

COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

September 6, 2014

Proposed Minutes

Having given written notice as to the date, time and place of the annual meeting delivered to association members via United States Postal Service first class mail to the address recorded with the City of Rehoboth Beach, the 2014 annual meeting of the CCEPOA was called to order at 11:09 a.m. in the pavilion at Grove Park, Rehoboth Beach on Saturday, September 6, 2014 by President Tom Zellers.

Introduction of Board Members. Tom Zellers introduced the Board members present: himself, Vice-President Ann Stellmann, Treasurer Charlie Browne, Secretary Gary Glass and Director Drew Woodall. Secretary Glass explained that Director Barry Brandt and Director Enrique Gomez were out of town today.

Quorum. Tom Zellers welcomed all to the meeting and noted there was a quorum with five Board members present.

The Secretary Gary Glass reported there was no correspondence. Approximately 50 members were in attendance, and three guests were invited: Rehoboth Beach City Manager Sharon Lynn, Rehoboth Beach Police Chief Keith Banks, and Rehoboth Beach City Commissioner Stan Mills.

2013 Minutes. Gary Glass presented the minutes from the September 7, 2013 annual meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by member Pal Littleton, Laurel St., and seconded by member Ellen Davis, Laurel St. The members approved the minutes without objection.

Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

1. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Charlie Browne circulated the financial statements and summarized the balances. He highlighted that the Board approved donations of \$1,000 to Main Street for the July 4 fireworks, \$500 to the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society, and \$300 to the Chamber of Commerce's Sea Witch Festival. He also asked members to notify him of current contact information if they did not receive notice of this meeting, or their dues billing, or if they believe their dues billing is not correct. Ann Stellmann moved to accept the report, seconded by Pal Littleton, and the report was accepted without objection.

B. Properties Committee.

Old Business

1. Speeding on Hickman Street. Tom Zellers noted that the City Manager secured a commitment from Senator Lopez to fund a digital speed sign, which hopefully will be installed this

year. If the digital sign is successful at slowing traffic, then he hopes the City will agree to a second sign on Munson Street.

2. Silver Lake. Tom Zellers informed the members that DNREC officials continue to report the sediment removal project will happen this year. The sediment would be moved to state property near the lake.

3. Property tax re-assessment. Tom Zellers reported that the City has completed the property tax re-assessment project, and members should have received their new assessment information. Some properties went up, some went down, but the overall objective was a more fair assessment with neutral effect on City revenues.

New Business

1. Delmarva Power street lights. Tom Zellers explained that Delmarva Power plans to replace more of their steel street light poles with new aluminum poles, as they have already done some new poles a few years ago. The old steel poles continue to rust away at the base.

C. Recreation Committee

Tom Zellers extended a special thank-you to Directors Stellmann and Browne for their hard work organizing the annual meeting and picnic. He noted that Ann is almost an original member of the Board. He reported that the next annual meeting and picnic will be September 12, 2015.

Election of Directors

Tom Zellers explained that there are four vacancies on the Board. Request for nominations was mailed to members and no nominations were received. The four incumbent Directors—Barry Brandt, Charlie Browne, Gary Glass and Enrique Gomez—each agreed to serve another term. Pal Littleton made a motion to re-elect these Directors, which was seconded by Ann Stellmann and unanimously approved.

Other Business

Tom Zellers drew the members' attention to the Association's website and the other websites and email resources listed on the annual meeting agenda. He emphasized that all members are welcome to attend any of the Board meetings, the dates of which are listed on the annual agenda. Members interested in attending a meeting should contact him about the time and place before the meeting.

Member Ernest Blazejak, Scarborough Avenue, commented about the absence of curb cuts, for example at the corner of Scarborough and Stockley. He had to help a man in a motorized wheelchair who was unable to surmount the rolled curb at the southwest corner. Tom Zellers remarked that the City has made some progress installing curb cuts, for example on King Charles. Jackie French, Sandalwood Street, added that there is an issue of compliance with federal law, and asked whether the City has a plan. City Commissioner Stan Mills explained that the City has a detailed transition plan developed by an engineer consultant, which is available to review at City Hall. Because of cost, the City prioritized the central business district, followed by the first block from the boardwalk. Unfortunately this places Country Club Estates at a lower priority.

1. Presentation by Stan Mills on Neighborhood Watch program. Stan Mills explained the objectives of neighborhood watch, and urged members to sign up for the e-mail bulletins and notification. He explained that Det. Sullivan provides weekly reports from the Police Department. He also encouraged people to photograph and engrave their valuables, which aids the police in identifying recovered property. They have an engraver to use, child identification kits for parents to take fingerprints, hair, etc., free gun locks and more. The Police Department's number to call to report suspicious activity is 302-227-2577.

2. Presentation by Chief Banks, Rehoboth Beach Police Department. Chief Banks explained that the City has one of only nine dispatch centers in all of Delaware, and one of only three that handle police, fire and ambulance together. The dispatch center is responsible for 26 square miles for fire and ambulance response. The dispatch center is nationally accredited, and the Police Department is one year into a three-year process of obtaining CALEA accreditation, which will lower insurance rates and improve professionalism. The Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Department is the number one department in Sussex and Kent Counties in number of calls. For the first time in several years, the Police Department is now fully staffed with 17 full-time officers. They hired 23 summer officers in 2014, and will retain 4 summer officers through October for the weekend events.

He explained that the City Manager has instituted "Code Red" software for email and text communication in case of storm, road closures, etc. You can sign up on the City's website or call the Police Department.

Another major initiative is the "Smart 911" in which you can put your profile on a secure website which dispatchers can see if you call 911. Police and fire can provide a better response when they know if there are pets in a house, a person with dementia, or special medication needs, etc.

The Police Department is running campaigns to educate pedestrian, drivers and bicyclists, handing out warnings and literature about crosswalk violations, reflecting clothing, bicycle lights, etc.

The Police Department will accept any expired medications for safe disposal.

The new smoking prohibition has been very successful. There have been 300 warnings since May 15, and 4 arrests where a smoker "talked himself into it." Overall, smokers have been very cooperative, and appreciative of the designated areas for smoking on the beach.

A new issue is the increase in homeless, with about 26 homeless persons coming in and out of the City daily, and sometimes sleeping by "turtle bridge" in Stockley Park or by the drawbridge. Sussex County provides virtually no resources for the homeless problem.

In terms of crime, Chief Banks emphasized that heroin has become the biggest problem, with most burglaries and car break-ins linked to drugs, and now heroin is cheaper than pills. But crime is stable or down, with only 7 burglaries so far this year, compared to 13 last year. All 7 burglaries have been cleared. There were 20 thefts from vehicles this year, all but 4 have been cleared. Traffic accidents are stable compared to last year, but bicycle and pedestrian accidents are way down. There has been a big increase in alcohol-related noise complaints and drunkenness in public. Moped accidents are up this year, mostly driving under the influence. Local bars and restaurants are over-serving, and the Police Department is acting as baby-sitter for their drunken patrons.

A member asked whether noise complaints should be made after a particular time of night. Chief Banks replied that you can call the police any time the noise is bad, and after 11pm during the summer the enforcer Bobby Evans is out with the decibel meter.

Another member asked about the volume of speeding tickets in Country Club Estates. Chief Banks did not have those statistics, but he noted that he instituted a new directive that officers must stop drivers exceeding 30 miles per hour, with discretion to ticket or warn, and they must ticket drivers exceeding 34 miles per hour.

A member asked about the Police Department placing “no parking” cones in the median on Scarborough every Saturday morning near Jack Lingo Realty. He appreciated it, but wondered why not install sign posts. Chief Banks replied that so far the City has not wanted to install signs in that median.

3. Presentation by City Manager Sharon Lynn. The City Manager discussed that she has been in the job for eight months, and before that she spent her whole professional life in public service, most recently as City Manager of Provincetown, Mass. She has an open-door policy, and welcomes you to come see her. She would welcome being your conduit to get information to the Mayor and Commissioners, or just to be heard. Regarding the speed sign on Hickman, she hopes to have it installed very soon.

Ann Stellmann added that this digital sign represented great progress after several years of effort by the Board to address the problem of speeding on Hickman Street, and she was very thankful to City Manager for that.

Adjournment. Pal Littleton moved and Ernest Blazejak seconded to adjourn the meeting, which was approved without objection at 12:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Gary A. Glass
Secretary