



Date: Thursday, July 14, 2005

Time: 07:30 pm

Place: Westminster Presbyterian Church

Attendance:

Welcome

President, Sheila Segal, welcomed the LVPCA membership to the quarterly meeting.

Reports

Fall Festival Planning Committee

Henriette Ostrzega, chairperson of the Fall Festival Planning Committee, advised the membership that this year's Fall Festival would be held on Saturday, September 24, 2005, in the afternoon. The exact time for the event will be announced in the future. The Festival will include good food and drinks, as well as events suitable for all ages. The planned activities for children include a moonwalk, clown, and face-painting artists. In addition, the dunk tank will be back and the Committee plans to add a pet costume contest, as well as a raffle and silent auction. Both the raffle and silent auction will feature goods and services from local and resident-owned businesses. Sheila Segal announced that the Executive Committee of LVPCA approved a proposal to include a number of one-year subscriptions to the Security Patrol in the raffle/silent auction.

Henriette stated that although the Planning Committee has done a good job so far, additional volunteers are needed to help organize the Festival. Debbie Beauchamp called for volunteers to cook, as well as set-up/clean-up on festival day. In addition, Debbie asked for residents willing to donate items for the raffle/silent auction.

If you are interested in volunteering to make the Fall Festival a complete success, contact Henriette at picnic@lavistapark.org or Debbie at dgbeau@comcast.net.

Secretary

Olivia Harris read the minutes from the last quarterly meeting and called for changes or corrections. There were no suggested changes and, therefore, the minutes were approved as read.

President

Sheila spoke of the importance of LVPCA and the Security Patrol in making LaVista Park a vibrant, welcoming, and safe community. Sheila encouraged every resident to become a member of LVPCA and to subscribe to the Security Patrol.

Sheila reminded residents of the crime problems this neighborhood experienced before hiring the Security Patrol. Several residents spoke in support of the Patrol and highlighted the many services available to Patrol subscribers, including house checks while residents are away. Sheila stated that the Patrol is the most cost-effective way to keep our neighborhood safe. Sheila also advised residents of the many extra duties the Patrol members perform, including looking out for the neighborhood when they are on duty with the DeKalb Police Department and helping to obtain the necessary Police Department approvals for the Fall Festival.

Sheila also highlighted some of the recent accomplishments of the LVPCA, including spearheading efforts to get the attention of BellSouth to upgrade telephone service in the neighborhood. Sheila also spoke of the LVPCA's role in getting funds for Park improvements. Sheila called on Shad Funkhouser to provide an update on the Park.

LaVista Park Improvements

Shad Funkhouser advised residents that the Park Committee (which includes Gene Schmidt and Steve Patrick) has worked with DeKalb County and our Commissioners to secure \$150,000 for Park improvements. Of that sum, approximately \$10,000 has been spent for water and drainage studies. Currently LVPCA and certain DeKalb County officials do not agree on how to spend the remaining moneys. The County officials want the allocated funds to be spent first on drainage improvements and LVPCA representatives believe County funds should pay to address drainage issues and allocated funds should be spent only on beautification and amenities. Shad advised the LVPCA representatives plan to meet with Commissioner Gale Walldorff on July 27, 2005, to discuss the next steps in this project.

Executive Board and By-Law Changes

Sheila Segal announced several changes to the Executive Committee, including: (1) Shad Funkhouser has agreed to serve as Executive Vice President; (2) Olivia Harris has resigned as Secretary to take the position of Vice President for Section 4; and (3) Melinda Marbes has agreed to serve as Secretary. Sheila thanked all of the Executive Committee members for their service and called on other residents to get involved and serve LVPCA.

Sheila called on Henry Batten to report on an Executive Committee recommendation to amend the by-laws. Henry advised the membership that the Executive Committee voted to create a new officer position of Registrar to handle all files and moneys related to LVPCA memberships and Security Patrol subscriptions. Henry stated that certain changes to the by-laws were required to accommodate the new position, including changing the description of the Treasurer's duties and adding a description of the Registrar office and duties. Henry read these proposed changes (which were posted at the meeting) and certain other technical amendments. The floor was open to discussion by the membership. One member questioned whether written notice of the proposed by-law amendments was needed. Henry Batten explained that by-law amendments do not require such notice. Following the close of discussion, a motion to approve the by-law amendments was made, seconded, and voted upon. The proposed by-law amendments passed by more than a simple majority of those in attendance voting.

The membership then discussed whether the constitution of LVPCA should be modified to require advance written notice of all amendments to the by-laws. A discussion was held, a motion made to require such notice for all future changes, the motion seconded, and voted on. The motion had the support of a significant number of the members present at the meeting.

Old Business

PDK Airport

Melinda Marbes provided a brief update on the status of the litigation against DeKalb County and PDK Airport in which a DeKalb resident seeks disclosure of certain public records regarding the ownership, operation, and management of the airport. Melinda explained that the citizen group supporting the litigation, Open DeKalb, desires the information so residents can play an active and meaningful role in the development of PDK Airport, including the Master Plan Process. The goals of Open DeKalb include

open communication regarding PDK operations and planning, proper environmental risk assessment and planning, and collection of ad valorem taxes from aircraft owners at PDK and other financial issues related to PDK. Melinda asked for concerned residents to contribute their time and talents to this worthy cause by volunteering or donating online at www.opendekalb.org.

LaVista Road Sidewalks and Cheshire Bridge Shopping Center

Gene Schmidt reported that the City of Atlanta gave final approval for plans to build a new Publix supermarket in the space currently occupied by Tara Antiques, Club 112, and the Fred Astaire Dance Studio. The construction is expected to begin later this quarter.

Gene Schmidt also reported that DeKalb County has committed funding to build sidewalks on the north side of LaVista Road from the County line to Bernadette Lane. Steve Patrick advised that efforts were underway to have the sidewalk project extended to Vista Valley. Steve stated DeKalb County likely would not extend the sidewalk to Briarcliff because changes are planned for the Briarcliff/LaVista Road intersection.

New Business

LaVista Road Development Proposal

Gene Schmidt reported that recently Atlantic Realty Partners made offers to a number of residents on the south side of LaVista Road (covering the area from the County line to Woodland Hills Road) to buy their properties so the area can be redeveloped. The developer has provided only sketchy details about the proposed development. However, the new development likely will be more dense (averaging 4 housing units per acre) and may require a zoning change from R75 to RA5. Gene advised that he has been made an offer to sell his home located on LaVista Road and that currently he intends to accept the offer. Thus, Gene cannot serve as LVPCA Zoning Officer in respect of this project.

Henry Batten, another resident of south LaVista Road, stated that he and his partner did not intend to accept the offer they received. Henry also voiced concerns about the style, size, and density of the planned project, as well as the impact such redevelopment will have on LaVista Park as a community.

The floor was open to discussion and the members reached a consensus that LVPCA should form a committee to gather information so LVPCA can monitor and participate as a community in the rezoning request and related procedures. Michael Edwards, Abby Drue, and Tommy Westbrook agreed to serve on the new committee. Bonnie Jackson graciously agreed to work with the new committee members to educate them about zoning process and procedures in general. The new committee will gather information about the proposed project and to report to the LVPCA Executive Committee at its next monthly meeting or, if needed, before that time.

Other New Business

Sheila Segal called for additional new business. There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda A. Marbes
Secretary