

Laurel Ridge Shamrock Civic Association (LRSCA)

Annual Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2015

Present: Approximately 40 members in attendance.

Next meeting: There will be a moderated Q&A Session on Cityhood October 13 at 7:00 PM October 13 at 7:00 PM in the Druid Hills Middle School cafeteria. The date of the next annual meeting is still to be determined, but will likely be in September 2016.

I. Call to order and welcome

- The meeting was called to order by Claudine Linzer at 7:05 PM.
- Claudine started off the meeting by explaining the five committees in LRSCA and passing around sign-up sheets. The 5 committees are:
 - Beautification – members of this committee come up with ideas on how to make our neighborhood more attractive.
 - Neighborhood Watch
 - Ann Finley is the chair, and would appreciate having a contact for each street in the neighborhood.
 - Ann Finley has a listserv where she sends out information for neighborhood watch. People wishing to be added to the list should email ann@annfinley.com.
 - There is a Facebook page called “Laurel Ridge Community Neighborhood Watch” which people can join.
 - Ann reminded neighbors to please call 911 if they see anything suspicious. Pictures taken with cell phones can also be helpful to the police.
 - Social Committee – members of this committee plan fun things to get people in the neighborhood together.
 - Schools – members of this committee serve as liaisons for the schools in our neighborhood.
 - Planning and Zoning – members of this committee attend government meetings, and then provide education to the community.

II. Minutes of last meeting

- Minutes from last annual meeting of September 30, 2014 were read by Susan Hellinger, secretary.
- A suggestion was made to amend the minutes to clarify that the survey mentioned in the minutes was a survey on the formation of a civic association, and not the survey on cityhood conducted by LRSCA in November.
- Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes with the above mentioned amendment.

III. Treasurer’s Report

- Claudine Linzer gave the treasurer’s report.

- Current membership is 149 households, many are renewing this month.
- Main expenses this past year:
 - Spent \$185 to incorporate and reserve the domain name. It costs \$35 to renew the domain name each year.
 - We have a post office box which costs \$30 every 6 months.
 - The summer social event held in June cost \$68.
 - Published one newsletter at a cost of \$170.
 - The survey on cityhood which was hand-delivered to all 800 homes cost \$325.
- We currently have \$595 in the account.
- Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.

IV. PowerPoint Presentation

- Susan McWethy presented a PowerPoint on LRSCA accomplishments of our inaugural year. Some of the highlights of the presentation:
 - LRSCA was formed on September 30, 2014 by approximately 80 initial members.
 - LRSCA conducted 6 informational meetings on topics of interest to its membership including Cityhood, Annexation, and the State of the County.
 - LRSCA participated in the Great American Cleanup Day and organized a neighborhood social event.
 - LRSCA distributed 900 surveys with a 26% response rate to the entire neighborhood to determine its preferences regarding cityhood.
 - LRSCA has plans for a moderated Questions and Answers session on the upcoming vote on being incorporated into a new city of LaVista Hills. Marjorie Snook, representing DeKalb Strong, and Alan Venet, representing LaVista Hills YES will participate.

V. Election of officers

- The slate of officers was discussed, and the proposed officers present at the meeting were introduced. Prior to the meeting, members received a brief biographical statement from each proposed board member. They can be found on the LRSCA website at http://laurelridgeshamrock.weebly.com/uploads/3/8/2/4/38242349/slate_of_officers_and_board_members.pdf.
 - President: Claudine Linzer (present)
 - Vice President: Susan McWethy (present)
 - Secretary: Lindsay Isaacs (present)
 - Treasurer: Paul Friederich
 - Board Members:
 - Joanne Breaugh
 - Sami Freiji (present)
 - Ralph Winter (present)
 - Ruth-Ann Corbett (present)
 - Gail Bang (present)
- Board elections were done by closed ballot. The ballots were counted by members who were neither current or proposed board members, with oversight by Sandra Bowen.
- The slate of officers was approved unanimously.

- Claudine, as new LRSCA president, thanked Dawn Forman for all she did to form the organization. She also thanked the officers from 2014-2015 and handed out certificates of appreciation. Certificates were presented to Betty Molloy, Jeff Johnston, Susan Hellinger and Tom McRae.

VI. Discussion of Future Goals

- Claudine asked for ideas on how to grow membership of LRSCA, noting that the more people we have, the greater our voice with decision makers.
 - Most of the comments centered around improved communications.
 - There is a need for more and better placed signage surrounding meetings and events.
 - Matt Smith's Facebook page should be combined with the LRSCA Facebook page. The other page has more members.
 - Look into the formation of a Communications Committee.
 - Get more neighborhood traffic on our website.
 - Word of mouth can be powerful. All members should talk to their neighbors about LRSCA. There is a card with information on the association which members could hand out to their neighbors.
 - Get other neighborhood organizations, such as Pangborn Swim & Tennis, to publish LRSCA news.
 - Most communication is done online now, but that leaves out people who are not active in online forums and communities. Perhaps we should consider using something like a call tree utilizing a "block captain" model. Each "block captain" could be notified of a matter of importance, and place something in the mailbox of neighbors.
 - We need more people to sign up for committees – figure out a way to get more people involved.
 - It was acknowledged that the goals for LRSCA next year will be different depending on the outcome of the November 3 vote on the LaVista Hills city formation. LRSCA should schedule a meeting for sometime after the vote so we can set our goals. The group prefers Tuesday nights for meetings.

VII. New Business

- Items of interest brought up by members:
 - Goodwill is opening in November.
 - It is important for everyone to make sure they are registered to vote and that they go out and vote either for or against LaVista Hills on November 3. The Brookhaven cityhood vote was decided by a very small percentage of the voters in that area. We want to make sure the majority gets out and voices their opinion. The last day to register to vote is October 5, 2015.
 - People should go to the DeKalb County Ethics meetings.
 - There is a meeting on cityhood on September 30 at Lakeside High School cafeteria. This meeting is being sponsored by some of our legislators, and should be very interesting. Some of the members in attendance said they would take notes and provide them to LRSCA for information.
- Everyone was encouraged to attend the October 13 LRSCA sponsored moderated Q&A which will be held at 7:00 PM in the Druid Hills Middle School Cafeteria. The meeting is

open to anyone who lives in the LaVista Hills footprint, so we need to get the word out. Members were given the opportunity to submit questions in advance of that meeting.

VIII.Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.