

Mountainbrook Annual Civic Meeting Minutes: January 2015

Meeting Date: January 25, 2015 – Hampton Inn 5:30 pm
Led By Norm Cook - 2014-2015 Civic President

1. **Call to Order** – 5:33 pm
2. **CMPD** – Mike Smith

Recent Car Break In's (January) – 11 of the 12 cars were unlocked. The thieves were wearing gloves, so unable to obtain fingerprints. Key message: Lock your cars and keep your garage doors closed. This is an easy to crime to prevent and, unfortunately, difficult to find the thief.

Officer Smith discussed property 'walk-through's', where an officer can offer suggestions to secure your property and its belongings. This includes taking inventory and serial numbers of your assets. These services are free and take approximately 15 minutes. If you're interested, contact Elizabeth McGregor (Safety Chairperson).

A resident would like to see more patrolling at the park – it's a gathering place for teens to congregate, drink and do drugs.

Another resident addressed the speeding on Mountainbrook as a concern. A meter or policing via radar was suggested. Some residents want more speed bumps and stop signs, others opposed. Elizabeth McGregor (Safety) has looked into adding speed bumps/stop signs. In March 2013 there was a speed test study done at Highview/Mountainbrook ; we wanted a 4-way stop. We had 2,100 speeding cars and needed 2,500 to get the 4-way stop approved. The city has denied speed bumps due to insufficient funds but said we could purchase our own at a cost of \$2,400/bump.

As of right now there are no plans to add bumps or stop signs. Hopefully, we can get a traffic police officer to assist in patrolling our area.

3. Board

Motion was made to approve board. All approved.

2015 Members
President – Norm Cook
VP – Bill Helman
Secretary – Jennifer Ruiz
Treasurer – Amy Erwin

Membership – Jessica Mack
Social – Sharon Schumacher/ Rita Carey
Beautification – Camille Coers
Safety – Elizabeth McGregor
Newsletter – Elizabeth McGregor
Directory – Kelly Blandford
Welcome – Helen Mayhew
Website – Mike Anderson

4. Financials/Membership

We had 60% participation this year, which was just above expenses. A larger push will be needed this year due to the added expenses: directory and signs/gas lamp in the new budget.

The directory will be published this year. It is published every other year, which is an added expense in the 2015 budget.

The gas lamp and divided median sign at the corner of Highview and Mountainbrook was struck by a hit and run vehicle. The city has repaired the median sign and we are in the process of determining whether or not the gas lamp is salvageable. If repairable, is it cost effective to fix it? Should we replace it with another different type of light? More to come in the coming months...

Landscaping, utilities and insurance is where most of the budget is allocated. We have 9 landscaping 'common areas' to maintain.

KN Lawn (our landscaping company) rates are going up \$100 month this year.

A resident wanted to know if the new families are paying their dues and how we reaching out to them. Most of the new families are willing to pay once they are familiar with our civic membership process. Helen Mayhew, the Welcome chairperson, attempts to meet every new neighbor face to face. Welcome baskets are distributed and she discusses the benefits of paying yearly dues.

Another 30 year resident had luminary concern. Are the luminaries cost effective? It appears participation over the years has dwindled. How do we generate more interest? We believe many people are out of town on Christmas Eve. We need more discussion on this – how people feel about cutting it out or how do we get better participation? We may need to consider a luminary placing and lighting committee. To be discussed in further detail with Sandy Carlson, head of luminaries.

There was also a concern as to whether we can save on social events. As a board, we feel the social activity brings the community together. With more young families moving in, there's been an increasing interest in social events.

Norm motioned to approved budget. All approved and none opposed.

5. Social

Sharon Schumacher is bringing in School House resident Rita Carey, and they will co-chair Social. Halloween showed stunning growth and interest in social events. New on the agenda is a Progressive Dinner Social – More to come regarding this event, tentatively set for March. We will need volunteers for each of the social events to bring them to fruition. Please encourage people to volunteer.

We used to have a youth/teenage person on the board and they were responsible for assisting with the events – maybe we can get their help?

6. Beautification

Camille has had a few people volunteer and appreciates the help. There's nothing new on the agenda, other than the increased maintenance fee, gas lamp repair, which were previously discussed, and continual maintenance.

Judy Barnes, long time Mountainbrook resident, spoke. It is the 50th year anniversary for Garden Lovers of Mountainbrook! She encouraged people to get involved – Judy is responsible for: Yard of Month, Pine Needles, Christmas décor/decorating contest.

7. Storm Water/Watershed

Karen Kottkamp – Sharon Woods Resident
Sam Perkins - Catawba Riverkeeper

The Cutchin Dr Storm Water Project is at a heated debate. There is currently a plan by the city to increase storm water pipes/drainage in an effort to allow for all of the current construction going on around our neighborhoods. Per Karen and Sam, there is evidence that the project, currently set to begin in 3 years, will add no value and be in construction for 2 years. The project will affect Sharon Woods and Mountainbrook residents. We need involvement from the community because the city is trying to convince people there's a problem when a problem doesn't exist. There are cheaper alternatives. The more storm water retention, the more flooding there will be – there's a claim

this is a waste of taxpayer money and this is being dubbed as a “storm water pipe to nowhere.” Storm water decreases water quality, erodes, floods and causes pipe leakage. There are ways to maintain our storm water on our own property and surrounding businesses can do the same.

Did you know? Our drinking water comes from Mountain Island Lake. North Charlotte resident’s water comes from Lake Norman.

Duke Energy consumes over ½ of our water. Conserving electricity reduces water consumption.

There was a neighbor concern regarding landscapers blowing leaves into the stream. If you see this happen, contact Rusty Rozzelle at Mecklenburg County Storm Water Services, who is in charge of water quality in streams.

Mike Anderson – Anne Heining Park spoke. Mentioned that AH Park is donation based. He will send out a mailing this year requesting donations for improvements and regular maintenance. Last year he repaired the pavilion roof, had tree work done and replaced/repared damaged wood. This year he would like to continue with maintenance of the playground and potentially make additions.