Stratfield Historic District Association

Meeting Notes – August 10, 2020

In Attendance:

Margaret Judge

Milen Bedon

Howard Raabe

Ivelis Reyes

Karen Tajeda

Adolfo Rodriquez (Stratfield Saturday Market)

Susan Tabachnick

Daniel Mendez

Steve Stafstrom

Judith Shanner

Linda Robak

Steve Farrell

Angie Staltaro

Meeting called to order at 7:50.

Linda had sent July minutes just prior start of meeting. Margee will sent to everyone.

Treasurer’s Report

There is currently $1,829.81 balance in the account as of August 10. Howard moves to accept Treasurer’s Report. Susan seconded. Motion passed.

Joyce Glasgow contacted the school about outstanding funds related to our project. If additional monies are needed, the association will provide them.

Monthly Clean-Up

Four bags of trash were picked up on Saturday’s monthly cleanup. Margee also found a kitten at the corner of Laurel and North. It was wearing a flea collar and seems to have been fixed. A posting on social media has been made with signs in the neighborhood to follow. (Postscript: no one claimed the kitten, Margee and Dave have a new cat!)

Stratfield Neighborhood Farmers Market

Adolfo made a presentation related to the Stratfield Saturday Market. They’re dedicated to its success, and the neighborhood.

● There is a booth that provides information about food stamps, SNAP, etc.

● Both the number of vendors (9/10 versus 15) and shoppers (110 versus 300) is down from last year, as is across all markets this year.

● Looking for volunteers to place yard signs in front of their home. Karen offered to take 2. Location recommendations included reaching out to Brooklawn Pizza. Steve Stafstrom offered to push out information on his social media.

● People can pre-order bread through Heidi for the following week.

● This past week had a new farmer who was selling eggs and micro-greens. Another vendor was selling 7 different types of empanadas.

● Optimus Healthcare to provide walk-in Covid 19 testing. Bring insurance card; free for those who can’t pay.

o August 14, 5-6pm at the Bessemer Center

o August 29, 9:30am – 12:30pm at the Stratfield Saturday Market

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

Angie gave an overview of the successful, first annual wine tasting event. Final numbers will be available after our Board Meeting, hower both the Association and Soroptimist International should each net about $750. A huge thanks to Angie for all her hard work in pulling the program together, garnering raffle items, food, etc. Thanks to the Police Department for sending representatives. And thanks to Howard for hosting the event.

Good and Welfare/Open Floor

● Karen shared that a leaf blower and compressor were stolen from her garage. Steve Stafstrom stated that crimes of opportunity are on the rise throughout the state, especially during challenging times. He urged everyone to be vigilant about locking cars and homes.

● Susan revisited the conversation about the abundance of “sober homes” in the neighborhood. Steve Stafstrom suggested looking into a zoning change for Brooklawn Avenue that would forbid commercial businesses. An update as of Tuesday morning: the neighborhood is zoned RA (residential only). There was discussion about a meeting with Domingos Dias, owner of 155 Brooklawn Avenue, regarding the sober homes in the area. Margee to contact him about his availability. Steve Stafstrom agreed to mediate.

● Susan mentioned that we no longer have a quorum for the Stratfield Historic District Commission. She had reached out to Mary Dunne at the State Historic Preservation Office for help and guidance. The City is a Certified Local Government which comes with obligations that the City is not abiding by; i.e., functioning commissions. She said she would reach out to the City on our behalf. Susan will follow-up to see what has been done.

Steve Stafstrom asked for the names of any applicants. Susan to send him email with Dave Judge’s). contact information.

● There was discussion about the poor quality of street trees and the responsibility of the City to remove them. Steve Farrell recommended sending photos via 211 (is this the correct number?) as he had success having a tree removed, and stump ground. Linda expressed concern about a tree across from her home on Beechwood. Margee to reach out to Steve Hladen in the City. Steve Stafstrom shared that in his neighborhood, a few homeowners got together and hired Northeast Horticulture to do tree work. This strategy was a win-win for everyone; more work for the vendor and lower costs for the homeowners.

Next clean-up: Saturday, September 12

Next meeting: Monday, September 14

Steve Farrell made motion to adjourn meeting; seconded by Susan. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.