

Cool Spring/Tilton Neighborhood Association

Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

1.) Attendees: Eric and Liza Zumsteg, John and Judy Fardoulis, George Ropes, Ed Weirauch, Alfred Lance, Ken Carson, Bejay Hoffman, Gregg Conner, Zakia Jackson, Tammie Williams, Ellen Priest, Joe and Kassie Grey, Rob Pfeiffer, Amy O'Neill, Joanne Burke, Harold Burke, Julie Vernot, Jim Dolan, Gerald Brady, Mark Murowany, Danielle Romanski, Dianne Guitierrez

1.) Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Clara Zahradnik.

2.) Nominations for officers

Ellen Priest and Kerry Welsh served as election coordinators who accepted written, e-mail nominations since August 1, 2009. There was discussion about deferring nominations because of the meeting occurring right after the Labor Day holiday. There was a suggestion by Ellen Priest to change the nominations to October and the elections to November. Both suggestions require amending the By-Laws. Joe Grey confirmed that we would have to make these changes as amendments to the By-Laws.

Ellen presented the nominations she received and the nominations Kerry received, since Kerry was away on a business trip. Nominations presented as follows:

- Clara Zahradnik received three nominations for President. Clara accepted the nomination.
- Ed Weirauch received a nomination for Vice-President. Ed accepted the nomination.
- Gregg Conner received a nomination for Treasurer. Gregg declined the nomination.

The following nominations were received from the floor:

- Kevin Melloy nominated for President. Kevin declined the nomination.
- Kevin Melloy nominated for Vice-President. Kevin accepted the nomination.
- Tammie Williams nominated for Treasurer. Tammie accepted the nomination.
- Amy O'Neill nominated for Secretary. Amy accepted the nomination.

Joanne Burke pointed out that she had sent nominations by e-mail to Kerry, but Kerry didn't receive them before she left on her business trip. Joanne's nominations are valid. Joanne was given the opportunity to present the nominations from the floor, but preferred to send them to Ellen. Ellen will forward the nominations to Clara.

Kevin Melloy moved that the nominations be closed. Motion seconded by Joe Grey. Motion carried.

3.) Treasurer's report

Gregg Conner reported that we have \$1306.06 in the regular checking account and \$1017.02 in the ING savings account. The new fiscal year will start on Oct 1. It will be time to renew memberships. Clara pointed out that we are financially solvent. The savings account has sufficient funds to commercially print the newsletter for a year, should the current arrangement of \$25.00 per month at West-End Neighborhood House be terminated. An FY 2010 budget will be presented at the October meeting. Julie Vernot asked what kinds of expenses were in the budget. Expenses include funds for the picnic, participation prizes for Clean-up Day, office supplies, etc. Clara said that some funds were obtained from City Council to defray some costs. It was unlikely that there would be any funds available from Council in 2010. We have funds in the regular checking account to cover typical expenses and we can decide if there are any special projects or needs we would like to fund.

4.) Announcements

Wellness Day (Sept 19) flyers were passed out.

Clara informed the attendees that an AmeriCorps/Public Allies Project to do a Landlord Outreach program was submitted. Info about the project was received just a couple of weeks ago and was due on Sept 8. The intent of the project is to form a CSTNA committee to work with the Public Allies volunteers to find out who the landlords are and figure out a way to reach out to the landlords that they can know CSTNA and CSTNA can know them. Alfred Lance said that he was a Public Ally. He said that the Public Allies are young people and it will be important to have a committee of residents to guide them. Mark Murowany suggested that the Recorder of Deeds office would be a resource to identify landlords. Clara said that there was no guarantee that our project would be accepted and staffed.

3.) Fall activities

Ed Weirauch led the discussion of fall activities.

- Ribbon-cutting Ceremony for Cool Spring Reservoir Plaza Thursday, Oct 8. More information will be coming as the City formulates plans.
- House Tour in conjunction with the ribbon-cutting ceremony to highlight the whole area. Proposed date was Saturday, Oct 10. Kevin Melloy suggested that Sunday, Oct 11, 1-4 pm would be better, since that is the traditional time for real estate open houses. It was decided to hold the open house on Sunday, Oct 11. Ed will form a committee to organize the house tour.
- Bulb-planting at Cool Spring Park and Cool Spring Reservoir Plaza, Saturday, Oct 17. The Kelly Heinz-Grundner Foundation promotes awareness of the number of people who contract brain tumors. Every year, the Foundation does a Tulips Against Tumors mass planting in a public area. The Foundation has planted tulips at the Helen Graham Center at Christiana Hospital and the A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children. This year, the Foundation has selected Cool Spring Park at the location for planting. The Foundation is working with Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) to determine the exact location of the planting. DCH will organize the prepping of beds. The community is invited to participate in the bulb planting.
- Community Yard Sale. With all the above activities scheduled for October, it was decided to forego the fall Yard Sale this year.

4.) Issues

--Satellite dishes

Clara reported that some residents were concerned about the placement visibility of satellite dishes on houses. Gregg pointed out that one of the problems was that the satellite dish companies aren't required to remove the dish when a resident moves. The new resident may not have or want this kind of service, so a dish remains, but it isn't used. Clara had contacted the Planning Department who said that there were no specific limitations in the City Code on placement of dishes. Some of the other City Historic Districts have guidelines about dishes. Rep. Gerald Brady said that he would contact Councilman Steve Martelli to check the City Code. Rep. Brady thought there was some limitation. Once we understand what the City Code says, CSTNA can discuss any further action.

--Tire thefts

There have been three instances where wheels were removed from Hondas parked on the street. The cars were then propped up on milk crates. Since the activity occurs at 2-5 am and there isn't much noise, it's very difficult to report the activity as it happens. The crimes have been reported to the police. The police seem to indicate that they may have some idea of the perpetrators. While police response may be slow and puzzling, Clara said that they may be working to build evidence. She said she would contact Councilman Martelli to ask him if he had any other information on progress in these cases.

5.) Speaker: St. Francis Hospital Stroke Prevention

Diane Guittierez gave a presentation on stroke prevention.

6.) New business

--Amy O'Neill announced that next Thursday, September 17, perennials from the Lewis School gardens would be available free to anyone who wants them. She'll be giving them away at Lewis School.

--Joe Grey represents CSTNA at the 8th District Neighborhood Planning Council. The 8NPC has announced that money is available and projects should be submitted.