

**East Allentown Rittersville
Neighborhood Association**

MINUTES

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on August 21, 2017 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Three officers (President Dennis Pearson, Treasurer Bob Jacoby and Secretary Dave Schell) and sixteen other neighbors were present at the meeting, as was Sergeant Andrew Moll of the Allentown Police Department.

Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of July 17, 2017. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Schell also handed out a few copies of the July police report and flyers on the Midway Manor Yard Sale, which will take place on Saturday, September 9th. Miller-Keystone Blood Center will have a blood drive in conjunction with the yard sale.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby gave his report. The current balance is \$577.03, the same as last month. It was moved and seconded to approve the treasurer's report as read. The motion passed.

President Pearson reported that he has paid for the insurance in case we have the Christmas display. If we do not have the display this year we will most likely not have it again. We will be removing our equipment from storage in any event.

Housing Inspector Bob Sandt was supposed to be here tonight but has not yet arrived. [He did not show.]

Sergeant Andrew Moll said that he was filling in for Captain Keiser, who was running a training session at LV International Airport, and asked if there were any questions. He was asked what about the shooting on Clair Street. The witness is being uncooperative, and is in the hospital in bad shape. They are surmising that it is possibly a drug case. The person's prognosis is not good, and if he dies it will be a homicide. Sometimes the police will sit with victim in hospital if needed for protection, but they have ended that in this case.

A Neighbor on E. Sycamore Street reported that a police officer got out of his vehicle and walked the entire block. This is the first time that they have seen that in years, and were most appreciative. They reported, however, that there is a nuisance in the area of E. Sycamore and N. Jasper Streets. A person is working on cars in Jasper Street, which is an alley at that area and is posted for no parking. This work often goes on until 3 a.m. with loud noises—tools, loud talking, slamming of car doors, etc. Cement blocks have been left on the public sidewalk. Officer Moll said that working on a vehicle in the street is illegal, but they can work on vehicles in the garage—although they can be cited for the noise and disturbance. The neighbor asked if the police could have an officer drive past periodically and check. They have tried asking in a neighborly fashion without success.

President Pearson asked how does business nuisance abatement ordinance apply?

Answer: it would not here since this is a private residence. The new ordinance is to try to put some teeth into the nuisances. Before this, nuisance businesses were just cited and fined. If the person was running a business out of his house it would apply, but if it's just personal use it would not.

A neighbor noted that there is an excessive amount of speeding on Hanover Avenue. They noted that traffic cuts around the light at N. Irving Street and Hanover Avenue and comes down E. Sycamore at 40 mph. Another issue is drug transactions in the neighborhood. Another neighbor noted that the speeding is bad on Hanover Avenue around the 2200 block of E. Cedar Street. Even seeing an empty police car would slow things down.

Officer Moll noted that only state police can use radar, although there has been some talk of changing the law to allow local police to use it as well. Local police need to either have a stopwatch check tracking the time that a car passes two lines in the street, or must be able to testify as to following a vehicle for a specific amount of distance at a certain speed. It was noted that often when the city repaves a street they do not repaint the speed checking lines, eliminating that as a possible area to check speed.

A neighbor said that she foresees another person getting killed crossing the street at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, as had happened before. Officer Moll noted that the police do concentrate on Hanover Avenue and Union Boulevard, plus the section of Airport Road that is in the city. He noted that Officer Beidelman and one other officer on the east side are among the biggest ticket writers in the city, for speeding, expired inspection stickers, and other offenses. He also noted that it is difficult or impossible to testify as to speeding when the officer is traveling in the opposite direction as the speeder. In addition, their speed checking equipment must be calibrated within the past month for their evidence to hold up in court

A neighbor reported on increasing problems with neighbors in several HUD-funded homes, including noise, drinking, and partying late into the night. One neighbor was keeping chickens and a rooster—they had to get rid of the rooster due to noise. Question: What is the HUD policy on people living in a “HUD home” who are not on the resident list filed with HUD? Only those reported to HUD should be there, but violations are difficult to prove, and Officer Moll was uncertain how many issues had to arise before HUD would act. A neighbor commented that they wished that long-term residents of a neighborhood would have some say before an area property was converted into HUD housing.

President Pearson said that we will try to invite a HUD representative to one of our meetings. It was noted that often a management company handles some of these homes and refuses to deal with the throwing of trash and other issues.

A neighbor noted the increase in dumping of trash in the streets behind Overland Park—particularly along N. Bradford Street. She asked why the city couldn't send through a truck

monthly to clean up the trash. Secretary Schell noted that that area has also been reported frequently by Ken Heffentrager of the city Tenants Association. The neighbor also noted that there is an issue with high grass and weeds at a property at the intersection of E. Highland and N. Irving Streets. She said that whenever she calls to report this sort of thing the person she is speaking to wants a specific address, which may not be possible.

President Pearson reported on several items:

- There will be a hearing on August 28th about a requested variance for someone in the Cambridge Street area who wants to put up a high fence.
- The Irving Pool (which is already closed for this season) may not open next year, particularly if the city gets the money to put in a spray park instead. That money would not cover a pool, which would have to be funded by other city money

He was asked what he thought would be less costly—replacing the Irving Pool or tearing down the bath house and building a new one at the far end of the pool, which would meet the federal requirement that the bath house and entrance must be at the shallow end of the pool.

In other issues, Pearson reported that:

- Supposedly the planetarium in Dieruff will get a new system, although money must be raised to pay for it. The school district is trying to raise money from the public for this.
- The school board wants to put a middle school on the former Allentown State Hospital property. This would need state approval and the division of the state hospital property.
- An independent candidate for mayor wants to subdivide the state hospital property for development purposes. Pearson stated that since there are currently no members of city council from the east side we will insist that any such item comes before our association before action is taken on this.
- We are going to make one more attempt to put up the Christmas lights this year. If we do not, it would probably be the last of that effort, and we will have a big yard sale of our balloons.

There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully,

David A. Schell, Secretary