

# Cochran Heights Neighborhood Association

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CHNA Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
June 17, 2013  
Hibiscus Restaurant, Henderson Avenue

The Quarterly meeting of the Cochran Heights Neighborhood Association was held on June 17, 2013 at the Hibiscus Restaurant on Henderson Avenue. President, Sheila Chhutani called the meeting to order at 7pm and determined that a voting quorum (54 voting members) was present. A motion was made to approve the minutes from our meeting on March 20. The motion was seconded and approved by vote.

Sheila introduced our guest speaker, Officer Groom, a police officer assigned to our neighborhood patrol. He took questions from the attendees regarding best practices for getting help from the police. He recommended calling 911 for any suspicious or potentially law breaking activity, even if it might not be an emergency. We discussed various topics including the house at the Homer-Bennett intersection, parking violations, etc.

Allen Mondell reported that he would like to bring in Mark Masinter as a guest speaker for a subsequent meeting. Mark has recently purchased Andres Properties, and plans to bring in one-of-a-kind restaurants and stores.

Philip Kingston is our new City Council Representative.

Mary Cronin, Treasurer, reported that we have a balance of \$13,023.88 in our account.

## Committee Reports:

Sidewalk Committee – this committee did some investigation into the cost sharing program with the city. Alan Rister will redistribute the information on how to apply. It was discussed that the Complete Streets project might have some impact on our sidewalks renewal. We had considered asking businesses to help, but there was complication around money being paid to the association and distributed to homeowners.

Street Construction – the water line repair on Garrett continues and is have a negative impact on the street. The number to call for the city is 214-416-1517. The utilities repair department is separate from the street repair.

Dog Park – Creation of a dog park in the Cochran Heights Park was deemed too expensive. There is a fenced area where dogs can be off leash. The Association currently finances the poop bags and Janet Coplin replaces them. It was moved and seconded that we add 2 more stations, one that would feature recycle-able grocery bags. The motion carried and Charles Osterman will follow up.

Triangle Committee – Meg Moschetto reported that Bridgeview no longer has a request in place for a parking variance since they have changed to apartment mix to include more one bedroom units. They still want to include street parking as part of their allotment. They are still seeking a proximity slope variance, but the slope has been decreased from the original proposal of 90 degrees. There will still only be right turns out of the complex. The City Council meeting where this will be reviewed has not yet been announced, but it is speculated that it should be within 90 days, as the developer plans to take ownership of the property in October. Meg will request an updated plan from Bridgeview.

Project Canopy – Mary Cronin reported that trees are available via a cost sharing program for those who would like to add trees. It was discussed that there are pros and cons to adding trees, and it is important to get the right kind of trees with proper placement. Judy Sullivan moved that we ask Karen Woodard to do an assessment of the neighborhood and advise us as to the above. The motion was seconded and carried. Judy will contact Karen.

**Old Business:**

Nonprofit Status- Mary reported that we can apply for nonprofit status as a neighborhood association. She knows an attorney that will do the work for about \$1,000 - \$2,000. This would take liability from the officers and allow residents to deduct their contributions from taxes. It was moved and seconded that we move in that direction. The motion carried and Mary will investigate our best option for filing.

Newspaper Editor – The neighborhood is in need of a new editor, vacated by Donna Fioretti. There was some discussion about taking steps to make the newsletter available on line instead of distributing hard copies. Mary Miller volunteered to take charge of the newsletter. Tom Faust volunteered to assist on Pershing, and Meg Moschetto on Mission.

**New Business:**

New Officers – In September, we will elect new officers for the positions of President, Vice President, and 2 At Large Board Members. Todd Crawford was nominated from the floor for one of the At Large positions. We will be taking nominations prior to and at the September meeting.

Night Out for Crime will take place in October.

Animal Control – Two experts on animal control were introduced by one of our neighborhood members, Kimberly Jenkins-Rist, and discussed some measures for humanely keeping our homes free from unwanted animals. They stayed for questions after the meeting and agreed to help those who needed it. We will distribute their contact information.

Cochran Heights Nights – The first weekly summer Cochran Heights Nights will be at the home of Cathy Birkelbach, 5214 Alcott Street, on Friday, July 21, at 6 pm. Neighbors should bring beverages and lawn chairs.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Birkelbach

CHNA Secretary

June 18, 2013