford community.

**Sherwood Gardens**: Margaret Alton

The Tulip Dig was very successful this year raising $4700. In addition, almost $23,000 has been raised for summer flowers. The Boy Scouts took all left over bulbs and will sell them to finance their projects. Any other bulbs left over will be planted in other Guilford parks.

The tree identification signs in Sherwood Gardens have been completed by the Boy Scouts.

Four signs will be ordered for Sherwood Gardens identifying it as a private park and stating the rules for use. Similar signs also will be ordered for the Sunken Park, Gateway Park and Little Park.

Dinner at Dusk was expected to be held on July 31. Ken Kolodner and two other musicians will play Celtic music. Due to potential thunderstorms the event was postponed to September 11.

**Architectural Committee**: Tom Hobbs

There have been 23 applications this quarter, through the end of May. They include two additions, two swimming pools, two roofs and changes to paint colors, new fences, new shutters and new kitchens that change the footprint of the house. There is also a new house under construction on St. Paul Street. There are also five houses where we have litigated for necessary repairs.

Thirty-one houses are for sale but two-thirds of them are under contract. Twenty-three houses had been foreclosed over the past 5 years but most of them have been resold. The housing market has picked up in Guilford.

**Other News**: Tom Hobbs

The Guilford Elementary and Middle School is scheduled to be closed in two years. A committee has been formed to monitor how the building will be used. Bill Henry has said that the School Committee will not permit the Guilford School to be used as a charter school because it would take students away from Walter P Carter which is expected to double in size to accommodate the new students. The committee includes Joshua, Anthony, Jarrod and Lynda.