

Village Board Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2010

Approved: January 4, 2011

The Board of Directors of the Owen Brown Community Association, Inc. conducted its regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, December 21, 2010 at the Owen Brown Community Center, 6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, Maryland 21045. Board Chair, Summer Romack; Vice Chair, Ed Cosentino; Board Members, Pearl Atkinson-Stewart and April Cropper; OBCA manager, Nancy L. Thomas were in attendance. Not present CA rep Andy Stack (due to CA meeting), Board members John Boyle and Wayne Eldridge.

Summer Romack called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

1. Adopt agenda - approved as amended by consensus
2. Approval of minutes November 16, 2010 Pearl moved; Ed seconded 4/0/0
3. Resident Comments - none
4. Invited guests - Keesha Rome - potential Board member and Woody Medina - see comments in CA/County decisions
5. Consent agenda - none
6. Covenant decisions - The Board voted to remove the flag on 7155 Natures Road as all covenant violations have been resolved. Pearl moved, Ed seconded 4/0/0 The Board voted to send a 15 day notice to the owners of 6718 Quiet Hours and 7168 Staghorn Lane and if there is no response, the property is to be referred to the ARC requesting to join CA and file suite, request a notation be placed on the assessment file and denial of the use of CA facilities. Ed moved, April seconded. 4/0/0 The Board also approved a cul-de-sac beautification proposal for Downdale Place and upon receiving appropriate receipts from the residents of Downdale Place reimbursement of up to \$200. Ed moved, April seconded 4/0/0
7. Financial decisions - 10 minutes
 1. Approve second quarter financial statements April moved to approve, Ed seconded 4/0/0
8. CA/County decisions - 0 minutes
 1. ZRA-117 Bees- Woody Medina-discussed bee behavior in relation to barriers, amendment will not supersede covenants, wants to give Howard County residents a chance to keep bees, County Bill 55-2010 amendment to zoning laws to ease set back on properties. Need due to disappearing bees since the 1980's-losing pollinators - all wild honey bees are gone, also losing bee keepers. 99% of all bee keepers are not commercial. Bees are vital to our ecosystem. Current zoning law states 200 feet from property line which is approximately 3.5 acres. Most Howard county residents would lose ability to keep bees. 55-2010 suggests 20 feet from property line or 10 feet with a barrier. Mr. Medina asked Board to send a letter in support of this bill. Pearl asked a question regarding 20 feet from property line suggested 20' is too close to neighbors Mr. Medina stated that honey bees are vegetarians and do not provoke anything from humans. Pearl is concerned about perception of bees in the community as most people don't know the difference between species. If cited by the county must move hive in 3 days or face a \$500 fine per day. Compared this legislation with other municipalities that have a bee

ordinance. April asked if this legislation would bring most keepers into compliance. Mr. Medina stated this makes the most sense for the bee keeper and will not significantly increase bee keepers.. April suggested Mr. Medina do a free seminar to educate homeowners in Owen Brown. Pearl said we need input from the community before writing a letter to the county council and we should have our RAC have some input. April suggested the Board to get feedback from community before the RAC considers amending the guidelines. Ed move to support legislation and write a letter to the county and for the EAC/RAC to gather community input to determine if any modifications should be made to the Owen Brown Guidelines. April, Ed, Summer yes, Pearl no because of townhouse living, zero lot lines and a health concern for bee sting allergies. Ed will compose letter. 3/1/0.

9. Reports

1. Covenant - none
2. CA Representative- none
3. Manager – report in writing is attached. Nancy discussed partnership with Cradlerock School BSAP program.
4. Committees- none
 - i. Communication Committee
 - ii. Street Captains
 - iii. Village Center Master Plan

11. Review of Action Item from previous meeting -

Tot Lot letter to CA– April moved to approve letter written by Summer, Ed seconded 4/0/0

Rental donation discussion- Terri Johnson, Sisters of Imani – help group for young single mothers has requested one room, twice a month for free. Non profit, service for our residents. Board discussed this proposal and recommended a review after the first 6 month period . Ed suggested that John and Wayne come up with criteria for the review. Ed moved to approve; Pearl second. 4/0/0

12. Discussions – none
13. Board Member comments – April – buying a property in Allview – will close Jan. 4th, Expecting 2nd child in June. SEC bank coming into Krispy Kreme location. Pearl – requests we put teen rep position description on agenda for Jan 4th · Cradlerock Mart now has a post office. Pearl talked to senior housing group regarding revitalization of village center. Ed – asked by administrative director for HCPSS to represent OBVB on Cradlerock School renaming committee since it is 2 schools again. Ed asked that the residents send suggestions for school names. Ed to invite principals to upcoming meeting – Mar. Ed suggested that the Board consider have 1 regular meeting per month with the second “meeting” day be used for committee meetings, work on goals, brainstorm in smaller groups. Pearl said we need to check Board Policies.
14. Chair report – Summer reported she and her family enjoyed Snacks with Santa. Loved the decorations. TJ Maxx coming into old Toys R Us store location. Summer requests – let her know one week ahead if Board members cannot make a meeting.
15. Adjournment Summer moved, April seconded. All 8:40 pm

ACTION ITEMS:

Nancy to send tot lot letter to CA BOD

Nancy to contact Ms. Johnson regarding room rental
Ed to write letter regarding CG55-2010
Ed to invite local principals to Board meeting

Respectfully submitted by: Nancy Thomas