

**East Allentown Rittersville
Neighborhood Association**

MINUTES

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on November 21, 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 seven other neighbors were present at the meeting as was Captain Dan Wiedemann of the Allentown Police Department.

Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2016. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby gave his report. The account balance will be \$336.29 after paying the \$190.74 we owe to President Pearson. It was moved and seconded to approve the report as read. The motion carried.

President Pearson noted that the flagpole at Andre Reed Park has been removed. It was tilting heavily. We were not going to use it for our tree display this season due to its lean. There is a plug in the hole where the flag was removed. The decorations will be installed at the swimming pool area within the next week.

President Pearson also reported that he attended a zoning hearing meeting. One issue involved a request to put a daycare center into an area of 555 Union Boulevard (the former Agere building) that does not have the necessary window area. This matter is still pending.

The other issue concerned the former Scoobie's at Hanover Avenue and Club Avenue. Abe Atiyeh has requested a variance to tear down the building and put up a billboard on the site. He has indicated that if the variance is not granted he would attempt to put in another "gentlemen's club." The zoning board refused to rule on the matter since the petitioner (Atiyeh) does not yet own the building and thus did not have standing to request the variance. President Pearson sought opinions for the neighbors present as to their view on the request, and opinions were mixed.

A neighbor noted that a truck is continuing to park on Woodlawn Street. The driver lives in Bethlehem Township. Captain Weidemann will look into the situation. There are different areas in the city where truck parking is allowed and is not allowed.

There was a shooting and stabbing at the Rittersville Fire Company. It is our understanding that the club is allowing non-members to rent the club in order to fund their operation, and these outside groups are the ones causing the difficulty.

Captain Tony Alsleben, who had formerly been on the East Side and is now handling Police Service Area 4 is moving to the Administrative Captain position. Captain Weidemann is doing both that PS area and ours while someone is being trained for ours. We will probably be getting a new captain on the east side sometime after March.

President Pearson questioned Captain Weidemann about the large fight reported recently behind Dieruff. It appears that several of the students involved had previously attended a charter school which closed and have now been returned to Dieruff. The police had had problems with some of the same students the previous year.

A neighbor questioned the fact that drivers who are heading south on Airport Road and turn right onto American Parkway are ignoring the yield sign. It was noted that the yield sign is to prevent people from immediately going into the left hand lane on American Parkway. There is a dedicated lane for those who turn off Airport Road so they do not have to yield if they stay in the right lane. If they did yield, then traffic would back up on to Airport Road during heavy traffic periods.

President Pearson discussed the order from the Department of Environmental Protection to the city of Allentown to handle the problems caused when excess runoff from the storm sewers hit the treatment facility on Kline's Island which is now operated by the Lehigh County Authority (LCA). The city needs to put in a holding tank to fix the problem, although the city is objecting since the facility may be expanded in the future in the same area where the holding tank would be installed. This would be a cost to the city, not the LCA.

President Pearson noted that there were eleven present, which is sufficient to have nominations and election of officers for EARN. The four incumbent officers were re-nominated. There were no other nominations. The secretary was directed to cast a unanimous ballot for the four incumbent officers, and did so.

A neighbor reported on speaking with Representative Pete Schweyer, and city council members Julio Guridy, and Jeff Glazier about the conditions of the foliage on the dividing island on Hanover Avenue in front of Our Lady Help of Christians. Several trees have recently sustained wind damage. There are currently no plans to make any changes or improvement to the island.

There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:51p.m.

Respectfully,

David A. Schell, Secretary