

## **Clifton Heights Neighborhood Association Minutes November 24, 2008**

President Becky Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**President's Report** was presented by Becky Hughes. Becky shared a letter from the city's Comptroller Darlene Green (St. Louis received an A+ credit rating for the first time in 35 years). The Hill is having a 5K run on Sat. Dec.6 to kick-off Christmas on the Hill. The fish in the pond all died on Sunday. The water is crystal clear and there are white spots on the base of the pond. The MO Dept. of Natural Resources and the Parks Dept. have taken water samples (testing Ph, chlorine, chemicals, sewage levels). Dan Skillman (Parks Dept.) did not know when the results would be available. MSD was there today. There has been a company doing work around that area. The fish were probably stocked in the pond by private citizens/local residents.

**The Treasurer's Report** was presented by Tiny Schaper. The **beginning balance was \$3431.32 \$60 total credits, \$50 in restricted funds, leaving a balance of \$3541.32.** There are 5 **outstanding checks totaling \$198.97**, leaving a **grand total of \$3242.35** in the treasury. Dues are past due now; please pay (\$10 per household; \$25 per business)! We need to have our money in order so we're not in the red.

### **Public Officials:**

**Maria Cuciureanu, Neighborhood Stabilization Officer.** The refuse division has a special pick-up for yard waste; can contact the refuse division at 353-8877. If you have a roll-out cart, you can call to request leaf pickup; you must bag the leaves. If you have a dumpster, leaves can go in the yard waste bin. Each month, she will address any problem properties at the monthly meeting. The pool in the foreclosed Clifton Hills property has been drained, but the grass and weeds are still high. Billboards will be surveyed every month to make they sure are in good repair and there's no graffiti on them.

**Bill Waterhouse, 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman.** He believes the person killing the fish is a neighborhood resident; watch the pond. He had no news on the Presbyterian Church property; there is another gentleman interested in the property and will come talk with CHNA.

**Michele Kratky, 65<sup>th</sup> District State Representative** brought copies of weekly report. They are still not in session. She will be doing the freshman tour in December. The Univ. of MO instated a hiring freeze; MODOT is in a deficit situation right now due to higher fuel costs and reduced driving by citizens. Governor-elect Nixon settled a prescription drug tax fraud case for \$31M. She will be in Jefferson City from January to May. Call or email with any questions: (H) 481-0444, (C) 713-1408, [mrkratky@gmail.com](mailto:mrkratky@gmail.com).

### **Special Guests:**

**Charles Bryson, Director of Public Safety for the City of St. Louis.** Among other things, he oversees the City's Fire Dept., the Citizens' Service Bureau, the Building Div., the Excise Div., and the Corrections Div. He has noticed that participation in block units and Neighborhood Associations is falling off; he's working with NSOs to reverse that pattern. Safety begins with involvement and awareness. They will be having a movie night series over the winter (in schools, gyms, etc.); they are looking to partner with Aldermen, Neighborhood Associations, etc. Regarding the Corrections Division, he noticed that we had a "revolving door" at the corrections facility...we were not training people on the inside, so former prisoners would return as repeat offenders after their initial release. They are developing program that will provide education, counseling, parole, etc. in order to reduce recidivism. St. Louis city schools have a virtual program where you can finish

high school online; he's hoping to get this set up with inmates. There are not enough mental health specialists in the system, and there are no resources once people are released. We don't have parole in the city, we have probation...but with probation, you don't have to check in with a case worker or parole officer. Making daily or weekly contact with an official mandatory will reduce recidivism. About 95% of the city is now in a housing conservation district (all of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward is; we are not a historic district). This provides three resources for city neighborhoods: money going into building upkeep, checks on occupancy, and knowledge about vacant units. Whenever someone moves out, new resident needs an occupancy permit...and houses must be in good shape to receive an occupancy permit. It also allows the city to watch what's going on with a property. Right now people move into vacant and abandoned properties like they own it...and may be causing havoc. Over time this will cut down on issues relevant to problem/nuisance properties. Disaster preparedness is key, too. The big earthquake (or another disaster) will happen sometime...will we be ready? In January they will be starting training neighborhoods in emergency preparedness. Pleasure being here.

**Joe Gunn from Gunn Realty.** He is a commercial real estate broker, and is in charge of the building at the corner of Clifton and Arsenal (commercial on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, residential on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and the back). The building has a new owner who has budgeted to enhance the building (new façade, interior updates). He would also like to know type of business would like...doctor, lawyer, hair salon, office space, retail exposure. There is parking in the back, but it's small and shared by commercial and residential; there is street parking, too. Tenants live upstairs now; Vatterott handles the residential and he handles commercial. His contact information was on the handout.

### Old Business:

**Josh Wiese presented an update on the Clifton Heights Scholarship** (in the amount of \$150), which will be awarded to a high school senior or returning college student in the neighborhood. The money can go for tuition only, and will be awarded directly to the Bursar. They have an application prepared, and will announce it in the CHNA newsletter, on the CHNA website, in Suburban Journals and the Post-Dispatch, etc. The application process is open from November 30<sup>th</sup>-April 30<sup>th</sup>; the award will be presented at the May meeting. This year we will do one; hopefully will be able to do more in the future. The committee is currently Josh Wiese and Doug Burge, but they would welcome others. This is a good way to build community spirit and good will.

**Vicky Wertich** presented a \$150 check from AMVETS auxiliary from yard sale proceeds to be used for the Clifton Heights Scholarship. **THANK YOU AMVETS AUXILIARY!** ☺

### For the Good of the Neighborhood:

**New Neighbors:** Nicole and Eric Post, moved into the 6000 block of Elizabeth in May.

We will have at least 1 and possibly 3 **vacancies on the board** this year. Julie will be stepping down, as may Becky and Josh. Woody Lange will be spearheading the recruitment.

Vicky Wertich announced the **upcoming breakfast at AMVETS**, hosted by the auxiliary. It will be on December 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-noon. Santa and a young Mrs. Claus will be there. All proceeds will go to Children's Hospital neonatal unit.

St. Louis Hills will be having its **annual tree lighting** on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

We need to get our monthly meeting signs up!

Our next monthly meeting will be 7:00pm on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Mason School cafeteria.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved, and the meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.