

Ednor Gardens-Lakeside Civic Association

Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Call to Order: 7:34pm

Neighborhood Sign Update: The original Ednor Gardens-Lakeside neighborhood signs are deteriorating, falling apart and in need of refreshing. Marissa Dahl, has assembled a Sign Committee and applied for two grants that are intended to help fund the creation of new signs. We have received one of those grants and are awaiting the results of the other. Marissa asked the committee to submit design ideas for the production of new signs, and Andy Dahl submitted two versions. Andy presented his designs, relating each design aspect to visuals from the neighborhood, such as blooming azaleas and wrought iron railings. He showed mock ups of the signs and discussed materials, installation, etc. There was some time for feedback during the meeting. Some noted that the lettering might be getting lost in the design. Shane suggested a stand alone zoom session for continued feedback, or a way for online feedback to occur.

Election Update: Karenthia Barber reported that there have been glitches and delays in the receipt of ballots, but that they should be arriving this week, and she has gotten word that some have arrived in the last few days. She stated that a press release has been issued in which they are asking for additional voting sites and drop off locations. Delegate Regina T. Boyce added that they've requested ten additional voting sites, which have yet to be identified, but they will make recommendations for those locations. Karenthia continued her report, explaining how these ballots should be filled out. She explained that they must be in black ink, but that they will not be disqualified if they are not. You must sign the oath on the envelope and place in the prepaid envelope and put in the mail. They must be postmarked by 8pm on June 2nd, but she suggested filling them out as soon as they are received. Shane stated that you can also download your ballot electronically, to which Karenthia added that you would have to call to request an electronic ballot and pay your own postage to mail it. She reported that a PSA from the Board of Elections was issued via a YouTube video, today, and other organizations have released similar content. She ended her report by stating that she'd share a powerpoint with the community, which will be distributed with the minutes of this meeting.

Census Update: Senator Mary Washington began her report by sharing some history on the Census, and explaining what is impacted by its results. The Census determines our representation in the House of Representatives, federal funding for the areas in which we live, and so much more. She explained that this year, they are using old methods of data collection, as well as new. You can call in with your Census data, go online, and there is a chance that traditional canvassing will begin later in the year. She stated that all data collected is kept completely confidential and cannot be used against anyone, in fact, there is a \$25K fine for misuse of Census information. Individual census data can only be obtained after 72 years. Austin Davis shared a website that has region specific information, as well as neighborhood specific statistics. He walked everyone through how to use the site and what information could be attained through its use.

Board Elections: Shane Bryan stated that Board elections will take place in November. The open positions include: 1st Vice President, Secretary, Lakeside Representative, and Sergeant at Arms.

“Hi Neighbor” Newsletter: Marissa Dahl reported that in March, the first edition of the EGLS newsletter, “Hi Neighbor” was published. She wants to include more voices in the next issue, and is asking neighbors to submit stories, recipes and activities that they have been doing over the last few months. These can be sent to EdnorGardensRep@ednorgardenslakeside.org, and should be approximately 250 words.

Gardening Needs: Shane Bryan stated the need for some help with the care and maintenance of the neighborhood garden areas. He noted that they are looking for help with physical labor or donations to assist with upkeep. He’d like to establish a committee to take over the tending of these garden areas. He asked those who are interested to reach out to meet with Mrs. Reba, who has been the primary carer of these spaces and has information on the history of the garden areas. He’d also like for this committee to begin an online presence for the gardens. In addition to these space, the areas around the signs need some looking after.

Finance Update: Demetri Yannopoulos reported that he is working with the bank to get online banking working so that we can take dues electronically. He’s also looking into creating dedicated funds so that money can be raised for different projects, and delineated from our general bank of money. In the meantime, dues can be sent in via check, or we can pick them up from you if needed.

Safety Update: Joe Kane reported that the OSI project was halted for a short time due to covid-19, but virtual meetings have picked back up, and we are now awaiting the other neighborhoods to finish their sections. He stated that he will continue to get trends from the Northeast Police Department, and reminded neighbors to be aware of their surroundings as the summer months come up. He asked that everyone do their best to practice social distancing, as that is the greatest threat to our neighbors in this moment.

General Updates: Shane Bryan reported that the first community pitch-in, which was scheduled for May, has been postponed but not cancelled. The next community meeting is Tuesday, September 15th, but, he may host virtual weekend meetings like last summer’s “town halls” which were held at the YMCA. He reiterated reporting illegal dumping to 311. Regina Boyce stated that the system for unemployment insurance has been inundated, and about 10% of people are still not receiving benefits. If you are not, reach out to her office and they will forward any issues that need to be corrected. Kevin Gillogly reported that they have been hosting virtual town halls, and that the mayor is still under a stay at home order, and will be until there is a sustained decrease in reported cases. They’re continuing to push to get more tests made available and are conducting contact tracing. Shane thanked all of those who are on the volunteer network, and stated that Stadium Place needs help with meal deliveries on occasion. He will share with neighbors when there is help needed. Sara, from Corner Team Fitness shared that they are holding a virtual after school program, which includes leadership workshops, homework help and tutoring, and boxing and fitness lessons.

There being no further business, the meeting was called to a close at 8:56pm.