

Hudson/Park Neighborhood Association
Minutes of February 17, 2011 Meeting 7PM
Held at: Israel AME Church – 381 Hamilton Street, Albany, New York

Officers

President: Ellen Picotte

Vice President: Elizabeth Griffin

Treasurer: Richard Brash

Secretary: Sherron Winkler

Members Present: Ellen Picotte, Elizabeth Griffin, Sherron Winkler, Todd Nelson, Steve Goodman, John Cirrin, Linda Hartt, Norman Redmond, Jo Anne Dolan, Tracy Condon - APD, Kevin Reedy - APD, Kenneth Seasock – APD, Matt Montesano – APD, Barbara Bailey, Ulrike Pohlig, Lilian Kelly, PK Miller, Richard Conti, Claude Gruener, Betsy Lopez, Kathryn Sikuie, Chris Higgins

Introductions:

Ellen Picotte announced the special guest for the meeting – Albany Police Chief Steven Krokoff.

Secretary's Report – Ellen Picotte distributed the minutes from the January 19, 2011 meeting. Motion to accept by Jo Anne Dolan, seconded by Todd Nelson, all in favor, accepted.

Announcements:

- The Neighborhood Resources Center is looking for nominations for their 2011 Community Service Award
- Historic Albany Foundation's Moveable Feast will be on Saturday April 2, 2011. Attendees will meet at the D & H Building for cocktails and move from there to the location for their dinner. For more information go to Historic Albany Foundation's website www.historic-albany.org or call 465-0876.

Special Guest, Chief Krokoff:

- Introduced himself and discussed the addition of "beat officers" back into Albany neighborhoods and what the goal is for the future.
- The overall goal is to have the beat officers not only develop relationships with the neighborhood residents but also work with city agencies (i.e., Department of General Services, codes department, fire department....) to proactively address any quality of life issues that could lead to bigger problems down the line. In addition to safety issues, the beat officers should also be made aware of any issues of concern – trash, unkempt properties etc....
- Tracy Condon and Kevin Reedy have great experience on the police force and are dedicated to working in the neighborhood along with Matt Montesano, who is a great asset to the neighborhood.
- The floor was opened up for a question and answer period.

At this point, Ellen Picotte, President needed to excuse herself from the meeting and Elizabeth Griffin, Vice-President took over.

Next on the agenda was Michael Guidice to discuss the backyard chicken issue: the item was skipped over as he was not in attendance at the meeting.

Albany Police Department Report:

Matt Montesano:

- There was a burglary on Lancaster – parties knew each other and there was an arrest. There was an assault at the Boys and Girls club - all involved refused to give their information to the police.
- Motor vehicle break-ins have increased in some bordering neighborhoods – be sure to keep cars locked and valuables out of your vehicles.
- Remember to leave porch lights to increase safety for you and your neighbors.

General Reminders and Upcoming events:

- The Albany police will come to your house to do a free security survey, call 477-7875
- Consider starting a neighborhood watch or a neighborhood watch and walk program. Training is given – contact Matt for additional information.
- A volunteer is needed from the neighborhood association to attend a meeting on March 1 at 6pm at the Center Street Station to discuss a “Night Out” event in the neighborhood. Contact Matt for more information.
- The local libraries will be holding various programs including defensive driving in conjunction with the police. For information contact the library.
- The police are offering assistance with child safety seat installation contact 458-5668 or 458-5669.
- March 8, 2011 from 5-7pm, come to the Lark Street BID office to meet your “beat officers” introduce yourself and welcome them to the neighborhood.
- May 22, 2011 a bike rodeo will be held at the boat launch in the Corning Preserve.

Emergency Services Report: Unless there is a specific important issue the AFD will not have a representative present at the meeting.

Albany County Legislative Report – Honorable Chris Higgins

- There was a meeting this week, they are working on filling positions. Once that is done they will be able to move forward on some issues.
- The county is looking into possibly revising the item pricing law.
- He and Richard Conti attended the recent BZA meeting. The application to operate as a tavern submitted by Tandoor Palace has been denied.
- Re-Center Pilates studio Hudson Avenue is on the list for the next BZA meeting. The owner is looking to expand his studio to include cardio machines and offer classes.

BZA/HRC Reports:

- See above – Chris Higgins report

Treasurers’ Report – Rich Brash was not in attendance at the meeting. Will give an update at the next meeting.

House and Garden Tour 2011 – Elizabeth Griffin

- Date for event will be June 16, 2011
- We will be partnering with Pine Hills for the event mailings and a joint ticket to both tours will be \$30.00. Individually the tickets will be \$20.00.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherron Winkler, Secretary