

**East Allentown Rittersville  
Neighborhood Association**

**MINUTES**

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on August 15, 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 six other neighbors were present at the meeting as were Sergeant Ron Schlagel of the Allentown Police and Ken Heffentrager of the Allentown Tenant Association.

Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of July 18, 2016. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby gave his report. The account balance remains \$527.03. We owe \$158.95 to President Pearson for five months' rental fee @ \$31.79/month. We also paid \$237 for insurance since the last meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the report as read. The motion carried.

President Pearson asked Secretary Schell if he had any report. Schell reported on the following:

- Captain Wiedemann sent an email on August 10<sup>th</sup> inviting us to a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheridan Elementary School on North Second Street.
- Schell was questioned by a neighbor recently at a family event about a post on North Irving Street next to the tennis courts with something hanging on it. Schell checked out the matter and it is a "click in station" for a program called Million Hearts. This is a federally-sponsored program to encourage heart-healthy habits, including exercise. A person can sign up for the program and get something to allow them to "click in" and be eligible for prizes. The program can be found on the city website.
- Sean King, the Arts & Culture Committee Co-Chair of Upside Allentown wrote to us about setting up meeting on the East Side to describe the program, which can be found at [allentownartsplan.strikingly.com](http://allentownartsplan.strikingly.com). Schell replied that he would pass along the information but that we never have the 25-30 persons at our meetings that Mr. King had hoped to come together for a meeting.
- Schell also noted that President Pearson has also expressed concern about parking at the Irving Pool.

President Pearson spoke about the parking on the macadam next to the pool, which is posted for no motor vehicles. He noted that there have also been some fights at the basketball area of the park.

Further, he noted that the tennis courts at Andre Reed Park have been padlocked. He called the city about the matter and was told that this was done due to vandalism. Dieruff will still be using the courts but if a resident wants to use them they may reserve them. He questioned whether this would result in a fee being charged for the court, and was told that it would. We are opposed to the courts being closed for public use.

Neighbors noted that we are having problems with dirt bikes on city streets around the park and also in the park. Officer Schlagel noted that the police have been told not to give chase to the bikes due to safety concerns.

Aurora, a company on North Trump Street near the former Rittersville Fire Hall, is having its work transferred to a site in Iowa, causing the loss of about thirty jobs.

It was noted that the Buick Club event and open house on Union Boulevard several weeks ago was a success and got many complimentary remarks. President Pearson noted that Andre Reed recently received an honorarium of several thousand dollars for helping with a camp, and that he transferred the fee to the Dieruff football program.

Pearson also noted that years back we had participated in a program around Christmas to allow young children to purchase gifts at low costs. St. John's Evangelical Church on Jerome Street has offered to help sponsor the program. This would involve seeking donations from residents to supply the program. Pearson asked for the approval of the group to make join the effort, and approval was granted. This will, in part, replace the decoration of the flagpole at Andre Reed Park since the pole is bent and will not be able to be used for our usual Christmas tree decoration.

Ken Heffentrager of the Allentown Tenants Association spoke of several initiatives in which the association participates:

- Tip 411 is a way to report crimes anonymously. One can send an anonymous tip to the Allentown Police by texting the word TIPAPD, YOUTHAPD, or VICEAPD to 847411 (tip411). Type 847411 in the New Text Message line, then type one of the three words above followed by one space and the details of the tip in the message area, and hit send. The technology removes all of your identifying information before the police see it.
- Report Illegal Dumping: Illegal dumping in progress should be reported by calling 911. Dumping not in progress can be reported to Allentown Recycling at 610-437-8729. If the person does not want to call the city for fear that someone will discover who called, they may call the Allentown Tenants Association at 484-202-0742 or email the association at [admin@allentowntenantsassociation.org](mailto:admin@allentowntenantsassociation.org).
- The Tenth Ward North Neighborhood Association is having a cleanup on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Persons interested in helping will meet at The Alternative Gallery, 707 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103.

Heffentrager noted that the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Wards did a cleanup and it took five large dumpsters to clear the matter out of an abandoned property in the area. He noted that the abandoned and unfit property at 501 N. Dauphin Street is the property owned longest by the city—for forty-four years.

President Pearson read from various newspaper articles concerning the East Side that were printed since our last meeting. He also noted that there will be an open seat in the County Council district that covers East Allentown since the incumbent, David Jones, has indicated his plans to run for Mayor of Allentown.

Officer Schlagel noted that when reporting a tip to Tip 411, one should be as detailed as possible. A vague tip that cannot be acted on will be discarded. Tips should describe the person committing the act, color or make of vehicle if applicable (plate number if possible), etc. Then not only will it be possible to identify the violator, but when the case goes to court it will be a much stronger case if the police can state that they found a person who exactly matched the description given in the tip, not just a vague situation where they may have had the same person.

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

Respectfully,

*David A. Schell, Secretary*