Stratfield Historic District Association

Date: Monday, May 14, 2018

Place: Calvary St. George's Episcopal Church, 755 Clinton Avenue

Meeting called to order 7:40 PM by SHDA President Margee Judge

In attendance: Erroll Bowen, Paul Cushman, Hope Edwards, Howard Gardner, Joyce Glasgow, Bob Halstead, Guy Horvath, Margee Judge, Damian Langan, Gloria Piche, Howard Raabe, Judy Shanner, Sarah Skollingsberg

INTRODUCTION OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT

REVIEW OF MINUTES

April minutes were not yet available for review. They will be reviewed at the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Ivelis Reyes was out of town, so no Treasurer's report was presented for review.

OLD BUSINESS

Earth Day Cleanup - Cleanup was a success. Volunteers helped collect trash and plant flowers donated by Ganim's. Howard Gardner reported that the young people of his church have also committed to the cleanup effort.

Tree Plantings - Joyce Glasgow reported that the city will be doing the plantings "sometime in the Spring." They are not able to commit to a specific date.

Board Nominations - Board member terms are up. Nominations requested, none forthcoming. Votes on nominations postponed until the June meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Cemetery Presentation - Invited speakers had to cancel at the last minute. Bob Halstead discussed the historic significance and condition of the Ancient Stratfield Burying Ground. There was some discussion about promoting the burying ground as a site of historic interest, but Judy Shanner cautioned that grave rubbings should not be encouraged because they could destroy fragile stones (especially brownstone and marble) that have already been damaged by many decades of acid rain. Bob Halstead also mentioned possible grants to restore some of the grave stones. He made a motion that we contact the 1772 Foundation about a grant, Howard Gardner seconded.

Strategic Goals for 2018. Followup on 5 strategic goals that we hope to achieve in the coming year.

1) Clinton Park – Joyce Glasgow will ask the city about getting grass seed planted in the park to repair damage by trucks, etc. during the winter. She also reported that she was not able to find farmers interested in holding a farmer's market in the park.
2) Historic District education – have historic tours/ walk with Historian Bob Halstead - 14 votes
3) Membership drive and focus - Membership is up, and we are getting participation from churches, but we need to hold a membership drive and knock on doors in the district.
4) Educational events – Errol Bowen, Howard Raabe and Margee Judge volunteered to serve on the planning committee for the 2018 Annual Picnic.
5) Expand City-wide litter campaign and recycling efforts Joyce Glasgow summarized the results of her anti-littering class.

SHDA Web Site. It is almost time to update the URL and hosting. Judy Shanner will handle renewal.

Litter - Joyce Glasgow reported dumping on Beechwood and also dumping of garbage in the Stratfield Burying

Ground by residents of the apartment building. She has contacted the management firm that runs the building to request that they provide more dumpsters for tenants.

Coffee with a Cop. Gloria Piche announced that police and our City Council representatives will be meeting with residents at the Woods End Deli on Saturday, June 2 at 9 am. She also announced a fundraiser for state senator Marilyn Moore on May 15th.

Organ Concert - Howard Raabe announced that Juilliard students will be presenting an organ concert at Calvary St. George's on June 1 at 7pm. Donations will support the Bridgeport chapter of the American Guild of Organists, who plan to purchase a kit to show children how to build a pipe organ.

Living Healthy Course - Howard Gardner shared information on his church's new Living Healthy course.

LOCATION & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday, June 11, 2017 at Calvary St. George's Episcopal Church, 755 Clinton Avenue. Motion to adjourn by Hope Edwards, Howard Raabe seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.