

Stratfield Historic District Association

Date: Monday, November 14, 2016

Place: Chris & Lindsay Russo residence, 180 Brooklawn Avenue



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

In attendance: Chris Russo, Lindsay Russo, Bette Huckabee, Mary Capodoglia, Howard Raabe, Dave Judge, Susan Tabachnick, Frank Borres, Sal DiNardo, Dom Dias, Judy Shanner, Steve Farrell, Margee Judge, Joyce Glasgow, Guy Horvath, Diego Chachques, John Olson, Steve Stafstrom, Kathleen Smith

INTRODUCTIONS OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Susan Tabachnick motions to accept minutes from last meeting in October, Howard Raabe seconds. All in favor, minutes accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In Treasurer's absence, President reviews. Money spent: Mark's Art purchase of additional T-Shirts \$113.00 Bulbs for park will be donated by Colorblends. All in favor, report accepted.

HOUSE PLAQUES

As per Judy Shanner, found vendor for vinyl lettering. Plaques that were paid for have been completed. Cost of production has gone up; going forward plaques will cost \$40 (vs \$30). Frank Borres requested information on obtaining plaque be put on SHDA Facebook page. SHDA has Twitter account, Instagram to be set up.

MONTHLY LITTER CLEAN UP

Monthly Saturday Clean Up held November 12th with Chris Russo, Dom Dias, Jeffrey, Diego Chachques participating. Brooklawn, Laurel, Sterling and North Avenue covered.

CLEAN UP COMMITTEE

Fran Rabinowitz contacted to have outreach to schools to take ownership of clean up of surrounding neighborhood. Frank mentions that the city hasn't been returning calls and there is little traction with John Gomes.

UPDATED BY LAWS

As voted upon by Members at last meeting, monthly SHDA Meetings are now Second Monday of the month instead of Third. Kathleen formally amended By Laws, dated 10/17/16.

190 HAZELWOOD AVENUE

As per Chris, tenants are gone. He spoke with owner's lawyers – realize there are laws – pose serious problem in neighborhood. Police visited several times. As per Margee, Bonnie Lambert will issue Blight Notice tomorrow. What constitutes Blight? Steve Stafstrom mentions there used to be a co-ordinated task force when one department was contacted all other departments would be included with enforcement. Recent legislation was passed where a lien can be put on ALL homes owned by a landlord in Bridgeport if Blight bills remain unpaid. Steve would like to see it include homes outside of Bridgeport. Mike Fredino on Rusling is one of inspectors. Blight & Housing Code is now combined.

BULB PLANTING/PARK MARKER & SIGNS/TREE PLANTING

Joyce Glasgow spoke with Colorblends who generously donated bulbs to be planted in Clinton Park and Stratfield Park. Planting to occur this Saturday at 9am. Joyce spoke with Steve & Vaughn at Parks & Recreation to let them know about plantings and they said SHDA are the “stewards of the area” and responsible for maintaining the bulbs. Steve at Parks & Rec said the SHDA would be responsible for erecting a Marker. Steve Stafstrom recommends putting together a proposal involving the Economic Development Office as a Capital Improvement that he and the Council could advocate for. Apply for grant to get gate repaired at Clinton Park Cemetery -- does Mountain Grove get tax abatement? Would like “Entering Stratfield Historic District” signs at border of District. Steve suggested to Joyce to apply to City to get more trees in Stratfield Park; Groundwork Bridgeport can be of help with planting. “Adopt a Tree” will plant tree on your property if requested. Joyce – no electrical outlets in the park for Holiday Lights. Suggestions of Movie Night in the Park in the summer time, music in the park, etc. Steve Stafstrom suggests making a list of Priorities. Pick two or three that are -- collectively for the group -- a priority.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Judy – postponing work until the new year

FALL HOUSE TOUR

Kathleen has contacted historians from the Bridgeport Library website; waiting on response. SHDA could be tour operators. House Tour to be co-ordinated with Colorblends’ spring celebration, date TBD.

MISCELLANEOUS

Membership canvass in the Spring.

Susan asks that all neighbors please shovel sidewalks this winter, walking can be dangerous. Judy knows of someone who is looking to do odd jobs outside of the house, could shovel/rake if needed.

Leaves are no longer being picked up curbside by the City as a cost-cutting measure; now need to be bagged and will (supposedly) be picked up the same day as recycling, bi-weekly as per BPT website. John Olson indicates City has designated monies for sidewalk improvement – City will pay 50%, concrete required.

John Olson spoke with City Attorney about lack of/more enforcement of the SHD Commission rulings.

John suggest “inventory” for planting trees on certain streets. Judy would like it to include stump removal.

“Homework” for January meeting – priority items to write on the whiteboard. Be realistic on what is achievable and how. John Olson and Steve Stafstrom comment it will be easier for them to advocate for the SHDA with a narrower focus on what we would like accomplished.

LOCATION & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for Monday, December 12th at Frank Borres home 586 Clinton Avenue. Donations for Rescue Mission, invite Terry Wilcox, Frank to ask what is needed. Susan suggests travel-sized toiletries, coats.

Margee calls for motion to adjourn, Howard moves for adjournment, Dave Judge seconds.

Meeting adjourned 9:05 pm.