

## **Bayard Square Neighborhood Association**

### **Meeting Minutes March 9, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7pm. Ed B. motioned that the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted because all members present had a copy and had been able to review them. Kevin Kelley seconded the motion.

Officers Evans and Ledesma from the Community Policing Unit fielded questions and gave an update on police presence and happenings in the city. Officer Evans will most likely be on permanent duty in our neighborhood. He lives in the on Linden Street. The plan is for 3 officers to be placed in the neighborhood in the future. There have been five homicides thus far in 2010. They appear to be gang related (a group called the Latin Kings). Many members complained that their calls for assistance to 911 do not seem to be met: police don't arrive at the scene for quite a while, if at all. The officers reported that they are often overwhelmed and can't get everywhere in a timely fashion, but their goal is to respond to every call. A member reported the continuing noise from his neighbors' motorcycles. The officers reported that it's difficult to respond when the motorcycles have left before they arrive on the scene. It was suggested that the officers address the owners of the particular property from where the noise is coming. A member questioned if there is a breakdown between the dispatch and the officers. The officers responded that they did not believe this was the case. Another member reported seeing and hearing dirt bikes in Canby Park, damaging the lawns. Ken offered to provide the officers with photos of the people on the dirt bikes. There is trash and tires at the intersection of Clayton Street and Lancaster Pike. It had been cleaner before the restaurant reopened.

Jason Leary from Public Works came to respond to the many complaints/problems from the recent heavy snowfalls. Members stated that the city's response was unsatisfactory: it appeared that most streets in Bayard Square received 'one pass' until about a week later, when backhoes showed up at midnight and disturbed the neighbors. The streets were dangerous and covered in several inches of ice. Additionally, the snow piles created limited visibility and also covered up fire hydrants. Some members did not have their trash picked up for three weeks. Mr. Leary responded that the recent snow events were especially challenging for many reasons. 40 inches of snow fell in the city over a period of four days, along with 50 mph winds. The city owns 19 pieces of snow removal equipment and hired contractors to provide assistance. Mr. Leary cited that communication among city departments did seem to be a significant factor in impeding effective snow removal and trash pick up.

Solutions were suggested. Reverse 911 could effectively communicate urgent news to neighbors. It's currently only authorized by EMT's for emergencies (despite the fact that the city was under a state of emergency). Parking on Maple St. could be prohibited during snow events. People could park at St. E's or Canby Park to keep the street clean. The city's snow reimbursement program was discussed. Mr. Leary distributed the applications for snow

reimbursement but cautioned that the city will not respond at all if we are signed up for the program. In the future, trash could be put out on corners so that it can be collected more easily.

The catch basin/sewer on Lincoln Street is still open with just a piece of slate placed over it. Mr. Leary will have it addressed. Clean Sweep most likely will not be happening city wide this year. Neighborhoods who choose to participate independently can do so. It will most likely be scheduled for May.

Annie Acton from the DE Center for Horticulture spoke to the group. The city is being offered free trees to any property owner in the city. The funding has been provided through the Forest Service as part of the Stimulus Package. There is a form to fill out on the web. Ms. Acton also gave forms to the officers to distribute to members. The program is open for the next two years, but trees are only available on a first come, first serve basis. There are also pictures of the available trees on the website: [www.dehort.org](http://www.dehort.org) Kerns Brothers will be doing the planting. Unfortunately, the recent planting on Clayton Street is not doing well due to poor growth and vandalism. They are being targeted for fix up.

Kevin Turner and Tim Taggart from the WFD were scheduled to present at this meeting, but were not in attendance.

Billy read the treasurer's report : \$109.90 in checking, \$1,357.77 in savings. The Neighborhood Association donated \$25.00 to St. Anthony's Via Crucis.

Ed B motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Kelley seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Chmielowski