

East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association MINUTES 6/16/2014

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. on June 16, 2014 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Three officers (Dennis Pearson, Bob Jacoby, and Dave Schell) and seven other neighbors were present at the meeting. Captain Tony Alsleben and Officer Mike Beidelman of the Allentown Police Department were also present.

Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of May 19, 2014. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby reported that the balance is \$506.02. Over the past month we had expenses of \$200 for the Science Fair Awards and \$29.99 for storage. The Treasurer's Report was approved by Voice Vote

Dennis Pearson reported on science fair awards. The Kirk Shinsky Award went to a high school student and the Grederick Greenleaf Junior Award went to a middle school student. Each award came with a \$100 monetary amount. The Shinsky Award went to Josiah Stuart, a student at William Allen H.S. The Greenleaf Award went to Ian Butz at Trexler Middle School.

Pearson reported that planning has already started for the Christmas light display. We will again request the assistance of PPL to put the lights on the flagpole and the city for permission for the display. We hope to have additional help in the fall to put the lights up.

Ernie Atiyeh, Midway Manor resident. reported about a business that wants to set up a facility for cleaning out containers at the intersection of N. Sherman and Columbia Streets. The Midway Manor Association appeared at the Allentown Zoning Hearing Board to object to the project on the basis of noise, chemical pollution concerns and traffic. There were 48 Midway Manor residents at the hearing and six had the opportunity to speak.

We have had no progress on improvements of the N. Jerome Street properties with the apparent exterior damage. It was reported by a neighbor that one of the properties has been stripped of copper wiring and piping rendering it uninhabitable. We shall look into this and verify the report.

The city has established additional Neighborhood Partnership Programs in the area bordering the Lehigh River to the East and South , Tilghman Street to the North with a 7th Street extension to the Whitehall Township line and , 12th

Street to the West. , The district includes neighborhood groups such as Old Fairgrounds, Jordan Heights, Sacred Heart, and Old Allentown, None of these programs involve East Allentown neighborhoods.

The group discussed the Source Hookah Club on Hanover Avenue. The police have had numerous complaints and the business has been cited. The business was allowed in the area next to a housing area. The location has noise Tuesday, through Saturday. Sometimes the noise and disturbances continue until 3:00 am. Traffic and parking congestion is also a problem. One of the neighbors reported that they received a letter from the business's attorney stating that if they do not re-aim the cameras on their property and stop complaining to the police they will be sued. It was noted that they have every right to have a camera as long as it is not aimed into the business.

Officer Beidelman reported that the police cited several properties in the 400 block of N. Jerome Street for overgrown grass and weeds, a garage that is falling down and .that the garage of one property is being used as a maintenance shop and will be cited for running a business in a residence.

There was a fire at the Old Mosser School this week. Someone placed some mattresses and block springs against the building and set them on fire. This is not the first time that there was a suspicious fire at this property.

The Allentown School District has approved 555 Union Boulevard (the former Agere Property) for a Charter School starting next spring. The property that was formerly a Drive-In Movie theatre on Union Boulevard is in process of construction and landscaping that would facilitate vintage car storage and owner private invitations for participating in vintage car special events on the property.

Briefly, in other news ... The Irving Park Basketball Courts has been repaved and repainted. The swimming pool is now open for the season at Irving Park. The flag has been replaced at Irving Park. The grass is coming in at the East Side Fire Station but now signs of planned trees which caused delays in the approval of the station. For some reason the lights were kept on at the basketball courts at Irving Park until 11:00 PM until the neighbors on E Tilghman Street objected. The lights will be kept on in the morning when they have organized events --- generally two nights a week --- but will not be left on late every meeting...

There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM

Respectfully, DAvid A. Shell, Secretary