

**East Allentown Rittersville
Neighborhood Association**

MINUTES

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. on December 15, 2014 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Four officers (President Dennis Pearson, VP Bob Pandeleon, Treasurer Bob Jacoby, and Secretary Dave Schell) and seven other neighbors were present at the meeting.

Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of November 17, 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, including a donation for \$20. It was moved and seconded to approve the report as read and the motion passed.

Schell reported that he had gotten an email earlier today from Captain Alsleben indicating that he could not be present at tonight's meeting due to illness, but requesting that any questions from the neighbors be passed along to him.

Schell passed out copies of the Crime Analysis report for November for Police Service Area 1 (East Allentown), plus maps of the police service areas and the neighborhood groups. These had previously been sent to the email list. Schell also read an email of thanks that he had written to the city officials responsible for getting our long-requested sign forbidding trucks from turning at the corner of E. Turner and N. Maxwell Streets.

Pearson noted that he had gotten an offer from a neighbor on E. Cambridge Street to run a fund-raiser for the association in conjunction with her nails business. Schell read the email that we received on the matter. Pearson will follow up with the neighbor.

Bob Jacoby reported on the lights in Irving Park. They are up and operational. He noted that one morning he found several plastic candy canes hanging from the bottom rung of the tree on the flagpole.

Pearson noted for the group some news concerning the Lehigh County home—Cedarbrook. He noted that some of the incumbent county commissioners had discussed selling off the property during their election campaign. The property is not making as much money now, however, as it had been at that time. The county is considering renovations to the one wing of the property but the county commissioners called for a study of the matter rather than approving the renovations, so we are uncertain where the county is going on this.

A neighbor noted that there is a regularly-overflowing dumpster at an apartment complex on East Hamilton Street near the crest of the hill. (This would probably be in the 700 or 800 block of E. Hamilton.) The dumpster is not emptied often enough for the amount of trash and so there is often trash piled outside of the dumpster besides the amount piled in it.

A neighbor who lives just off Hanover Avenue brought in the damaged surveillance camera that had been disabled by one of the businesses in the area. The camera had previously been used to supply evidence of several code violations by area businesses. The neighbor indicated that they knew the

identity of the perpetrator and that a police report had already been filed. The had brought the camera, which was still on their roof at the time of the police report filing, to the meeting in hopes that Captain Alsleben would be present to be shown it. Schell took several photos of the broken camera to send to Captain Alsleben.

Bob Jacoby noted that there are a significant number of neighbors in his area that are building enclosed back porches. We will look into the question as to whether such home improvements need city permits and whether they have been obtained for these projects.

A neighbor noted a continuing problem with a property in the 400 block of N. Norman Street (the alley that is between the properties on N. Oswego Street and the shopping center at N. Maxwell St. and Hanover Avenue). This has been reported before. The grass is not cut, the trees are overgrown, and there are cars parked on the grass that have not moved for years. This past summer they had several snakes on the property, which had not been a problem when the property was maintained. Bob Jacoby said that it was his understanding that city ordinances now require a concrete or paved area—crushed stone is no longer sufficient.

In an unrelated parking issue, Schell wondered about the proper procedure if a person has only on-street parking and wants to go on vacation, leaving the car at home, for a period of time. Normally cars need to be moved every 72 hours. While this ordinance is normally not enforced unless a neighbor brings it to the attention of the parking authority or police, he wondered if there as a form that one could file to avoid having ones car towed in such a circumstance. We will have to check.

Schell also reported that he and Pearson have discussed the contents of our proposed four-page mailing to the entire East Side. Schell will contact the Midway Manor and Mosser Village groups to see if they would like to participate in this, and he and Pearson will collaborate on the project, with the hope of completing it before the end of the year.

Pearson noted the change in the city wage tax as it pertained to persons who work in the city but live in other jurisdictions. He also noted that the city representatives have been appointed to the Lehigh County Authority, who now controls the city water and sewer service.

There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully,

David A. Schell, Secretary