

Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council

Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2010

Attending: Janice Bourque, Srdjan Nedeljkovic, Paul Gilbert, Rodney Barker, Bob Staulo, Scott Gordon, Mildred Hutchinson, Peter Meyer

Janice called the meeting to order at 8:10pm

- Janice reviewed the swearing in for the Area Council this past Tuesday at the Aldermanic meeting. The swearing in was officiated by Aldermanic President Gentile and took place in front of most of the Board. Rodney and Srdjan were sworn in the next day.
- Janice discussed the status of the ice rink at the Hyde Community Center. Maintenance for the rink has gone well so far but there is still a significant need to volunteers to scrape the ice, add a new layer of water/ice and remove snow when necessary. Janice mentioned several people that have assisted so far in this project.
- While on the subject of the ice rink, an idea of having a “skate swap” next year was discussed. This would be a great way to expand the use of the rink and keep the equipment costs down.
- Treasurer’s report: Scott reviewed the expenses paid over the last month including money for the skating rink (approx \$1,000) and reimbursement to Janet Fagan for flower pot replacement.
- Scott told the council that he will work on coordinating future flower and flower pot purchases by Janet using the City’s discount contracts in order to save money.
- Scott has also officially transferred signing authority for the NHNAC account to himself and Janice. He also got a bank debit card which will streamline future council purchases.
- Janice told the group that the newsletter has been mailed to all Highlands residents and should be received in the next few days.
- The Winter Social is ready for this Saturday, Jan 23. Many of the usual Highlands businesses will be participating including Baker’s Best, Coffee Corner, Newton Pizza, O’Hara’s Jamjuli, Vino Divino and Lincoln Street Coffee. Janice reviewed the agenda for the event and confirmed the food pickup schedule and volunteers.
- The Council will be honoring Effie Minasidis from Town Cleaners at the Winter Social. Effie has run the Town Cleaners tailoring and dry cleaning business in Newton Highlands since 1978.
- Walnut Street update: The waiver request has been approved by the State. The waiver will provide a comprehensive improvement of Walnut Street (not simply a cosmetic one), while allowing for the current road curves and not requiring additional bicycle accommodations. The waiver will allow parking to be maintained in its current locations along Walnut Street. Work will also include sidewalks and crosswalk areas. The estimated cost of improvements is \$3 million. Next step is to have a meeting with Bob Rooney to discuss next move, including a pedestrian friendly and safe redesign of the Newton Four Corners intersection.
- Barbara Darnell and Groot Gregory are still interested in joining the NHNAC, however they still have a meeting date conflict. After a brief discussion, future Area Council meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month at 8pm.

- Newton's official website has been updated and Barbara and Groot have offered to update our page as well. The council discussed which sites we wanted the NHNAC site linked to, such as our mission statement, map of service area, historical tour of the village, schools, the Hyde Center, etc. All council members will provide a photo and bio for the site as well.
- Janice will investigate the possibility of having commercial listings on our site to raise money. We are currently unsure if the City will allow this.
- The council agreed to take responsibility for the "Funtastic Friday" events effective immediately. These are held for 5th graders at the Hyde Center in the fall season.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10pm