

Red Bridge Homes Association Annual Meeting, November 5th, 2022 Minutes

President Sharron Hill called the meeting to order and introduced the other board members: Eric Strautman, Paul Blum, Lynn Youngberg, and Ellyn Connor.

Officer Mary McCall, a community interaction officer, introduced herself and explained her role for promoting positive interactions with the community. She said that job fairs, movie nights, and other events throughout the year provided opportunities to engage the community and share information about safety and local crime statistics.

She reviewed the year-to-date stats, generally remarking that crime is down (Murders are at 147 vs 157 last year), but said that an elevation of crime is expected during the upcoming holiday season. To prepare, and be on guard, she said to “think like a burglar.”

Some stats for the South Patrol District she shared were:

- 1 Rape
- 12 Robberies
- 23 Aggravated Assaults
- 53 Auto Thefts
- 55 Thefts from Autos

Current stats are available under the Crime tab on at KCPD.org

She suggested that homeowners that have Ring or other camera security devices should register their devices at KCPD.org. She noted that such registration would NOT give KCPD access to the device, but would simply allow them to request footage, if a crime occurred nearby.

She also said that although KCPD will occasionally post to the Next Door app, they do not monitor posts. So, if homeowners think something on Next Door needs their attention, the homeowner should cut and paste the relevant content, so that it can be emailed to KCPD.

Taking questions, several homeowners expressed concern that many criminals are only held for 24 hours, some not even having to post bond. McCall said that homeowners need to contact their legislators and prosecuting attorneys to change the conditions that are forcing them to release alleged criminals.

6th District Representative Kevin McManus talked about past, ongoing and future public works improvements. He related that he will not be seeking re-election. He

said he was proud of being involved in getting an ordinance passed that allowed for the revitalization of the Red Bridge Shopping Center.

He said that the Wornall portion of the Red Bridge road construction project was reopened on November 3rd. He acknowledged that the project has experienced delays and is more expensive than anticipated, citing utility relocation as the primary cause.

He talked about upcoming improvements to the area near the Red Bridge Shopping Center that involves new water mains, new street lighting, a 5-foot wide sidewalk, and a 10-foot wide trail, and plantings in the median portions of Red Bridge Road.

McManus said that road construction would be completed in 2023, while landscaping would not be completed until 2024.

McManus talked at length about the city manager's efforts to improve snow removal service and mention that Red Bridge aggressively approached the city for snow removal including providing a map of the HOA. He said they've added 100 staff, and now have a fleet of 220 snow removal vehicles. By taking trash service in-house (as opposed to contracting it out to a private company), the city is able to utilize trash truck drivers as snow plow operators on an as-needed basis, allowing for 24-hour snow removal operations, covering 6600 land miles of roads.

Additionally, McManus said that there has been greater attention to pre-treating road surfaces, providing curb-to-curb snow removal, and giving homeowner's realtime visibility to where snow plows are.

McManus said that a 6th District Cleanup opportunity is provided quarterly at Waldo and Hickman Hills locations, and that adding a more convenient location for RBHA residents is under consideration. He said to check KCMO.gov for details. He also offered his email address kevin.mcmanus@kcmo.org (yes, .org – the older domain, as opposed to the .gov). He said to email him to get on an email list for information relevant to the 6th District.

McManus took questions. One question was about how the priorities were determined for street paving improvements. One resident said his street hasn't been addressed since the 1980s – meanwhile he said he sees streets get repaved that don't seem to be in need of such dire attention. McManus said to email him and he'd look into that particular situation.

Lynn Youngberg spoke briefly about short-term home rentals (Airbnb, VRBO and the like), and that a problem house being used as an Airbnb was addressed via a committee that considers matters related to city ordinances and homeowners association deed restrictions. The zoning board declined approval of the city license for the AirBnB short term rental.

A meeting attendee also offered that complaints can be filed with Airbnb and other sites about such houses.

Sharron Hill spoke about ongoing work to improve neighborhood markers, noting that the one at 117th and Wornall is being replaced next, with plans to move north on Wornall, replacing markers several at a time, for an expense of \$2,700 each. Four have been replaced so far, including one that was fully paid by Geico after their insured completely destroyed a marker at 110th Street and Wornall. 31 markers will need to be replaced.

Sharron explained that the tops of the main posts are not protected from moisture, which, freezes and cracks the wood making them more vulnerable to insects and deeper moisture penetration.

Paul Blum explained that the posts were originally made of old growth cedar that was impervious to insects. He said that those posts were replaced, after decades of service, with plantation-grown cedar posts that have proven to not be as durable. Thus, some different engineering is being utilized. Paul said that posts will be bolted to concrete footings as opposed to having direct contact with the soil, which should alleviate insect intrusion.

Sharron added that metal caps will be on the posts to provide a moisture barrier.

Paul emphasized the importance of having the markers look nice, recalling the history of Red Bridge as being known as one of the first communities to have two-car garages. "If you lived in Red Bridge, you were seen as special."

Sharron mentioned that she is in the process of getting tree-trimming bids, for some needed work on the neighborhood's island. She said that work was supposed to ensue Halloween morning, but the selected contractor was a no-show.

Sharron said that she's not real happy with the contractor who maintains the islands and the marker flower beds. She added that because homeowner's don't water the beds like they used to, the contractor has to truck in water at great expense.

Ellyn Connor then discussed the statue at 110th and Virginia. She said the statue is in very poor condition and either needs to be repaired or replaced. Several residents spoke about how the statue has been an enduring and endearing part of the neighborhood and that they'd like to see it repaired. Others said that a half-naked statue caused them to have uncomfortable conversations with children, and that the statue should be replaced with shrubs and flowers.

Other residents suggested that the statue could be moved – to Red Bridge Shopping Center or maybe the new median area on Red Bridge Road.

One resident said he'd sponsor a fundraiser and start it with \$100. Another resident said he'd match it. The resident who proposed the fundraiser later said it would be posted on Next Door.

At this point, the room was in a state of excited discussion and were urging the board to be transparent about its decisionmaking. One resident said, "You've been deciding for three years!".

At this, it became clear that residents wanted to first know "Are we going to repair and possibly move it, or are we going to dispose of the statue and replace it with something else?" A motion to resolve that question was made and seconded. A vote by hands was taken. Of approximately 65 attendees, 25 voted to keep the statue and repair it. 3 voted to get rid of it. Some 37 residents seemed to abstain from voting on the issue.

Sharron told residents that a free smoke detector was available by calling 816.513.4648.

The meeting concluded with a raffle for generous donations from area merchants including, Blue Bicycle, Euston's, Sun Fresh, Tanners, Red Bridge Barrio, Caleb's, Wonderscope, and Cookies and Creamery.