

**Stratfield Historic District Association**

**Date:**Monday, May 13, 2019

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

Meeting called to order 7:50  PM by SHDA President M. Judge

In attendance:

Board members: Margaret Judge, Steve Farrell, Linda Robak, Judy Shanner

Members: Frank Borres, Paul Cashman, Joyce Glasgow, Robert Halstead, Guy Horvath, Bette Huckabee, Michael Jaques, Damien Langan, Guy Love, Gloria Piche, Howard Raabe, Meredith Richardson, Susan Tabachnick

**INTRODUCTION OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Margaret explained the reason for David Judge absence; they were both in a serious car accident and their car rolled twice. No injuries requiring hospitalization but David is still recuperating from previous shoulder injury and bruising from car accident.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Minutes were reviewed from March 11th meeting, approval had been tabled awaiting input from R. Halstead on the CDBG grant application. M. Judge  asked Halstead to read his comments, he did. M. Judge commented that Halstead’s statements didn’t fully account for an accurate recounting of the events. Much back and forth with R. Halstead and J. Glascow interrupting several times. J. Shanner stated they were speaking out of turn per Roberts Rule of Orders and that R. Halstead would be asked to leave if he would not comply.  F. Borres said and said he didn’t feel this was an accurate representation of our organization. R. Halstead left the meeting on his own accord. Motion by J. Shanner to accept his account, which was seconded by M. Richardson. Discussion was held to possibly edit R. Halstead statement before entering it into minutes. F. Borres reminded members that we cannot enter R. Halstead’s statement into minutes if it is not factually correct. Board members agreed it was not. J. Shanner withdraw motion, R. Meredith seconded.  Motion to accept was withdrawn with a motion by S. Farrell to accept as they are as Halstead’s opinion and attach to minutes for this meeting. Motion so moved and March 11th minutes approved.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

M. Judge reported that I. Reyes and David Judge are still working on the Treasurer’s report and will have it at the next meeting.

**ONE HUNDRED YEAR HOUSE CERTIFICATE REQUEST**

755 Clinton Ave. (Bradley House)

**COLORBLENDS OPEN HOUSE**

M. Judge summarized the SHDA particpiation: members volunteered at a table set up inside to recruit new members. Only two signed up as most visitors were from out of the area. J. Glasgow commented that many signed up when she ran things, but it was noted that any that may have signed up have never participated at our events or attended our meetings. It was agreed it was still a success as it created a greater awareness of our organization and its mission.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY COUNCILMAN KYLE LANGAN - EMAIL FROM LANGAN SUBMITTED BELOW**

1) The budget has been voted through the Council and is now bounced back to the mayor. The Council added $1.3 million for the schools after our Mayor flat funded them for the fourth year in a row. This still leaves the schools with a stated $10 million budget hole. I made a number of motions on the floor to try to funnel more money to the schools but they all failed (although we got closer than last year).

2) I am currently putting in a formal proposal for work in stratfield and clinton parks that will include: natural barriers on the perimeters of the parks and restoration of the revolutionary arch.  The park is currently being set up with electricity for music during the farmers market (and any other time we want to host an event there).

3) I will be hosting a fundraiser for the Farmers Market at my home on Saturday June 8th from 1 - 4 p.m. The goal is to raise $2,000 to support the odds and ends the market needs to start smoothly. I'd love everyone to attend = )

**REVIEW OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

**Marketing:** F. Borres and J. Shanner will set up meeting

**Bylaws:** meeting held, not able to contact P. Cashman. M. Judge requested that he verify his contact info which has yet to do as he needs to set up a new email account.

**Historic Education:** H. Raabe and G. Horvath presentation postponed until June meeting. Highway marker was replaced in the park.

**NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE**

S. Tabachnick reported that there is substantial trash and trees down in the brook and asked who is responsible for clean-up? J. Shanner will send her instructions on how to use SeeClickFix to report the problem. It was also noted the tunnel needs to be cleaned out at Laurel Ave.

**FARMERS MARKET**

The first Farmers Market - Stratfield Saturday Market in Clinton Park - will be held June 22nd and will continue every Saturday until October 5th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The board is now considering ways in which DHDA may participate, including having some kind of a table set-up or booth to solicit new members and to provide information about our organization, the district, and our activities. Rev. Sara Smith will be at upcoming meeting with more information on the market.

**FOUNTAIN PLANTS**

J. Glasgow wants to speak to Oliver’s for discounts on plants via our non-profit status and wants to plant succulents in the fountain. While low maintenance, many thought succulents wouldn’t be visible or colorful enough to be inside of a fountain and aren’t a typical flower with historic use in this district.

**NEXTDOOR MAILING**

J. Glasgow was alarmed by a mailing she received from them as she’s unfamiliar with this social media outlet. M. Judge explained it’s a legitimate social media outlet.

**HISTORIC** **COMMISSION**

F. Borres reported that he has submitted his resignation as of July from the Historic District Commission and gave 6 months notice, however the city has made no effort to install a replacement. This means no one will be left on the Commission. The city appears to be unresponsive to applicants for Commissions. An email should be sent to Angel DePara at [Angel.DePara@Bridgeport.gov](mailto:Angel.DePara@Bridgeport.gov)  His phone number is 203-337-2335. The board also needs to alert K. Langan to send a letter to him alerting DePara of this urgent issue. J. Shanner asked about the effectiveness of a petition.

**NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP**

M. Judge reported on the clean-up and said American Waste sent 3 people to help us. She also said that John Ortiz from All American Waste happened to mention in conversation that he’s under extreme financial stress as he’s had to recently pay the expense of two funerals. Judge suggested we send a donation to him if we can afford to do so since he’s been extremely supportive of our monthly clean-ups and drives a long distance to do so. She will pursue and get back to us in regards to sending one check.

**COFFEE WITH A COP**

Coffee with a Cop was held at Woods Deli. L. Robak attended, along with K. Langan and 8 other neighbors. Four officers were there including Captain Steve Lougal. Any complaints you may have can be sent to him via email at: [Steven.Lougal@bridgeportct.gov](mailto:Steven.Lougal@bridgeportct.gov) Lougal explained the Bridgeport Police Force is extremely understaffed due to a large number of retirements this year and many more next year. While new officers are being trained, there are not enough to replace those retiring. L. Robak was able to get her dog complaint - neighbors abusing two dogs - addressed and Captain Lougal will follow-up. For those with noise or other complaints you can call 203-576-7727 for assistance.

**LOCATION & DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Monday, June 10, 2018at Calvary St. George's Episcopal Church, 755 Clinton Avenue.

Next cleanup will be Saturday, June 8th. Motion to adjourn by H. Raabe, M. Richardson seconded.  Meeting adjourned at 8:49.