

Minutes – Gwinhurst Civic Association General Meeting, 5/1/14

Call to order and board/committee reports -

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm and the members of the board introduced themselves (Christina Anthony, Carol Thomas, Kris McMahan, Dave Paules & Denise Brush). There were so many residents present (at least 19) that the President had to run off more copies of the agenda!

Dave Paules reported that we have \$14,017.21 in the bank (before newsletter bills of about \$400). Four more homes have paid their dues! We should be in good shape for whatever weather next winter brings. The spring newsletter was mailed out and most people received it. Only 30 envelopes were returned.

Old business -

Graffiti removal - We are not sure where the graffiti actually is – somewhere on Delaware Ave on an electric box. Christina Anthony has the bottle of cleaner and mentioned the project as a good option for a student who needs a few community service hours, or anyone who wants to improve our community.

Playground – Kris McMahan contacted the county parks planning office and is waiting for a response. We are still exploring places that would work for a playground (it wouldn't necessarily be the existing park). We would have a community meeting prior to implementation. Some residents present expressed vocal opposition to the idea, suggesting that a playground could attract crime, and asking who supported it. It was pointed out that the many residents in favor of a playground (who expressed their views on Facebook) are probably home taking care of their small children. Several board members spoke in favor of the idea of our trying to take positive action to improve our community. A related idea would be to create a committee to clean up the park, and perhaps ask the county for a second trash can.

Bus route – Denise Brush spoke about the letter she received from DART First State rejecting the idea of a Silverside bus route with a stop in Gwinhurst, after getting our letter last month. They did a quick site study, and they don't feel that Delaware Avenue and Prior Road are wide enough for a bus. It would also be difficult to add ADA-compliant crosswalks, curb cuts etc. As far as running a bus down Silverside Road, they dropped a previous Silverside route due to low ridership, and feel that most residents along the road have access to a car and wouldn't take a bus. Contact Denise if you disagree and would like us to pursue an appeal of this decision (one resident has already called to do so).

Postal issues – Denise read aloud a draft of a letter addressed to Senator Carper, noting the many issues Gwinhurst residents have been experiencing in getting their mail delivered. If you never got your sewer bill, you may be able to get the county to waive your penalty for paying late if you call them. Several people asked that our letter make it clear that our regular letter carrier, Veda, is very good and it is her various substitutes who are causing the problems. Denise agreed to clarify this and send it off.

New business -

Yard Sale - May 17 – tell Christina if you want to be one of the houses included in the advertising.

Trash companies – Jenn Bennett-Downey called several trash companies to ask if we could get a group discount for the development. The only company which was willing to do so was EconoHaul, which gave us a quote of \$19/month (trash weekly, recycling & yard waste every other week) if we get at least 50% of the development signed up. Many residents (at least 150 homes) already use EconoHaul so we only need about 150 more. A resident who currently uses them says they have good customer service. She recommends using a local small business. Gabriela Ionescu mentioned she likes JBC Hauling which charges her \$28 a month. Residents may ask their companies about discounts and report back at the next meeting if they are offered any good deals.

Community News -

Crime report - The Gwinhurst crime report for April (provided by the county police department) was passed around and will be posted on our website (www.gwinhurstde.com) and Facebook page. The large number of emergency vehicles on Milford last Sunday afternoon were investigating a death.

Public meetings -

- Councilman Cartier attended the public meeting with the state and SunocoLogistics held April 28 at the Claymont Fire Hall. The Sunoco refinery in Marcus Hook which closed not too long ago is going to reopen in 2015, to store and process natural gas from the Marcellus Shale formation. The existing pipeline will be used in the reverse direction to bring the gas from western Pennsylvania. The old site will be refurbished and will add about 50 employees. There were some safety concerns raised by Claymont residents at the meeting. Councilman Cartier pointed out that it will be cleaner than refining crude oil so there will be less air pollution.
- Monday May 5 (6:30 at Claymont Community Center) will be our next regional public safety meeting, an opportunity to learn what the county police are doing. They recently got a new fleet of vehicles which are SUVs (Tahoes).

Other Community News –

- Councilman Cartier is meeting with the owner of the burned down Coach House restaurant this month. We all said “please no Dollar General!” The old 7-11 which has the fence around it will become an Auto Zone next year sometime. It should be very nice looking due to the new Claymont design standards.
- Friday May 9 at 7 pm will be the annual shrimp feast and fundraiser for the fire company at the Claymont Fire Hall on Philadelphia Pike.
- The Naamans Creek watershed cleanup sponsored by Councilman Cartier was very successful.
- Cartier reminded us that in big rain events like last night (April 30) the sewer manholes can be blown off and make a very dangerous situation. If that does happen, call the county right away.
- Residents asked about code enforcement issues. Councilman Cartier said that homeowners are responsible for repairing sidewalks. If there is a bush blocking your view at an intersection, call county code enforcement. For oversize vehicles parked on the street obstructing views, you need to call the police non-emergency number.
- Cartier is continuing to pursue the drainage issue in the Silverside office park and will be scheduling a community meeting about the planned infill project, which will include tearing down the old Silverside school.

Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. The next meeting will be June 5.