

MINUTES of the PRESTWICK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
September 20, 2007

Final draft to be approved at the October meeting.

Present: Jim Nolting, Janice Werner, Bill Matevich, Sue Bloomfield, Tom Barz and Rachel Gilmore (Recording Secretary). Special guests: Mayor Jim Holland, Frankfort Chief of Police Rob Piscia, Joe Murty.

Absent: Paul Koreman, Lynne Grever, John Mackowiak, Dan Smith,

Q&A with Mayor Holland

Jim Nolting introduced Mayor Holland and stated that the purpose of inviting him to the PHA meeting was to see if there are ways that the Village and the PHA can better protect property values through more rigorous enforcement of current codes and/or tightening of existing codes.

There was much discussion on types of code violations in Prestwick: sheds, fences, RV's/boats on property, etc., as well as property that is not being kept up to standards. The general consensus from the Village staff was that if there are code violations that the PHA has not dealt with in the past, they will have a difficult time legally enforcing the codes with new offenders because the precedence has been set to permit violations.

Mayor Holland stated that even the Village experiences some difficulty enforcing the current Village codes. The Village prefers to gain a resident's cooperation when there is a problem. Going to court is expensive and has usually resulted in the resident winning the case.

Mayor Holland said that if the PHA or other residents have suggestions for new laws that would better protect property values, these suggestions should be brought to the Village board for a complete review and discussion. He feels the Trustees would be open to discussing new laws/ordinances.

Regarding water issues in Prestwick: The Village staff is aware that there are problems with color and smell. A lot of it has to do with the age of the pipes and how they were originally installed. A section of pipe is being replaced on Prestwick Dr. this fall, and the new iron filtration plant became operational in mid-September. However, these improvements will not fix all problems. The Village Board is committed to replacing the water mains in Prestwick and Connecticut Hills first because these are the two areas with the most frequent water main breaks and other water problems. They budgeted \$600,000 this year for two sections of pipe replacement, one in each neighborhood. Obviously, there is a lot more to do, so this project will be very long term.

Regarding police protection in Prestwick: Chief Piscia reported that there is a car assigned to Prestwick, but it covers the whole eastern section of the Village neighborhoods. If you notice a speeder or suspicious car, get the license plate and report it to the police. They will follow up.

If you notice solicitors, ask for their license, which they must get after a 7-day wait from the Frankfort Police Department. Please call the police if these solicitors do not have a license.

Officer Bender is available to do identity theft/crime prevention presentations to homeowners groups. Please call the police department.

Chief Piscia noted that drugs are present in Frankfort. However, his staff makes things as uncomfortable as possible for potential dealers and customers, so the problem is not large right now. He recommends supporting Will County in any efforts to pass a referendum to expand the jail because jail space means people who are arrested in Frankfort/Will County are taken to jail at least overnight. If there is overcrowding, then those arrested are often released. Jail is a deterrent.

Regarding Harlem Avenue: Cook County has told the Village that Harlem improvements will begin in 2008 between Sauk Trail and Laraway. The northern section of Harlem will be done in 2009 and the southern part in 2010.

The PHA Board asked the Village to consider hiring a part time code enforcement officer to work on the weekends when people know they can put up prohibited structures without being caught.

JULY minutes were approved with the notation that the Leonis were not attempting to dam the creek as reported in the July minutes.

ENTRANCES

1. Janice reported that she has a bid from Excel for \$17,000 to do the lighting. She and Jim met with Jerry Ducay, and there is some money set aside for special projects that could possibly go towards the entrance upgrades in Preswrick. The total cost for the 4 entrances is about \$30,000 for lighting and the address stones. The Village can definitely contribute \$4,000 towards replacing the street signs.

- ACTION ITEM: Janice will talk to Excel about the bid and whether or not it accounts for tapping into the Village electric source.
- ACTION ITEM: Janice and Jim will draft a letter to the Village Board explaining why PHA needs financial assistance and what the money will cover. This letter will go to each Trustee for feedback.
- ACTION ITEM: Janice and Jim will draft a letter to non-members explaining the street sign/lighting project and asking them to make a \$75 contribution or whatever amount they feel comfortable contributing to this project.

2. Turn in Your Neighbor

Jim showed Paul's award report which included the homeowner name/address, the award name and a description of their landscaping. Great work, Paul! These winners will be published in the next newsletter and photos and the award write ups will be on the web site.

ARC

Bill reported that the Kasalas are not putting a fence around their pool because of how high it sits on the property, combined with a retaining wall that will be installed and serve as a fence. The bill for the Kasala review was \$1034. They've paid \$700 so far and have been billed for an additional \$334.

Tom reported that in the past 18 months, PHA has spent \$3594 on reviews and received \$4300 in income for review fees.

Tom also reported that he approved a 14x17 screened porch for Bonomos.

GOVERNMENTAL

1. BETA

PHA did send volunteers to work the BETA tent. The money will be distributed later this fall. \$150 will go to the charity softball tournament.

The Board agreed to field a team for next year's softball tournament.

SOCIAL

PHA will participate as a group in the Club's Oktoberfest event on Friday, October 12. The total fee per person that the Club is charging is \$29. PHA will pay the Club \$25 including tax and tip. PHA will charge members a discounted rate of \$15/person. Sue felt that it would be easier to have people pay at the door, although they must RSVP to her in advance. Discounted tickets will be limited to the first 100 PHA members.

- ACTION ITEM: The Board approved Sue getting floral centerpieces for the PHA tables which will be raffled off at the end of the night.
- ACTION ITEM: Board members are encouraged to seek donations of door prizes that can be raffled off at the end of the evening. Contact Sue if you get a donation.
- ACTION ITEM: Rachel will get a postcard invitation out ASAP to all PHA members about Oktoberfest. RSVPs must be received by October 5.
- ACTION ITEM: Sue/Jim will have promo information set out at the dinner on the new web site and the entrance redesign (drawings from Marikay). They will also set out a donation bowl to collect contributions to the entrance project.

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to Tom's staff (daughter Katie) for compiling the email list from the PHA Directory.

NEWSLETTER

Rachel will get a newsletter out in the next week to 10 days.

It will include:

An update on entrance redesign

The Turn in Your Neighbor Beautification Winners

The Covenants

A summary of the meeting with Mayor Holland

A BETA report

A web site update

The Oktoberfest info

A blurb about supporting LWE with the SIAM card (locations to buy a card)

SECURITY

No report.

WEB SITE

Sue showed print outs of the web site pages so far. Travis needs a few items from Rachel.

➤ ACTION ITEM: Rachel will get Travis newsletters and advertiser graphics.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 3rd Quarter Budget

Jim reported that the checking/savings balance as of September 20 was \$26,000. Tom noted that there is a current bill for architectural review for \$2192.00 that needs to be paid.

2. Please note that Bill has a new email address: mugs44@comcast.net. Please send all PHA information to that email, not the jets66 email.

The next meeting is tentatively set for Thursday, October 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the Club. However, Jim will email all board members to see if another date/time would work better.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Gilmore
Recording Secretary