

**East Allentown Rittersville
Neighborhood Association**

MINUTES

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. on January 19, 2015 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Three officers (President Dennis Pearson, Treasurer Bob Jacoby, and Secretary Dave Schell) and eight other neighbors were present at the meeting as was officer Geake of the Allentown Police Department and Ce-Ce Gerlach from the Allentown School Board. Vice President Bob Pandeleon sent regrets but was out of town this evening.

Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of December 15, 2014. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected, and the motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby gave his report. The current balance is \$446.03, the same as last month. It was moved and seconded to approve the report as read and the motion passed.

Secretary Schell passed around the photo of the green painted post that is located at various places throughout the east side which we had looked at last month and could not figure out what it was. The photo Schell showed was on N. Maxwell Street. According to a note from Craig W. Messinger, Interim Director of Public Works obtained by Captain Alsleben the item is a water sampling station that is used to check water quality.

Schell also gave a report on a meeting this evening with officers of the Midway Manor Association concerning their participation in our planned newsletter that is to be mailed throughout the east side. We will have general information on EARN, Midway Manor Association, and possibly the various youth athletic associations in this part of town.

A neighbor noted that he had had been verbally accosted by a troublemaker at the independent gas station located in front of the Redner's shopping center on Airport Road. The clerk told him that the person—who he had on videotape—had been approaching other customers as well. Officer Geake will check with the station owner on the matter.

A neighbor noted that there had been a brief power loss on this past Saturday morning and wondered what had caused it. It was apparently widespread throughout the East Side. There have been other periodic small, brief outages.

The neighbor who reported the unkempt property on N. Norman Street last month reported that she had seen a city truck at the property but that she has seen no further action besides the inspection by the person in the truck.

President Pearson reported that a neighbor on Congress Street (who was not present at tonight's meeting) had told him that she had been told by the manager of the Chicago nightclub on Airport Road that there were plans to restore and open the facility in the front of the shopping center that had previously operated as Bahama Mama's. We have no idea if this is true, and Pearson noted that we had previously heard that the site—a former restaurant—might be the site of a Chick-fil-A operation.

Work is proceeding on a Dominican family restaurant at the site of the former Tony's Pizza and Bar on Union Boulevard. There have been no problems with the operation, which appears to be thoroughly reworking the site. It is our understanding that the restaurant will not have a liquor license.

President Pearson reported on recent activity at the Allentown Crime Watch. Last week was the election of officers and Ernie Atiyeh was reelected president. Pearson noted that the Leonard Buck dinner will take place in April. This is usually held at the Fearless Fire Company social hall. At the dinner one citizen and one police officer are honored for their work in the past year. Pearson asked anyone who would like to nominate an officer to quietly tell him or Secretary Schell. (The awardees' names are kept secret until the dinner.) Tickets to the dinner are \$20 and can be obtained through Pearson.

In addition, the Allentown Crime Watch will be setting up a new website as the current one is outdated. The group did not act upon a request from Atiyeh that it contribute President's Council money to an "urban camp for Allentown's inner -city Children which is an Alliance Hall Summer Recreation Program for 7-13 year old inner city children. Just the same, each member of the President's Council may make independent contributions to the program. The President's Council is continuing their project of purchasing bicycles for police patrols, which are predominantly used in the downtown congested area.

Pearson reported that our winter decorations at the Irving Park were successful—people enjoyed them. We will be going back to the Dieruff students who helped put the decorations up for help taking them down, but have not yet done so due to weather considerations.

We will again be supporting the Allentown School District science fair as we did last year. We will also help Ritter with their science fair and would do so at Mosser as well if they had one.

Pearson then introduced Allentown School District Director Ce-Ce Gerlach. She said that she was here to listen and asked if the group had any concerns.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby said that there is an issue with traffic around Dieruff High School. There are signs at the parking lot on N. Irving Street that say "No Parking" and "No Drop Off" but cars still line up dropping off students and waiting in the afternoon to pick them up. This parking and double-parking is tying up traffic—mainly in the morning but also a bit in the afternoon. Additionally, with the parking the yield signs in the center of the street make it difficult for trucks to squeeze between the signs and the parkers. We questioned whether either the parking authority or police could do something about this. Schell wondered about what doors the students had to enter. Could the traffic be rerouted to have students enter the building at one of the entrances on Jerome Street, where the parking would be less likely to tie up traffic.

It was noted that some students appear to be standing around in front of the building at the Irving Pool—on the side of the building away from the school during what would appear to be school hours. The neighbors at the meeting also discussed the situation with the recently-discovered \$11 million in the school district coffers after having to lay off a large number of teachers.

Finally, Pearson noted that the Kiwanis Club has some college scholarships for which applicants need to apply by April 1st. Information on this will be given to the city high schools.

There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully,

David A. Schell, Secretary