

Minutes

Stratford Gardens Homes Association

Annual Meeting

May 21, 2009

The Annual Meeting of the Stratford Gardens Homes Association was held on Thursday, May 21, 2009 at the Mission Hills Country Club. The meeting was preceded by cocktail and hors'dourves at 6:30 p.m. Twenty-five (25) homes were represented at the meeting, constituting a quorum per the Association's bylaws, and with a total attendance of approximately 45. President Paul Mohr called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Paul introduced the following Board members who were present: Colleen Kennedy, Maggie Shine, Joy Blake Krug, Phyllis Wilson, Roger Dutton and Woody Underwood. Raphael Suarez and Randy Bredar were absent.

Highlights and Overview

Paul briefly summarized highlights and events of the past year and noted some plans for the coming year:

- Security. The burglaries that impacted the neighborhood and surrounding area for several months have stopped due to the apprehension of two men who are currently in jail. A hearing is upcoming to lower the men's bond; the hearing is set for 5/28/09, 09:00 a.m. in Jackson County Courthouse Division 15 (4th floor). Residents are encouraged to attend or comment on the hearing to voice opposition to lowering the bond. An email will be sent to residents to notify them of details. Paul recommended that residents take care to lock cars, not leave valuables in the open, and lock doors and windows when not home.

The Associations' regular security patrol continues, to good effect, with 6 days/week coverage @ 4 hours per day. (Stratford Gardens Association pays for two days/wk and both Greenway Fields and Romanelli each pay for two days, given us all six days total coverage.) Over the holidays, additional security was provided, consisting of 12 extra hours/week for a month; total cost was \$480, with Greenway/Romanelli sharing the cost.

"No Solicitation" stickers were printed and distributed to all membership households in Fall 2008, due to complaints of people coming to the door to solicit funds for dubious causes and suspicious activities.

- E-mail notices. The Association regularly sends out email notices to the membership on matters ranging from security issues, to bulky item pickup and leaf & brush pickup, and even about foxes in the neighborhood. Colleen estimates that the

Association has email addresses for 85%-90% of the membership. Email addresses are always treated as confidential. The Association may forward a message in some cases, but not give out the email address to others.

- Newsletters are provided to the membership on a quarterly basis and are provided via email or, to those without email, by hand distribution or mailing.
- Directory. An update of the Association's member directory is planned for this year
- Web site. The Association's website is found at www.ha-kc.org. It contains the bylaws and is regularly updated with board minutes and financial information. Paul also noted that the Homes Association of Kansas City (formerly the Homes Association of the Country Club District) has relocated to a new address (4200 Somerset Dr, Suite 216, Prairie Village, KS 66208, 913-385-2440).
- Garage sale A neighborhood-wide garage sale was held in June 2008 and is planned again for June 12-13, 2009, from 8 am to 4 pm. This past year the Association had attractive and durable yard signs printed. The Association also posts an ad in the *KC Star* newspaper and the on-line *Star*.
- Hazardous Waste Drop-Off. No haz-mat event was held in 2008, but one is planned for 2009, to be tentatively held on Aug 29, 2009. The Association will partner with other neighborhoods to host and staff this event.
- Snowplowing. This past winter saw little snow fall. The Association contracted with a private individual for \$2,000 to provide plowing services for the season.
- Holiday Party. A festive and spirited party was held again this past year at the home of Benny and Edith Lee. The event was well-attended and featured beautiful music, great food, drink and conversation.
- New Member Welcoming. About 10 new households moved into the neighborhood this year. They were greeted with welcome bags that included an Association directory, board roster, maps, popcorn, Brookside information, etc.
- Landscaping & Island Maintenance. The Association contracts for the common area maintenance, including mowing, fertilization, trimming, and so forth.
- 63rd Street Island Repair/Improvement. In Spring 2008, the Association was awarded \$29,000 grant from the city's Public Improvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) process. Project planning has subsequently been underway, including historical research; meetings and discussions with city staff, landscape architects, and contractors; physical exploratory analysis and investigations; and development of bid-ready project specifications. The plans will shortly be submitted to the city for approval.

- 4th District Neighborhood Leaders Meetings. Paul reported he regularly attends meetings with neighborhood leaders and at HACCD luncheons to keep abreast of citywide issues that could affect Stratford Gardens.
- Ward Parkway Mirror Pool Renovations. Paul reported that the Mirror Pool on Ward Parkway is being repaired with funds from the Ward Family Foundation.

Financial Report

Treasurer Maggie Shine presented the budget. She reported that the Homes Association will likely finish in the black again at year-end (i.e., May 31). Income in excess of expenses will be divided 50/50 into two accounts: one for capital improvements and the other for association reserves. This is in keeping with a prior year Board resolution.

A proposed budget of \$35,771 for 2009-2010 was distributed to everyone at the entry table for the Annual Meeting and brief discussion on the budget was held. David Cimpl moved to approve the budget. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the membership.

Election of New Board Members

Paul announced that the terms of three board members will expire in May 2009, consisting of Paul, Maggie Shine and Randy Bredar. The following three residents have expressed an interest in serving a three-year term on the Board: Tom Suther, Adriana Huntley and Nicholas Scielzo. The bios of these individuals were distributed to the membership at the entry table for the Annual Meeting. Paul asked for additional nominations from the floor. There were none. David Cimpl moved that the slate of the three candidates be approved. The motion was seconded and approved.

New Business/Questions and Answers

A member expressed concern that lawn care services often blow lawn clippings and debris into the street. Paul said that an email will be sent out to encourage homeowners request their contractors to avoid this practice.

Guest Speaker

Troy Schulte, Budget Officer for Kansas City, spoke on the topic of “The Road Ahead: Insights into the City Budget.” Mr. Schulte provided a highly informative and engaging presentation on the city’s \$1.3 billion budget and the sources and uses of funds. He noted that while Kansas City has been less adversely impacted by economic conditions, it typically also takes longer to come out of a recession than many other cities. He noted that additional budget cutbacks in 2010 may well be required.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Phyllis Wilson
Secretary