GUILFORD ASSOCIATION BOARD –JUNE 9, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2015

7:00 PM

Westcott Room, Second Presbyterian Church

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Margaret Alton, Adrian Bishop, Francisco Castellanos, John Doherty, Howard Friedel, Anthony Gill, Clarke Griffin, Tom Hobbs, Lynda Riley and Francie Spahn. Tracey Clarke, the new Office Manager, was also present.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Cathy Boyne, Elizabeth Comer, Heather Fones, Lisa Garten, Tim Chriss, Felix Dawson, Angela Hamilton, Jeremy Hoffman and Deanna Karanikas.

PRESIDING: Tom Hobbs, Guilford Association President

The minutes from the March 10, 2015 meeting were approved.

Tracey Clarke was welcomed as the new Guilford Office Manager. The Board expressed their thanks for Michelle Truesdale and all the work she did in setting up and running the Guilford Office. Michelle retired as the Office Manager in June.

**Security: Tom Hobbs for Felix Dawson**

Angela Hamilton had a security meeting attended by representatives of neighboring hospital (Union Memorial), universities (Loyola, Johns Hopkins, Notre Dame) and a number of neighborhoods (Northwood, Oakenshaw, Tuscany-Canterbury, Homeland, Roland Park). Officer Captain Gibson from the Northern District was present. Captain Gibson has offered to send copies of his reports to this group. The police do not monitor social media such as Neighborhood News where crimes are sometimes discussed.

The possibility of conducting another security survey was discussed.

The Board agreed to have two security vehicles drive through Guilford after the verdict of the police officers in the Freddie Gray case is announced.

**Treasurer: Tom Hobbs for Heather Fones**

The Board voted unanimously to institute the same process for lien charges that Homeland uses. The first year that a homeowner does not pay the mandatory maintenance charges a lien fee of $250 plus expenses will be incurred. The second year a homeowner does not pay the mandatory maintenance charges a lien fee of $500 plus expenses will be incurred. The third and additional years a homeowner does not pay the mandatory maintenance charges a lien fee of $750 plus expenses will be incurred.

Therefore, any homeowner who did not pay mandatory maintenance charges in 2015 and does not pay them again in 2016, will be charged a lien fee of $500 plus expenses. We will check with Homeland to see how they handle assess charges when there are inconsistent payments over sequential years.

**Sherwood Gardens: Margaret Alton, Clarke Griffin**

$3600 was collected during the Tulip Dig. Boy Scout Troop 5 had a tent with coffee at the tulip dig. As part of a service project, boys from McDonogh School gathered 17 bags of tulip bulbs. The Boy Scouts will dry them and for sale in the fall to pay for signs to identify the trees in Sherwood Gardens.

The experiment worked well having daffodils and hyacinths in five of the flowerbeds. The bulbs came up again this year and filled the beds. They bloom earlier than tulips which gave a longer spring season of bulb bloom in Sherwood Gardens. In addition, significant money was saved not having to replant these five beds with new bulbs. Because for healthy bloom of tulips requires periodic rotation of the planting area, the daffodils and hyacinths will be moved to other beds in the future after tulips are replanted in the beds where they are currently planted.

This summer nine landscape companies have planted summer flowerbeds as part of Project Olmsted and are competing for the “Sherwood Cup” for the best flowerbed. A summer garden party will be held August 29 and the winner will be announced.

**Parks: Margaret Alton**

The Association is going to spend money for ash bore injections to hopefully prevent the death of the many ash trees that are in Guilford. The City has a program for city trees with a diameter of 12 inches. The injections should be effective for two years.

In Gateway Park the GUILFORD sign has been refurbished, bushes were removed to prevent a homeless man from sleeping behind the Guilford sign, trees have been pruned, tulips have been planted and the Bouton Well is being repaired.

In Little Park Guilford land has been reclaimed and children are sledding there in the winter.

In Chancery Square a good deal of damage was done this winter with cars and trucks running over the park and curbs. Boulders have now been placed around the square to prevent destruction in the future. The damage to the park has been repaired.

The plantings in the St. Paul Median Strip were badly damaged this winter because of the heavy use of salt and low temperatures. Many roses and crape myrtle died. The plants have been replaced.

**Reservoir: Tom Hobbs for Cathy Boyne**

The City had to rebid the covering of the reservoir because of the cost and few bidders. A new Memo of Understanding is ready to be executed. The Guilford Association is having to be more flexible in start time by allowing work to begin at 7 am Monday through Friday. The contractors will take trash for residents to an accessible pick-up point when Reservoir Lane is unusable. The project will go to bid in July.

**Architecture: Tom Hobbs and Anthony Gill**

There have been 34 applications submitted through May (24 from March through May). There have several requests for window replacements. The Architectural Committee has reluctantly been approving these requests when architectural guidelines are met. Many homeowners do not understand that the original windows are made of far superior materials than replacement windows.

A new house will soon be constructed on St. Paul Street. A new architect has submitted working drawings which have been approved by the Architectural Committee. The neighbors have seen and approved the plans. The house will be constructed of stone, stucco and slate.

**Social events: Francie Spahn**

A survey regarding social events was sent to the entire neighborhood and Guilford households were asked to respond. There were 150 responses. People were asked about the events they have attended, the events they did not attend and why and what new events they would like to see. The favorite events are the Holiday Party and Dinner at Dusk. Suggestions for new events included a First Friday Happy Hour, Block Parties, Yoga in the Park, Running Club, Dog Walking Club and Dumpster Day (recycling, donations and trash). Only a small number of the respondents indicated interest in volunteering to chair or plan an event.

**Traffic: Howard Friedel**

We have requested the repaving of Charles Street from Cold Spring Lane to Stratford Road. Our City council representatives have been asked to help obtain approval from the City DOT.

A gate at Bretton Place and Greenmount had been suggested but a number of local residents did not support it.

**North Baltimore Neighborhood Coalition: Howard Friedel**

Ten neighborhood Associations (Guilford, Roland Park, Blythewood, Radnor Winston, Roland Springs, Wyndhurst, Keswick, Kernwood, Homeland and Cold Spring) and Loyola and Notre Dame University of Maryland have had two ten year agreements. The second ten-year agreement is about to expire. Loyola is requesting a one-year extension while they conclude their long-range plan.

**York Road Partnership: Tom Hobbs and Anthony Gill**

The York Road Partnership (YRP), which covers York Road from the county line to 43rd Street, works to promote the vitality of York Road as a desirable urban environment to live, shop and work. The YRP has been focused on closing lounges, bars and liquor stores to improve the quality of life of residents. In working with the Liquor Board four Liquor Licenses have been lost: Savoy for serving underage Loyola students, Lucky 7 a convenience center for being too close to Guilford Elementary and Middle School, Stadium Lounge for having been raided twice for gambling and Wozi’s Lounge which had been closed for more than 180 days. All these lost liquor licenses can be appealed to the Circuit Court.

AIRS, which offers a permanent home for homeless teens and young adults on the west side of Baltimore, plans to purchase the former funeral home between 41st and 42nd Street on the east side of York Road to build a home to house homeless adults aged 18-24 years old, many of whom have aged out of foster care. AIRS will raze the funeral home and build a new building. Even though the property is not within Guilford, it is across the street and visible from the Guilford National Register Historic District. Since federal and state funds would be used the impact on the Guilford NRHD must be assessed. Therefore, the Guilford Architectural Committee will work with AIRS on the design of the home. AIRS has raised $2.5 of the $5 million they need for this project.

**Broadband Initiative: Howard Friedel**

Guilford needs 20 more people to pay $10 and sign the request for fiber optic cable.