

**East Allentown Rittersville
Neighborhood Association**

MINUTES

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 18, 2016 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Four officers (President Dennis Pearson, Vice President Robert Pandaleon, Treasurer Bob Jacoby, and Secretary Dave Schell) and five other neighbors were present at the meeting as were Captain Dan Wiedemann and Officer Andrew Bloomberg of the Allentown Police.

Schell handed out a flyer on activities at the Allentown Public Library taking place in May and another about an expired drug collection that will take place on Saturday, April 30th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Supremo Food Market at 602 N. 7th Street and the Giant Market at 3015 W. Emaus Avenue.

President Pearson noted that there have been several resignations of city department heads since the last meeting, including city Managing Director Francis Daugherty.

Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of March 21, 2016. There were two corrections in that the minutes referred to the previous meeting as being in January 2015, not 2016 and Captain Dan Wiedemann's name was misspelled. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby gave his report. The balance remains \$527.03. We have paid another month of storage at \$31.79 plus tax per month, but the money has not yet been removed from the account. It was moved and seconded to approve the report as read. The motion carried.

Captain Wiedemann asked if there were any questions or issues to be brought up by those present.

There is a problem at East Columbia and American Parkway in that people shoot right through the intersection. The stop sign is clearly visible but possibly could be augmented by a white line painted in the street. Cars also go dashing through the stop signs at E. Hamilton and N. Irving Streets. Also noted were continuing problems with late night noise at several properties.

There are continuing problems also with trash being left or blowing around. The property owners should have the responsibility for cleaning up around their properties. At one time city inspectors came through several times during the course of the summer checking on this sort of thing, but it appears that this procedure has been ended.

Captain Wiedemann noted that the expired drug pickup is also in effect at the police offices at 10th and Hamilton Streets on a regular basis. He again noted that city officials will always have an ID card when they come onto property.

The Leonard Buck banquet will be this coming Thursday at the Fearless Fire Hall. As usual, it will recognize both police and civilians. The Leonard Buck Award this year will be the head of the Allentown Tenants' Association, Kenneth Heffentrager.

A manager from Harry's U Pull It auto recycling on N. Plymouth Street addressed the group. He noted that there had been some concern expressed due to the several fires at that location, but that as the new manager of their three locations in Allentown, Pennsburg, and Hazelton, he had overseen the expenditure of \$1.5 million between the three locations to improve environmental safeguards at all locations. He spoke of his background and length of time in the recycling business and some of his background. In response to a question he spoke of the method used to remove all fluid from the junked vehicles, and noted that after the vehicles have been on site of a number of months they are removed to a scrap dealer to be ground down and melted or reused. [Secretary's note: I had a horrible head cold and was not hearing well, so I did not get his name. Apologies.]

President Pearson read from a letter to VP Pandaleon from Veronique N. Valliere acknowledged our expressed concerns concerning their clients, some of whom are court-involved clients who are mandated for treatment. Some, but not all, of these are sexual offenses. She noted that their group sees the community as their primary client, and works with local law enforcement to lower the recidivism rate of offenders.

Further, she noted that in "the case of all types of offenders, knowledge is power. Recidivism increases in neighborhoods that restrict offenders because the community cannot identify them." She expressed pleasure that our association is proactive in this area, urged us to contact their group with any concerns, and noted that any contact with children would be a violation of probation or parole and could result in incarceration. Residents can find out more about their work at www.vallierecounseling.com.

In other business, President Pearson:

- Brought various Morning Call articles of various police activity on the East Side to the group's attention
- Noted that the flagpole in Andre Reed (Irving) Park is leaning and that we probably could not put decorations on it safely next year if it is not repaired or replaced. He further noted that many Allentown parks no longer have flagpoles, and if the pole is replaced we hope it would be large enough to put our annual decorations on it.
- Noted that there are periodic proposals to make changes to Andre Reed Park. There is some talk of putting a pavilion in where the playground currently exists. We would like to see the pool remain either there or some other place on the East Side since the nearest other city pool is at Jordan Park.
- Stated that we have been advocating a return of the planetarium to Dieruff HS.
- Noted that the school district plans to bring in a private company (Camelot) to deal with special education students.

There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully,

David A. Schell, Secretary