

Mountainbrook Annual Civic Meeting Minutes: January 2017

Meeting Date: January 29, 2017 – Hampton Inn 5:30 pm
Led By Elizabeth McGregor – Civic President

Call to Order – 5:32 pm

2017 Board Member Introduction

President – Elizabeth McGregor
President Emeritus – Norm Cook
VP – Bill Helman
Secretary – Jennifer Ruiz
Treasurer – Brenda Clickner
Membership – Kelly Blandford
Social – Sharon Schumacher/ Rita Carey
Beautification – Camille Coers
Safety – Bill Helman
Newsletter – Elizabeth McGregor
Directory – OPEN
Welcome – Helen Mayhew
Website – OPEN

CMPD – Officer Mike Smith

Officer Smith is our community coordinator along with Beth Jackson. We are in the 1 South Division, which covers 17 miles, 135 neighborhoods and 50,000 people.

Recap of 2016 - We had 12 car break in's, primarily in September – none of the vehicles were locked. One car was stolen – the keys were inside the car. There was a rash of vehicle break in's in the area during that time. The thieves were parking the stolen vehicles in parking lots and renting them out.

In our district, 26 hand guns were stolen out of cars. Officer Smith stressed the importance of LOCKING YOUR CAR DOORS.

There were a few home burglaries. It appears the homes were unlocked because there were no signs of forced entry.

In these situations, many times no arrests are made and a lot of man-hours wasted. Please get into the habit of locking your car doors, your homes and closing your garages to prevent your house from being targeted.

Q&A

Street Lamps - A neighbor asked about street lamps being out. You can report streetlight outages online at <http://charmack.org/services/Pages/default.aspx> or by calling 311.

AH Park Safety – Folks in the neighborhood, especially those living around the park, are concerned with the drug activity there and even in front of their homes. Officer Smith said they try to drive by the park and sometimes sit in the parking lot while doing paperwork. There were many suggestions, to get camer-

as, close the gate at night, etc. but many of these cases also happen during the day. This will need ongoing discussion with the Swim & Tennis Club, AH Park and the Civic. The Swim & Tennis Club is owns the land.

Mike Anderson (AH Park President) spoke and mentioned the limited funds from the park to help with security. There is virtually no revenue; all donations to run the park. He has interviewed security companies and having them patrol the area is not cost effective. Activity is occurring at night and during the day/lunch break. Kids have been wandering into the woods and loiter near Colony. It's not an easy fix and will require ongoing discussion to find the best resolution.

Officer Smith encouraged us to **KEEP OUR EYES OPEN**. Get the plate number, vehicle description, time, location, where they came from (in and out) and report the incident to 911 ASAP.

One neighbor mentioned she followed one of the kids to Royden and she's noticed activity picking up on spring break and fall break.

Review of 2016 Activities

The Civic board wants our neighborhood to be a fun, safe place for families. We have supported a host of events: Progressive Dinner, Easter Party, Taco Bar Party, Food Truck Friday, Neighborhood Yard Sale, Kidical Bike Ride, Brick Fundraiser for AH Park, Blazing Bees, Potato Bar Party, Fall Picnic, Halloween Party, Pine Needle Sale, Holiday Decorating Contest and Luminaries.

We qualified for 2 Speed Humps to be added on Mountainbrook section of the road. The existing speed humps will be repainted. We repaired irrigation, replaced LED lights and installed new azaleas at Sharonview. Elizabeth and her son repainted Frank Barnes Mountainbrook Club sign on Mountainbrook Road. A study to restore the gas lamps making them safe and efficient has been implemented.

Some liked the luminary changed date and a few did not. We plan to keep the luminary lighting for 2017 but will light them the Saturday before Christmas with the rain date on Sunday.

Budget/Financials/Membership

Budget Spreadsheet Attached

97% of our income comes from dues.

Last year we came in at 61% membership – our average is 68%.

As of January 28, we were at 47% participation (150/367 homes).

Norm Cook did a great job of building our savings.

Landscaping is majority of the budget- \$12,668. Social events \$2,894.

We have approximately 2 years cushion in our savings account.

Goals: Speed humps will get installed and all of the old humps will be painted. 3 speed studies were conducted and we didn't qualify for stop signs, so we opted for these speed bumps. Some neighbors are concerned it won't solve the issue but this is all we can do given the speed studies conducted.

Elizabeth is giving Camille Coers/Beautification \$500 year in landscaping improvements. The cherry trees and azaleas are reaching the end of their life cycle and will be replaced over time.

The newsletter pays for itself by advertising funds.

The big-ticket item is the speed humps - \$12,485.00

Q&A

A neighbor asked if we have looked into installing sidewalks.

Said his family lives in Raintree and the city just installed them there. Something we haven't considered at this time.

A suggestion was made to have part of the civic dues money go toward AH park since it doesn't have any revenue. Either a few bucks from each dues check or a check box on the dues form to make a donation. We will discuss this in upcoming board meetings.

AH park does receive assistance from the swim/tennis club, which pays grass cutting and civic, which pays for the watershed bill. If anyone ever wants to start a fundraiser to help the park, volunteers are welcome.

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

2017 Activities, Projects and Volunteer Needs

Our primary goal is to install the new speed humps. If budget allows, we'd like to start restoring the gas lamps – estimates are pending.

Our other focus will be on landscaping improvements and social activities.

You will see newsletters in the spring, summer and fall.

We need volunteers for website, directory and ad sales.

SPAN - Southpark Area Neighborhood

The bond was approved to improve infrastructure in Southpark.

We now have SPAN, which encompasses 47 neighborhoods in the Southpark area working together to provide a voice for our residential community.

Mountainbrook is one of the larger neighborhoods within the SPAN community. We have 367 homes and will have 369 once Johnnycake is complete. We lost 2 homes to flood control on Johnny Cake. The city is supposed to be maintaining those 2 lots and if they don't the city needs to be contacted.

With all the rezoning, SPAN plans to work to get the best results from developers and the city and provide support to Southpark area neighborhoods and businesses. It also supports one another with any other neighborhood concerns. So we, the people, have a greater influence on what happens in our area!!

Any interests in learning more about SPAN, contact Elizabeth McGregor or our new neighbor, Rob Aulebach.

Q&A

- 1) A neighbor noticed a man in the middle of the woods tagging the trees at AH park. No one is sure what he was doing but something we can look into. We only own a small portion of the land behind the track.**
- 2) Another neighbor wanted to know if there was anything we can do to make people clean up their yard. 311 can be contacted. The board can discuss and determine the best solution for each circumstance but most areas we have minimal jurisdiction.**
- 3) A question was asked about the frequent power outages. Do we have any influence to have Duke Power take care of the trees? Someone mentioned they are in the process of pruning some trees/clearing lines and they tend to prune every few years.**
- 4) Cutchin Storm Project is 70% complete with the design phase, however it will be 5-7 years until they start digging**

All civic members paying by the annual meeting date will received a free GoPlaySave coupon book courtesy of Tammra and Brian Granger.

We had a raffle for all civic members who've paid dues for 2017

Raffle Winners

David Day

Nathan & Carmen Gillis

Ed & Mary Lou Powes

Mike Kloss

Seth & Mandie Nore

Mark & Erin Grow

Josh Durham & Lynetter Neel

Jeff & Amira Borst

Bill Helman

Scott Forester

Lynn Peterson

Andrea Eckhard