

## LaVista Park Civic Association Quarterly Meeting – January 20, 2011

Meeting held at: Westminster Presbyterian Church

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by President Rock Nelson. He thanked Claire Janas for the wonderful refreshments. He recognized the Board and Friends of LaVista Park who were present: Andrew Munro of SpaceMax and Mark Good of Good Electric. We welcomed a new LaVista Park resident, Chris Uberto who lives on Parker Place, to the neighborhood.

**Minutes:** Don Hampton moved to approve the minutes from the October 21st quarterly meeting; seconded by Brian Key; the motion passed.

**Patrol:** Sargent Brignone said there were 2 home burglaries since the Oct. meeting. During the snow days Smitty had his 4-wheel drive so we were able to still have patrol coverage during that time. Someone asked about “Crime Track” and Sgt. Brignone said that some of the crimes recorded are not always accurate.

**Treasurer's Report:** As of December 31, 2010:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income:	56,064	57,286
Expense:	55,715	57,054
Surplus/(Deficit):	349	232

Net Assets: \$74,767

This report does not include any income or expense from the Friends program or the Fall Festival. There is \$37,770 in “reserves.” The reserves increased by \$4000 in 2010 from the Friends of LaVista Park Program.

**Number of Members:**

2006: 266	2009: 317
2007: 251	2010: 304
2008: 301	

**2011 Top 5 LVPCA Board Initiatives:** The Board had a retreat in December and chose their top 5 initiatives for the year.

- 1) LaVista Park's park: Ken Duke asked the Board for more help with the park.
- 2) Communication Committee: Working on better ways to communicate with the neighborhood, including social media like Facebook, e-blasts, etc.
- 3) Quarterly social events: Last year we met at Bruster's Ice Cream at Toco Hill for ice cream; we had dinner together at Pizzeria Venti (a Friend of LaVista Park) on Lenox Rd.; and had a fundraiser of dinner and dancing at Nicola's on LaVista Rd. Attendance increased at each event. It's a fun way to meet and hang out with your neighbors in a non-meeting setting.

- 4) Membership drive: Our annual drive for renewing and new members. We're encouraging everyone to visit and use our website: [www.lavistapark.org](http://www.lavistapark.org). You can renew your membership online with Paypal!
- 5) Neighborhood Watch: We need to infuse some new energy into this program. Having an organized Watch system with block captains in place can help the neighborhood be safe and secure. There have been instances where a tree has fallen on someone's home or a house has been broken into and because the Watch was in place, the block captains have been able to contact the homeowners and report the incidents.

**Special Guests:** Matt Huey, PTA President, and Lauren \_\_\_\_\_, from the Briar Vista Elementary School PTA. ([www.briarvistapta.org](http://www.briarvistapta.org))

Matt thanked us for the invitation to our meeting. Briar Vista Elementary School was built in Woodland Hills in 1956. There are currently 400 students but there is room for 550. The school incorporated the Montessori method in 2001 and last year went to both Montessori and traditional styles. There are 28 different countries represented in the study body that makes up Briar Vista. Their test scores are very good. Parents in the neighborhood need to be involved; the PTA has grown by 38% this year.

Matt and Lauren discussed the possible changes in school districts in DeKalb County. DeKalb County wants buy-in from the community instead of randomly changing school districts as has been done in Gwinnett, for example. Any inaction affects our neighborhood. They encouraged us to get involved. Several neighbors spoke about their children having gone to Briar Vista Elementary and how pleased they were with the school. The county website is: [www.dekalb.k12.ga.us](http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us) if you want more information.

**Zoning:** David Sibley was not there to give a report.

--Rock gave a brief update on the property at 1489 LaVista. The size of the proposed building has been agreed on with Dr. Jacobson and the Woodland Hills neighborhood. Now it needs to go before the county.

--There seems to be something going on at Kingsley and Sheridan roads but we don't know what. Several houses have been demolished there.

**Technology Committee:** Everyone is encouraged to visit the LaVista Park website ([www.lavistapark.org](http://www.lavistapark.org)) and to sign up as a friend of LaVista Park on Facebook.

**Natural Environment Committee:** Ken Duke suggested that everyone take a walk through our park. It is very pretty at this time of year!

**Another Special Guest:** DeKalb County Commissioner Jeff Rader spoke. He said we should be proud of every school in the county, including our own Briar Vista Elementary. He spoke of the county's budget: the reserves have been fully depleted. They are trying to re-structure the county government. Revenues are flat to declining and they can't anticipate tax revenue increases to help the situation. He has been trying to push through the Kittredge Park initiative as well as creating other green space in the county. An 11% increase in water rates has passed for the next 3 years. This will help fund the EPA mandate. They will be building more clear wells at the Scott Candler Filter Plant to store more water. This will help our water supply and we'll have fewer 'boil your water' days.

**Friends of Kittredge Park (FKP):** Gene Schmidt, the LVPCA liaison to FKP, spoke about the green space at Toco Hill Shopping Center. (This is the 1.5 acre wooded lot in the Kroger parking lot behind the Blockbuster.) The huge, 300-year old white oak tree has been damaged and 3 separate arborists have determined that it is dying. A developer proposed giving a cash donation to FKP so that said developer would feel better about taking down the old tree. The FKP board would only accept the funds if given unconditionally to the Kittredge Park project. Gene will keep us informed as to the progress of this situation and any future development of this parcel.

The next quarterly LVPCA meeting will be April 21, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Lisa Rhodes, Secretary