

April 16, 2019

Minutes of the Country Side Homes Association Annual Meeting

In attendance:

Officers:

Jason Pryor, President
Mitch Burgess, Vice President
Evan Stange, Treasurer
Season Burnett, Secretary

Directors:

John Legg
Jill McGee
Jim Kraus

Absent:

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President Jason Pryor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Introductions of Board members were made, & thanks given to Mark Blanck for catering the meal for tonight's meeting.

Public safety presentation by KCMO Police Department neighborhood liaison Sgt. Sebastian Hanriot

- 16 hours of patrol is performed each week by off-duty KCPD officers
- If residents go on vacation, they can give Kathryn Strupp (neighborhood/KCPD liaison) or Sgt. Hanriot notice & KCPD will watch their house
- Discussion of work performed by KCPD in past year (person, residence checks)
- Discussion of KCPD's opt-in program for residential security devices (i.e., Ring) d
- Question & answer session included discussion of how KCPD shifts are scheduled in the neighborhood (they are adjusted according to officers' availability, recent incidents), how to keep solicitors away from homes (post a "no solicitors"/"no trespassing" sign on/near the front door), requirement for registration with the KCPD & KCFD of home alarm systems (if the system isn't registered, the KCPD/KCFD won't come to the address when alarm goes off).
- Jason introduced KCFD Jimmy Walker, who spoke about the KCFD's smoke detector provision & installation program, assistance program for elders, ambulance program.

TREASURER'S REPORT (EVAN STANGE)

- Review of half-sheet printouts of the current budget, AP/AR, overdue dues, winter street maintenance, neighborhood events
- Dues: There is currently \$15,810.71 in unpaid dues. Several other neighborhoods (Greenway Fields was the first) have wrapped dues into county tax bills. They formed a CID to do so.
 - Evan asked for a show of hands of who would be interested in having dues wrapped into their property tax collection – majority had hands up.
 - Q&A:
 - Is this cheaper & easier to set up than an ACH system?
 - HAKC offers electronic dues payment, but there's a per-transaction fee.

- Is there a way to ease the burden on those residents who have been here for decades, are elderly, have expenses, etc?
 - The dues which are assessed are assessed across the neighborhood; there's currently no way to do this for single households. Jackson County does offer a relief program for county taxes for the elderly, but you have to sign up for it.
 - Some worry was expressed regarding access to funds if Country Side includes dues in county property tax collections.
- In 2018, the cost for KCPD patrols rose from \$35/hour to \$40/hour. Country Side is grandfathered into the KCPD off-duty program; if we give up the patrols, we can't get them back. Other neighborhoods want the service from KCPD but can't get it. There hasn't been turnover in patrollers in over a year. CSNA hasn't asked for a dues increase for KCPD patrols in 3 years.

MAINTENANCE (MITCH BURGESS)

- A new decorative sign at 52nd & Wyandotte is being installed this week.
- Main St. islands: The Board received a \$6,000 bid for a very-simplified planting & maintenance plan, and will be moving forward with that company.
- No new costs are anticipated this year for landscaping maintenance.

GENERAL BUSINESS (JASON PRYOR)

- Streetcar: Although it was graded "high", no federal funds have been granted for this coming budget year, so the process will be rolled into next year.
- Short-term rentals (STR's): Country Side's bylaws prohibit STR's. The Board addressed a couple of situations in the past year, all of which were resolved amicably. The minimum rental period allowed in Country Side is six months.
- Bryant Elementary:
 - KCPS is waiting for the success of Hale-Cook to cause it to need more space, or possibly the need for a middle school in the area to become great enough to require that Bryant be brought back into service. Until such time, Bryant remains on KCPS's list of properties in a holding pattern.
 - Spire Gas recently asked KCPS for Bryant to be a staging place for two upcoming projects (at 52nd & Wyandotte and 57th & Summit). Jason responded that Country Side isn't in favor of such an arrangement. Spire responded that if they can't stage at Bryant, they'll just leave equipment in the streets (public right-of-way). Spire would be expected to do some site improvements if they're allowed to use Bryant as a staging site. Jason will make further inquiries and the Board will act accordingly.
- Season Burnett made a quick presentation about the new residents welcoming committee and invited those present to sign up to contribute &/or volunteer.

- Upcoming events:
 - Easter Egg Hunt (Kathryn Strupp, organizer) April 20th, 10am
 - CSHA Neighborhood Yard Sale: May 18th & 19th
 - Neighborhood Dumpster Day: May 25th, 9am – noon
- Jason encouraged attendees to reestablish the block captain system.

VOTES:

- Jason moved for a \$10/year dues increase to cover patrol cost increases. The motion was seconded and carried by a majority hand vote.
- Jason moved for a \$5/year dues increase to cover increased costs for Winter street maintenance. The motion was seconded and carried by a majority hand vote.
- Jason Pryor (president) reelection – A motion to reelect Jason for another term was carried by a majority hand vote.
- Season Burnett (secretary) election – A motion to elect Season as Board secretary was carried by a majority hand vote.

With no other business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Season Burnett
Secretary