

Clifton Heights Neighborhood Association Minutes April 27, 2009

President Becky Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes of the March meeting were distributed, read, and a motion to accept as presented was made, seconded, and approved.

President Becky Hughes gave the President's Report. We had a good turnout for our first Coffee in the Park of 2009, and hope to see more of you next month! Teresa Maletich has volunteered to be our new newsletter editor.

Tiny Schaper presented the Treasurer's Report. The **starting balance** in our Checking account was **\$3399.74**. He has written a couple of checks, but he has not gotten a statement showing them cleared yet, so he hesitates to update the balance. He did get a few dues at the last meeting and a couple of things in the mail (\$100 donation from Colleen Bridges, leftover from her campaign for Alderman). The balance after the outstanding checks have cleared should be **\$3297.39**. He will have a more comprehensive report next time. The **starting balance** in our Savings account was **\$4822.32**; it earned **\$2.58 in interest** leaving a **final balance of \$4824.90**. Remember, the Savings account cannot be touched, it's where the IRS funds come out. Business membership dues should read \$25 in the newsletter, not the old \$20.

Public Officials:

2nd District Public Affairs Officer Don Veile was not able to attend, but sent crime statistics.

24th Ward Alderman Bill Waterhouse. Currently you cannot legally enter eastbound I-44 from westbound Southwest Ave.; they are going to make it legal. They are also going to put up signs stopping commercial traffic through the neighborhood. A group wants to ban smoking inside all public places in the city. It would not go into effect until the county takes effect. They are hoping to go through the Board of Aldermen. He's not taking any side on this one. There are no plans to pave alleys this year, just streets. They are going to pave Southwest from Watson to the city limits; Eitman is not on the paving schedule. The electronic billboard is in the 23rd Ward; write the Mayor's office or talk to the 23rd Ward Alderman.

Neighborhood Stabilization Officer Maria Cuciureanu indicated that the NSOs are surveying vacant properties and lots making sure that any violations are being addressed. If a property has been vacant for 6+ months and has violations, it gets fined from two sources. She will check 5956 Columbia. The city is doing their annual violation assessments; check your exterior (paint, doors, windows, storage). If you are on the sidewalk 50/50 program, return the letter when they send it to you, or you will be taken off the list. City tree trimming is on a schedule.

Matt Luzecki on behalf of 65th District State Representative Michele Kratky. Nothing new to report.

A representative from Jeff Smith's office brought updates. Senator Smith is working hard on keeping money in our pockets. He's trying to keep an individual tax credit bill active, and an energy efficiency bill, and one on improving early childhood education.

Special Guest:

Diana Benanti, from Smoke-free St. Louis. She recently quit smoking, and would like to change St. Louis policy. Smoke-free STL is out there, to be a vehicle for the citizens. 3 of 5 citizens support a bill that would

ban smoking inside public buildings in the city when it happens in the county. Servers, bartenders, etc. have to breathe this air 8 hours a day...no one should have to choose between health and paycheck. It would be a 100% smoke-free ordinance, step outside to smoke. Her email address is on the website, smokefreestl.org. Clayton is also considering a smoke-free ordinance. There are benefits to restaurant owners to be smoke-free (insurance credits, etc.). Some places are taking this step on their own, but most hold out because they fear repercussions. Most new places that are opening are smoke-free.

New Business:

Marsha Giambalvo lives on Marmaduke. She and Melissa Mohr operate a **home-based garden business** and would like to do billing out of her home; there would be no traffic, just office tasks at her house. Her equipment is a 4x8 trailer and a wheelbarrow, and they stay in her garage, not out in the open. She goes to people's homes to do gardening. She needs to get our approval; there's a public hearing on May 14. CHNA can't have an official vote by then, but individuals can sign a letter supporting the proposal.

Vote on CHNA Officers. Josh and Julie are stepping down. Tiny has agreed to stay on as Treasurer. Becky is willing to stay on the Board. Kathy Migneco is willing to be Secretary. Mike Foster is willing to be on the Board; he runs 7-11 and has been in the neighborhood for about 20 years. He is currently President of the Board of the Hi-Pointe Center and has made numerous donations to CHNA over the years (Easter Egg Hunt, Party in the Park). Mike does not live in the neighborhood, but is a business member and the bylaws indicate any member "owning or renting property in the neighborhood" can be an officer. There were no nominations from the floor. The Board was elected by acclamation: 20 members were present; all were in favor of the slate as proposed, there was not opposition. The new officers will be installed next month: President Mike Foster, Vice President Becky Hughes, Treasurer Tiny Schaper, Secretary Kathy Migneco.

For the Good of the Neighborhood:

New Neighbors: Marsha Giambalvo in the 6600 block of Marmaduke.

Music in the Park... Carondolet is having one a week for 15 weeks. How can they afford it? They probably have companies underwriting it. We can step up our PIP and have it be a fundraiser that will give us enough money to cover other events. Our PIP will be September 26th this year.

The next **Coffee in the Park** is scheduled for 8-10am on May 23rd, but that is Memorial Day weekend. It will be the 5th Saturday this month, May 30th.

We need to start planning for PIP. We have already missed the child ID deadline.

AMVETS auxiliary will have a breakfast on Mother's Day from 8-11am. If you are running late, just call Vicky (781-4071).

We need more signs. Dot is willing to make more signs and give them to individuals so they can put them out. Meeting signs might only have been \$15-20 a piece.

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the next meeting will be at 7:00pm on **Tuesday, May 26th**.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded, and adjourned at 8:05pm.