

Alderman Park Board Meeting 4-15-08

Attendance: John Fisher, Brenda Daly, Alfredia Lyons, Barbara Swaw, Ernest Webster, Harold Smith, Becky Cullen, Donna M. Clayton. Resident visitors: Rudy Durden, David Shore, James L. Kiesler. Absent were Dot Fant, Marcella Lowe, Carol Marohn, Jennifer Ford, Keith Johnson and Waverly Fant.

John opened the meeting with a prayer. He noted that Donna is the new Area Four captain and he welcomed the visitors to the meeting. John read a note from Jane Palmer and St Andrews Church's ECW thanking us for letting them hitch on to the neighborhood garage sale. They raised more than \$500.

Financial Statement Review:

We are up to 277 members: last year we had 341 at this time. That is only a 32% APCA membership compared to 41% last year. Less people are participating in their community civic association. We are getting some advertisement money coming in: \$800-\$900 in addition, at \$200 per ad. APCA members get a 1 line ad at no cost. JEA maintains the irrigation system on Townsend, but we pay for the water. We still have clean up costs for Townsend Blvd. Fifty bags of trash were picked up and the gutters were cleaned. The City will pick up the bags the next day when we call them. The brick pillar repairs at the entrance was \$1200.00. Our meeting expenses include \$50 each time we use the church's hall. The Treasurers Report was filed for audit.

Marcella Lowe audited the books and found them to be in order.

Old Business:

1. Parkwood Baptist Church wants to operate a homeless shelter at their location. The city stopped it once before, but they are trying to do it again, saying federal law allows it. APCA is against having a homeless shelter in our residential neighborhood.
2. Knight of Columbus wants to put up a sign at Townsend and Lone Star Roads saying that they do the road clean up. We do not support that and are sending a memo to Clay Yarbrough and will copy them.
3. Code Enforcement Update: Several houses have been brought up to code and the people were thanked for their clean up. There still are several issues with commercial activity being done in our residential neighborhood; storage of 5 gallon paint containers in one front yard, repair of multiple cars on the weekend at another individual's home, at another home an alleged internet company has multiple deliveries and a storage container in the front yard with 4-5 vehicles parked there on a daily basis, plus there are excess cats roaming the neighborhood. Residents are urged to keep calling in their complaints to the City (animal control, etc.). As a reminder boats should be 20 foot back from the telephone pole line.
4. Lone Star Road Project: we are still owed some more shade trees and the lane painting at Lone Star Rd. and Bellemeade Blvd. has not been corrected yet. James Kiesler, a concerned Alderman Park resident, attended seeking the intervention of APCA in regards to the striping on Lone Star Road that prevents turns onto Bellemeade. He brought this ongoing issue to the Board, as evidenced by his chain of written communications with George McGregor, the Lone Star Road Project Director and Clay Yarbrough, promising Jim that the striping would be removed many months ago and it hadn't been

resolved. Jim presented John Fisher with his copies of the letters that supported the promises made to him that the issue would be resolved long ago.

5. JTA Hub: we are still on record as being against locating it behind our residential neighborhood.

6. Shadco Meeting: Becky Cullen and Alfredia Lyons attended along with 10 other people from Alderman Park. In addition to doing a web search by location, you can now type in a specific person's name to check for sexual predators. The Sheriff's Office is going to be setting up a reverse call system with a recorded message to notify neighbors of immediate happenings in their neighborhood. An example would be last month's problem on Bellemeade Blvd.

A report was made about the number of unfamiliar people walking through our neighborhood. You can call Substation 2 to make a report (or call 911 if on private property). Some of these people may be truant students. We cannot post "no solicitors" for the neighborhood, but individuals can put a sign on their door "no solicitors". Ace Hardware has the individual signs. The police recommend not opening your door to solicitors.

7. Newsletter and Website are being updated with the officers' name and phone numbers. The newsletter was done in 2 hours with 8-10 people helping. We can now E-mail the newsletter also. Alfredia suggested putting the advertisements toward the back of the newsletter. She also wanted more time to actually edit the newsletter, since it went out with out her corrections this time. It was also suggested that the newsletter have more articles about the neighborhood. Only about 30-50 % of Alderman Park residents have email at this time.

New Business:

1. We will continue working against the JTA Hub on the Arlington Expressway adjacent to our neighborhood.
2. Fish Fry - We are asking all officers and street leaders to donate food items to the fish fry. Last year \$600 was spent on the Fish Fry, this year we need to watch APCA expenses. The tilapia will be \$1.86 a pound from Beaver Street Fisheries. Civic association volunteers will need to provide side dishes and help out that evening with set up, kitchen work and clean up. Ernie will be head cook again this year and Barbara will organize the kitchen workers. The menu will be fish, cold slaw, Italian beans, baked beans, grits, hushpuppies and dessert. Everyone should buy the large sizes from Costco or Sam's. John will provide the oil and pick up the fish. Alfredia will be doing the grits. It will probably cost each of us about \$10.
3. The new dead line for dues will be May 9th at the Fish Fry. Brenda & Alfredia suggested having a table to collect dues at the check in.
4. Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration - the Fish Fry will be the first part of our celebration. Should we get 50th Anniversary T-shirts? Becky will check cost, colors, etc. Would residents be interested in purchasing them? Susan Strickland with The Florida Time-Union will be doing an article on APCA.
5. Jacksonville was listed recently as one of the top 10 cities for retirement. There are 31-53 houses up for sale in Alderman Park. Alderman Park has always been a convenient place to live; we'll make it the best place to live. We should keep up the work to see that City Codes are enforced. We can't do anything about the rental houses with 5 cars in front and multiple boats (as long as they are parked correctly and the homes maintained). City Code allows for 5 unrelated people to live in a house. But by insisting that City Code is followed and not tolerating any crime, we should be able to attract more families to the neighborhood to live.

6. Waverly sent out the by laws electronically, plus we received a copy tonight. We will go over and edit them during our next board meeting.
7. There is a Florida Neighborhoods conference in Tallahassee June 26-28. It cost \$45 for the workshops, meals and social events. In the past the city has picked up some of the cost, but with budget restrictions we don't expect that this year. It would be nice if a handful of people from our Association could go.
8. Board members should check their email daily.
9. There is a Safety Fair on May 17 at Regency. JSO will be there.
10. Directories will be assembled April 26 from 9-12.

Meeting Adjourned.

Brenda Daly, APCA Secretary