

Minutes – Gwinhurst Civic Association General Meeting, December 4, 2014

President Christina Anthony called the meeting to order at 7 pm and introduced the other board members (Carol Thomas, VP; Dave Paules, Treasurer; Denise Brush, Secretary). There were 13 residents present plus Councilman John Cartier and his aide. A copy of the minutes from the November 6 meeting was made available for those who don't have access to the Gwinhurst website (www.gwinhurstde.com).

Treasurer Dave Paules reported that our beginning bank balance was \$13,418.95 and there were two deposits totaling \$50, making an ending balance of \$13,468.95. We expect to pay \$125 to renew our website hosting contract soon, unless someone wants to sponsor it. Starquest Shooter's and Survival Supply and Ron's Discount Tires sponsored the website this year for \$100 but haven't volunteered to do so again. If anyone knows of a business that would like to sponsor the website please contact Dave soon.

We plan to mail out a newsletter in January, which will include the form to mail your 2015 dues payment to Dave's address. The snow plowing contract has been signed by the board, and Carol has registered our association with DelDOT for reimbursement of snow plowing for snowfall over 4 inches. The new secretary we elected last month, Kristin Ford, will be starting at the next meeting. Denise gave Christina a portfolio with minutes and other civic association documents from this past year to give to Kristin.

The Claymont Fire Company is coming around our neighborhood tonight so Santa can wave to the kids. Christina is the contact person for the Gwinhurst holiday house decorating contest, so if you want to participate, give her your contact information so she can contact you if you win. Christina didn't find any local businesses that wanted to provide prizes so she will buy Wawa gift cards. The judges will meet the evening of December 20 to drive around together and choose the winners.

Adrian compiled a list of thirteen road issues, mainly potholes, in his drive around the development, which Dave reported to DelDOT. Nancy took a copy of the list and is going to drive around and see which ones have been fixed, and report back. We also need to check if there are now street signs distinguishing W. Delaware and E. Delaware as promised.

Denise brought up a proposal to obtain a subdivision entrance sign for Gwinhurst. Most subdivisions in Delaware have large entrance signs installed by the civic association, in addition to the official small blue signs the state puts up. Some signs hang on a single post while others are attached to two posts or a stone foundation. Denise sent around a proposed design for the sign in various color combinations (the teal background was popular). Most signs of this type have a dark background with white, silver or gold lettering. Denise found a company online

called Strata Signs which specializes in outdoor signs like this, and got a quote of \$1425 for a 6 foot long by 3 foot high sign in “high density urethane.” They ship the sign to the customer but we would have to install it. Residents were excited about the idea of getting a sign but there was some question where we would put it. The only two entrances into Gwinhurst from a main road are on Philadelphia Pike at Delaware and at Holly Oak and we're not sure about land ownership in those locations. Denise suggested that this proposal could be brought up for a vote in the spring after we get more information and know how much money the association has left after handling the winter snow removal costs.

Councilman John Cartier summarized the New Castle County Crime report for Gwinhurst for this month for us. The biggest item of concern was a theft from a vehicle on 12/2 (the perpetrator was caught though). There were a typical number of domestic disputes and EMS calls. Councilman Cartier also introduced his new legislative aide, Scott Collins.

The most exciting event of the meeting was the presentation of a check for \$800 to the Gwinhurst Civic Association board (the result of a grant we applied for) from Councilman Cartier. A photo was taken of the board with the symbolic large size check, and Councilman Cartier expressed appreciation for the work of all the board members over the past year. He also gave the real check to Christina.

Mike updated us on the status of 28 Georgetown, the vacant house which has been going through the sheriff sale process. It is now for sale with Re/Max and a number of interested people have come through to look at it. Mike (who lives next door) is concerned that a buyer might think it could be subdivided (which would be ill-advised due to site drainage needs), and that buyers may be unaware of major structural issues and the fact that the driveway is shared with the neighbor. If the property is sold, the new owner will have to resolve the liens and substantial back taxes owed. Councilman Cartier will look into getting a search warrant so someone can inspect for structural issues.

There is a new office building going up on Governor Printz Boulevard which should be a positive asset to the area. This Friday night there are two holiday events: an art reception at Darley House around 5 pm, and the annual tree-lighting and caroling at Rockwood at 6 pm. The Claymont Holiday Parade will be Saturday Dec. 6 from 10 am to noon, unless it rains.

Christina is collecting old comforters and blankets for pets through the Faithful Friends group - if you'd like to donate contact her.

The board thanked Denise for her year of service as Secretary. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. The next meeting will be the first Thursday in February, as we will be going to a quarterly meeting schedule. There will not be a January meeting.