

Mountainbrook Annual Civic Meeting Minutes: January 2016

Meeting Date: January 31, 2015 – Hampton Inn 5:30 pm
Led By Norm Cook – 2015 Civic President

1. Call to Order – 5:39 pm

Norm mentioned Frank Barnes at opening and his unfortunate passing. Frank did so much for the neighborhood. The Civic Board and AH Board will be working on a memorial at the park.

2. CMPD – Officer's Whitesmith, Pardue and Jackson

Officer Jackson discussed crime numbers.

Car break-in's – We only had 2 in 2015 compared to 11 in 2014. Remember to lock your vehicles and call 911 for suspicious people.

Home break in – only one just reported last week. The home was vacant and it's under investigation.

Elizabeth McGregor (Safety) discussed the police initiative and contest to improve our community. 4 neighborhoods will be competing.

There is a survey out now to poll our security concerns. Once the surveys are reviewed, the data will be compiled to determine what initiatives we need to tackle first. The goal is to come up with different ideas to tackle (prevention) with a goal to educate/inform and reduce severity in specific areas. There may be one continuous area of focus or we could have a 90-day focus in one area and then move to another plan. Ex) larceny of auto, speeding, etc. We're looking for new and fresh ideas so everyone is encouraged to take the survey. Our neighborhood was chosen because we have a strong communication base and the officers want to be able to take the initiatives to other neighborhoods to combat problems.

There was a neighbor concern regarding the ongoing "activity" at park. The officers didn't know how many complaint calls had been placed last year. Elizabeth McGregor and the officers admit the park is a problem. The park is a 2-part ownership, Park and Club. This will be up for discussion in 2016. Unleashed dogs are also an on going problem. For off leash dogs at park, dial 911 and the call will be transferred to animal control.

A neighbor expressed concern over Rustic/Shaker area being used as parking for some homes off Sharonview. The officers requested he contact them regarding this. There was also a concern over aggressive dogs walking in the

neighborhood. The dogs are leashed so our best defense is carrying pepper spray.

Another neighbor(s) is concerned with the speeding on Mountainbrook. The radar trailer was put out which seemed to temporarily reduce speeders. Another speed study will be conducted in May. We are 1mph below the threshold to get approved for more speed humps. The study will be conducted over a course of 2 days. In the meantime, some stop bars and arrows on the speed humps have been painted. We are also getting estimates to have the red brick tops of the speed humps painted. This is a common problem in many neighborhoods. Elizabeth (Safety) is open to new ideas. A neighbor encouraged we consider placement of speed bar - which will alter the results in our study. Elizabeth agreed to address the location with DOT.

Officer Pardue mentioned that if speeding is of foremost concern, then indicate so on the survey. More importantly, we all need to make sure we, ourselves, are obeying the speed limit. If you see someone speeding, take down their license plate & vehicle description and call the HITS TRAFFIC HOTLINE @ 704-432-2120. An anonymous letter will be sent to the registered owner - a "SHAME ON YOU" note.

Another neighbor addressed concerns with a resident neighbor setting off industrial grade fireworks. The officers requested an address and said they could visit the home prior to the holidays.

3. Board

Norm motion was made to approve board. All approved. None Opposed.

2016 Members

President – Elizabeth McGregor
VP / Communications – Bill Helman
Secretary – Jennifer Ruiz
Treasurer – Brenda Clickner
Membership – Amy Erwin
Social – Sharon Schumacher/ Rita Carey
Beautification – Camille Coers
Safety – Bill Helman
Newsletter – Elizabeth McGregor
Directory – Kelly Blandford
Welcome – Helen Mayhew
Website – Mike Anderson

4. Financials/Membership

The pie chart is essentially the same year to year. Our social dollars are minimal and most money is spent on landscaping our 9 areas. Utilities are second in line. The directory is more this year because this is the year for print (printed every other year). Luminaries are still on the budget and Norm will let the 2016 board decide on the continuation of luminaries. We usually have around 66% participation on luminaries. Elizabeth sold ads to help revenue on the newsletter and Kelly Blandford set up a bulk mail stamp to assist with postage costs.

Norm motioned to approve the budget. All approved and no one opposed.

5. Social

The social structure is still evolving. We would like to continue to invigorate the social activity. This year the social chairs are going to become coordinators and we'll encourage individual volunteer(s) for events. The progressive dinners have been very successful and should continue in 2016.

6. Communication

All communications will be distributed under the VP role. We try various ways to communicate - Facebook, Next Door, Mailings, Email, and Website. We continue to try to be as successful and consistent as possible when sending and receiving messages.

7. Beautification

There are new dogwoods at Sharonview. The Carmel entrance is working well without irrigation. There are no large-scale plans or upgrades this year.

8. Storm Water/Watershed

Flooding at the Sharonview entrance has dwindled because of complaints by neighbors and board members. The residential construction and heavy rainstorms caused problems. The city has cleaned up and corrected the overflow issue temporarily.

However, homes in Sharon Woods continue to have big flooding issues – Cutchin Dr project. The current (old) infrastructure has small pipes and too

much activity. The plan is to re-route the water to creek by the pool. The project is proposed to take 2 years street demolition and detours.

The muddy water on Sharon View and the Cutchin Drive project are two separate projects we will continue to monitor.

Norm mentioned that he has tried to stay in touch with the builders (Saussy Burbank) at Sharonview. As far as he knows, there will only be 2 homes.

9. Gas Lamp –

The gas lamp is still under research and debate.

They are 1920's lamps made in Philadelphia, PA. Norm was able to get pole welded. However, its going to run around \$1,800 to get the pole back in working order. Helen is in contact with Piedmont Natural Gas to see if we can get assistance. Carmel Country Club has also been helpful. Bill Helman is currently is storing the lamp at his home.

Moving forward we need to take into consideration that the gas lamps are old and require a good bit of upkeep. We have to be prepared to spend money on them in the future. We spend around \$1000 year on gas. The lamps also need TLC - need sandblasting, painting, and globe maintenance. The last time they were renovated was 20 years ago.

We had a raffle for all civic members who've paid dues for 2016:

Raffle Winners

Val Jean & Douglass Parks - 3616 Fountainhill Ridge (gift card)

Clay & Lonna Hays - Mountainbrook (wine winners)

Ryan & Ingrid Bullard – 3418 Mill Pond Rd (gift card)

Judy & Lou Spitzer – 3315 Johnny Cake (gift card)