GUILFORD ASSOCIATION BOARD – SEPTEMBER 2013 MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2013

7:00 PM

Westcott Room, Second Presbyterian Church

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Margaret Alton, Bruce Barnett, Cathy Boyne, Elizabeth Comer, Felix Dawson, Heather Fones, Anthony Gill, Ann Giroux, Tom Hobbs, Jeremy Hoffman, and Lynda Riley. Michelle Truesdale, Office Manager, was also present.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Chriss, Howard Friedel, Lisa Garten, Larry LaMotte, Bernie Shutty, Sharon Smith and Ann Tyler

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Pat Clarke, City Councilwoman, Captain Deron Garrity and Doug Gibson from the Northern District Police Department, James Brady and Paul Smith from McRoberts Security, Clarke Griffin resident of Guilford, and Jamie Brown and Clay Coulston from Beechbrook Landscape Architecture.

PRESIDING: Tom Hobbs, Guilford Association President, welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the June 19, 2013 meeting were approved.

This Board meeting focused on two issues, a discussion of the long range Master Plan for Sherwood Gardens and a discussion of recent house break-ins and actions to stop this crime.

Sherwood Gardens Long Range Master Plan:

Jamie Brown from Beechbrook Landscape Architecture presented the Master Plan. The plan was developed in consultation with the Trustees of Stratford Green and reviewed by the Architectural Committee. The Master Plan would gradually implement changes over the next 20 -30 years. The plan is to serve as a guide for the maintenance and sustainability of the Gardens. The objective is to maintain the tulips and summer flowers, to address the aging plants and trees and maintenance requirements while restoring major elements of the Olmsted and Sherwood plans.

Also, over time to we would seek to simplify care and reduce maintenance costs.

It was explained that Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. designed Stratford Green as he did other parks such as Prospect Park in Brooklyn, NY to have wide, open lawns with long vistas and densely planted, layered beds on the edges of the lawns. Sherwood continued the principals as the Gardens were expanded. Over time some of these features have been lost or compromised in Sherwood Gardens through modifications. The plan will restore the curvilinear beds and sweeps of tulips and summer flowers.

Some tulips and annuals have been planted in the critical root zone of trees and shrubs and the tilling has damaged roots. It is recommended that perennials be introduced in these areas.

Implementation is proposed in three phases:

Phase I 2013-2014 bed removals and reshaping

Phase II 2015-2020 more bed refinements and additions and plantings and restoration as required.

Phase III 2021-2030 more bed refinements and replacement and additional plantings

Although each of these phases will cost money, overall expenses should be reduced when much of the plan is implemented. Outside sources of grants will be explored and a major fund raising campaign will be considered. Plan implementation will depend of available resources.

The final plan, to be prepared before the Annual Meeting, will adjust some of the phasing, complete the recommendations for perennial, shrub and tree species in specific locations and refine the cost analysis.

There was discussion about several elements of the plan. The Board’s response was generally positive and complimentary to the landscape architects.

Security:

Guilford has been experiencing a surge of crime throughout the summer. The serious crimes primarily have been house break-ins or attempted break-ins. The Board is concerned that the criminals have not been caught and the criminal activity stopped. Northern District Captain Garrity and Councilwoman Clarke were asked to meet with the Board to review our concern and consider additional police action that should be taken.

The Guilford Association has recently started sending out notices each Friday identifying the crimes of which the Association is aware. Most of the break-ins are occurring during the weekday. Usually someone knocks on the door and asks if a service like lawn mowing is needed. If no one answers the criminals may go around to the side or rear of the house and break a door or window to get in. The police urged that 911 be called for any observed suspicious behavior indicating “Burglary in Progress” if there is an unauthorized person on the property and if there is a suspicious person on the street indicating “suspicious person.”

Captain Deron Garrity said that for two weeks there will be a car stationed in Guilford 24/7 (unless there is a call for an Officer in Distress). The officers will change their shifts at Juniper and Chancery.

The police department recommends that people engrave an identification such as, driver’s license number and phone number on all electronics: cell phones, ipads, ipods, computers, and flat screen TVs.

The police do not think a gang is operating in Guilford, but there are groups of juveniles seen coming into the neighborhood primarily from Greenmount Avenue. The police would like to receive photos of anyone suspicious.

Other Business:

The Association’s financial statements were distributed and discussed.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.