

Minutes of the Nov 6 2008 Meeting of the McKinley Civic Association

Chair Betty Smith opened the meeting at 7:33 with the pledge of allegiance.

Chair John Edgar read the minutes of the September 4 meeting, which were amended and approved.

Treasurer Frank Gillespie reported that our balance is \$5705.73. We paid Betty Smith a bill of \$86.70 for stamps and stationery. Our deposit from our last meeting was \$68.

Betty asked that we authorize spending the \$250 for the book scholarship won by Robert Kieffer, and \$303.33 for Susan Dubrunfaut for her work on her website. She has secured our website name and our website hosting for three years through godaddy. She is currently building the site. It will include a map and links to local government and may include a photo gallery of events. It was suggested that the site should include our 501c3 status. We authorized spending an additional \$30 to submit the site to search engines.

Re yard sale: Linda O'Connor reported that twenty homes were listed on our master list, and some others participated as well. Jay advertised the sale on craigslist. Traffic was light on the north side of Jenkintown Road, but heavier to the south, where more homes were participating. It was proposed to have a flea market and lemonade stand at the firehouse in the spring just before the extra trash pickup date, and keep the fall as a yard sale.

The parents of scholarship winner Robert L. Kieffer were introduced to us and they introduced him in his absence. He will be presented the award by State Representative Josh Shapiro on November 26, 2008 at the State Representative's office. Please let your graduating seniors that this scholarship is available and notify us so that we can forward the application form. We already have advertised through Abington High School. Other ways to advertise the scholarship were mentioned: on the website, through the paper, local churches and channel 43.

Jay O'Connor reported that the township is working to cover a \$800,000 hole in the township budget. He also reported that December 13 from 4-6 p.m. will be the date for the Holiday Celebration by McKinley Market. Hazardous materials are collected by the county on certain dates, not the township. Bulk pickup days will occur twice annually.

Michael O'Connor reiterated that the budget will be difficult to cover without a tax increase. One way to save money may be to only take on the truly necessary capital projects, and delay those that are not as urgent. He also suggested that the Association might have the Fire Department address us in the future about how to address HazMat situations.

Anne LaBrum from educationpa.org explained how this organization is working to create a vocal voter pressure group on the issue of public education, seeking to shift more of the funding away from the local government and onto the state, and seeking to endorse candidates whose philosophy matches their own.

Our main speaker was Dawn Wales from the Delaware Valley Earth Force who presented a program on climate change. The Earth Force is a local youth-oriented

environmental organization. She showed us a presentation on the effects of climate change and steps to be taken to reduce our individual and collective carbon footprints.

The meeting concluded at 8:56.