

## McKinley Civic Association Minutes June 4, 2009

Chair Betty Smith called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. and led the association in the pledge of allegiance. Chair John Edgar read the minutes of the April 2 meeting. They were approved as read.

Treasurer Frank Gillespie said the balance in the checking account was \$5,069.49. Donations from the April 2 meeting amounted to \$40.

Chair Betty Smith reminded us that we previously approved the purchase of a video projector for PowerPoint presentations. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to send \$200 to the Fourth of July Committee planning the neighborhood festivities.

Chair Wallace Robinson reported on the neighborhood Town Watch. There are eight prospective volunteers. They will need to figure out a starting date and what hours they will patrol. Teams of two will go together with their own cell phone and a supplied flashlight. Teams begin and end by checking in with the police and letting them know their expected hours and locations. He introduced Mr. Wall, the chair of the well-established Roslyn Town Watch, who has volunteered to assist us in getting started. He offered training to interested individuals. A Town Watch's aim is to witness and report to police, and never to intervene. Signs need to be posted in the cars. A suggestion was made to also drive through the neighborhood between Church Road and Burholme Park. Mr. Wall also told us about the monthly Joint Town Watch meetings held at the township meeting.

Commissioners Michael O'Connor and Jay O'Connor discussed zoning. The 1996 zoning code is being rewritten by a committee of citizens and civic groups. Jay said the goal was to tighten loopholes that some developers have used. He also reported on a blueprint that has been drawn up with suggestions for the future of the York Road corridor. Michael addressed the concern that the code was being radically altered. It is not. As for the blueprint, it consists only of suggestions given by an outside company. The next meeting on this project will be July 8th at the high school. Michael urged us not to be disturbed by misinformation put out by Ms. Laura Lehman.

The O'Connors reminded us that June is Slow Down month. Signs were made available and speed-traps will be set. Also, a part-time person has been added to the code enforcement department for the summer months.

Chair John Edgar presented Anna Alter and Stefan Skripak with the 2009 Book Scholarships. He also alerted us to a food drive to be run by the Reformed Presbyterian Church in July.

Jennifer Sherwood told us about an effort to begin a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm at the Mother House of the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer. They are looking for volunteers. Contact Jennifer or Sister Anna to get involved. The first effort will be June 13 at 9 a.m. to plant pumpkin seeds. The pumpkins grown will be used in the fall at their Oktoberfest.

Chair Betty Smith reminded us that the service awards, consisting of a \$50 savings bond, will be given to two students from McKinley School and two from the St. James School. These four students will be invited to our September Back to School meeting.

Betty gave us a brief preview of the 2009-2010 meetings: the November meeting will be held in October so that we can meet the candidates the Thursday before the election. We plan to focus on the local races and not invite all the school board candidates. April will be on a history of McKinley theme.

February and June have not yet been planned. It was suggested that it would be good to hear from someone from the attorney general's office, as happened some years ago. It was also suggested that we could learn about reverse mortgages.

Our Community Yard Sale will be held on September 26.

We did not hear from the DARE officer at this meeting.

We were invited to have cake and cookies.

But first we authorized \$314 for Betty Smith and \$50 for Susan Dubrunfaut.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.