

**East Allentown Rittersville
Neighborhood Association**

MINUTES

Secretary Dave Schell called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. on December 19, 2016 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Two officers (Treasurer Bob Jacoby and Secretary Dave Schell) and nine other neighbors were present at the meeting as were Captain Dan Wiedemann and Officers Mike Beidelman and Dutch Keiser of the Allentown Police Department.

Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of November 21, 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 we pay the \$190.74 we owe to President Pearson. It was moved and seconded to approve the report as read. The motion carried.

Captain Wiedemann reported that there are no major new issues on the east side.

Dave Schell noted that a neighbor had reported to us that the remains of a US flag mounted outside The Source Hookah Lounge on Hanover Avenue was in shreds, and showed the group a photo of the remains. He reported that he wrote a letter two weeks ago to the lounge on behalf of the association suggesting that the flag be either replaced or removed. Nothing has been done about the matter as of today. Captain Wiedemann took the photo and will look into the situation.

Several neighbors from the area of Club Avenue and Hanover Avenue attended the meeting to object to the proposed lighted 25 by 15-foot billboard on the area now occupied by the former Scoobie's nightclub. They noted that the lighted billboard will shine into their homes as well as the Westminster and Central Park housing developments. One of the neighbors, who has lived in the area for decades, said that a variance was needed when the nightclub was first proposed since it was within 300 feet of a residential area. At the time the neighbors petitioned vigorously against the variance but it was granted. It was further noted that this is already a dangerous area for traffic and either the billboard or a new nightclub would be hazard and distraction.

There was a zoning board meeting last Monday but no action was taken since it is unclear who owns the property. Eight neighbors objected to the billboard at that meeting and one supported it. No action will be taken for 45 days, and the neighbors who were at the meeting were told that they will be given notice at the next meeting when the matter will come up. The lawyer for the previous owner also provided a

detailed letter on the matter. It was further noted that zoning meeting dates are posted on the city website

It was decided that Secretary Schell will write a letter to the zoning board on behalf of the Association asking about the status of the matter, and requesting that the Association be informed of any changes by contacting him. The ownership of the property is unclear in part because it may have changed hands in a Sheriff's Sale. A neighbor noted that if we know when approximately the sale took place it can be researched in the Lehigh County Recorder.

Officers Beidelman and Keiser were asked if they had any items to report to the group. Officer Beidelman noted that the parking situation behind a business on Wall Street (the alley behind Club Avenue) is again problematic, and some citations have been issued.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby said that he and President Pearson have decided that this will be the last year for Christmas decorations in Andre Reed (Irving) Park unless they get help from some younger supporters. They have again done all the installation. We will ask for help from Dieruff High School clubs or organizations well in advance of next year's holidays.

There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully,

David A. Schell, Secretary