

**East Allentown Rittersville
Neighborhood Association**

MINUTES

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on March 17, 2014 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Four officers (Dennis Pearson, Denton Kriebel, Bob Jacoby, and Dave Schell) and twelve other neighbors were present at the meeting.

Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2014. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Treasurer Robert Jacoby reported that there is \$767.57 in our treasury. His report was approved by a voice vote.

Dennis Pearson recommended that we do not sponsor a mini-grant to Dieruff High School this year, but rather spend the funds on a several awards for a citywide science fair that the Allentown School District is sponsoring in May. He suggested that we have two awards of \$100 each for winners, one at the high school level and one at the middle school level. This proposal was moved and approved by a voice vote. Schell will inform the Dieruff counseling office of the fact that we will not be issuing mini-grants this year but doing this instead.

Dennis Pearson reported on the storage of our Christmas materials. In addition, Bob Jacoby suggested that we ask for the city's permission to leave the tree on the pole so we don't have to worry about taking it down and putting it back up again in fall. If we put the cord high enough on the pole so that it cannot be reached the tree will probably survive the year since it came through the winter without damage.

Dennis Pearson announced that there will be a public hearing on Wednesday, March 19th, at 6:00 p.m. concerning the transfer of a liquor license from Lower Milford Township to Tony's Pizza at 1139 Union Boulevard. Dave Schell read the public notice to the meeting. The group discussed the various types of licensed premises and how this will impact the usage. We would like to get information prior to the meeting on the various violations that had previously taken place at his location.

No progress is visible at 404 N. Jerome Street. Another complaint was filed on February 6th and the co-owner was found guilty. The other co-owner was served notice and at the next hearing a warrant will be requested for the owners. Schell will ask Phyllis Alexander to see if a warrant has been issued for the arrest of the owner.

Large trucks trying to make the turn at E. Gordon and N. Maxwell Streets is still a problem. In addition, trucks are parking in the area.

Dennis Pearson received a call today from someone near the corner of N. Graham Street and E. Tilghman Street. The person noted that the paint has worn off the speed humps and he requested that they be repainted since they cannot be seen. The group noted that there is a sign announcing the speed hump before each one. We can, however, bring this to the attention of the city.

Dennis Pearson noted that an article in the local paper reported that the city's Director of Public Works, Richard Young, might be appointed to a county position in Northampton County.

E. Hickory and S. Carlisle Streets—still problem with a truck parking for extended periods of time. In addition, the vehicle not cleared of snow so it was impossible to see around or through it for oncoming traffic. The police were called and reported to the neighbor that as long as the person is parked legally they can do nothing about it. We were under the impression that a vehicle could not stay in the same position without being moved for over 72 hours. It appears that this law, if still in effect, is not being enforced by Allentown.

Dennis Pearson spoke of the situation at Keck Park. It has not been fully used since being renovated several years ago. Supposedly the grass in the field was supposed to be allowed to establish itself. The park is still being underutilized, and there appears to be some problems with the layout of the ball fields.

The group discussed the placement of UGI gas meters outside in front of the properties. UGI has refused several requests to move meters from the front of the buildings without the homeowner paying for the work.

The Stratus nightclub has changed its name to Chicago. The former operator of Mezza Luna is again part of the club's operation.

Dave Schell read the invitation from Phyllis Alexander to help with the planning for the 2014 Leadership Institute or the Allentown Neighborhood Summit. The next meeting of the Leadership Institute planning committee will be on Wednesday, March 26th at 5:45 p.m. in the 4th floor conference room in City Hall. The Neighborhood Summit planning committee will hold its first meeting in late April or early May. This summit will take place in fall. If anyone would like to help with either planning committee they may contact Phyllis Alexander at (610) 437-7679.

They're being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully,

David A. Schell, Secretary