

Olentangy Highbluffs Community Association

Committee meeting: Thursday, July 19, 2012 (Worthington Christian Village library)

In attendance: Yvonne Honeybrink, president; Lindy O'Brien, Joyce Lech, Vinnie Lech, Deb Becker, Cheryl Burt, Bob Burt, Erin Rabinowitz, Julia Schmidt, Erin Campbell.

President Yvonne Honeybrink called a meeting of the executive board to discuss filling vacant committee positions and to talk about upcoming plans for the neighborhood.

Committee chairs for 2012 are:

*Welcoming Committee, Cheryl Burt

*Social Committee: Julia Schmidt and Erin Campbell, co-chairs

*Communication: Bob Burt (webmaster for www.myohca.com); Doug Allen (sign manager)

*Membership: Doug Allen, treasurer

*Beautification/Neighborhood Pride: Lindy O'Brien

*Public Affairs/Development Issues: Yvonne Honeybrink

Areas of discussion:

Communication: Bob Burt created a website for the neighborhood, www.myohca.com. He has listed helpful information such as trash day pickups, and a news update regarding the fire at Traditions. Check it out. Julia Schmidt has created a Facebook group for the neighborhood, look for Olentangy Highbluffs Village Neighbors. It's a quick, easy, interactive way for neighbors to chat. Look for upcoming social event posted on the website and the Facebook page.

Welcoming: Discussed getting more directories printed and easiest ways to update it with new neighbors' information as well as getting updated information for current residents. Erin Campbell suggested using a google docs or wiki application that would allow people to go in and update their own information. It's fast and interactive. It also could be used for social events so neighbors could sign up to bring food, supplies and everyone could see who's bringing what. It would avoid duplication, and be speedier and more efficient than e-mail. There was some talk about what was in the welcoming baskets previously, and Cheryl said she would take care of putting together the welcoming information for new neighbors.

Social Committee: Julia and Erin prepared an outline of ideas and events they'd like to host. Julia explained a Ding Dong Ditch idea, where a neighbor would leave a treat and a note at the doorstep of someone they didn't know in the neighborhood and ring the doorbell and leave before it's answered. Then, the recipient would make their own treat and note for another neighbor and do the same thing, passing along a kindness. The National Night Out event, an annual Blockwatch event, will be expanded into a joint safety/social event. That's on Tuesday, Aug. 7. Also, a Back to School Bash complete with a band on Aug. 17 on Highbluffs Court. Their ideas included things such as a Halloween Party, possibility of a Hay Ride, Christmas caroling, a mommy group, a workout group, a runners group. They also have informally launched a Wednesday Hangout, where neighbors are invited to hang at the home of whoever is hosting that week. It's a chance for kids to play and neighbors to hang out. Bring your own snacks and drinks. One attendee said to keep in mind that there are many families in our neighborhood with grown children, or no children, who might be interested in other types of entertainment, a night at the Wine Bistro, for example.

Suggestions are welcome as are helpers!

Beautification: Areas discussed included ways to spruce up the front of the neighborhood near the stone sign, which is now cracked. One idea was to contact the developer and see how that front entrance could be made more appealing. Other areas discussed included: the upcoming recycling program (which debuts in our neighborhood Sept. 23); sidewalks and the uneven pavement that has caused residents to trip and fall, one with serious injuries. Group discount quotes will be gotten and info passed along for those interested. (One idea was to at least temporarily spray paint the uneven sidewalks white so treacherous walkways would be more noticeable.) Lindy suggested also getting quotes from companies for blacktop refinishing, which 15-20 driveways need to have done. Deb Becker talked about a Send Me program that Worthington Christian Church offers, which sends teens in April and October to help single moms and the elderly with home maintenance issues. She suggested getting names of those who might be interested. Also, it was mentioned residents need to trim street trees, even though they belong to the city, to make sure the canopy is up and not blocking sidewalks and that residents need to make sure no debris blocks the storm sewers. Talk turned to snow plowing and frustration over the city's inability to plow our neighborhood sooner, or do the courts when they do arrive. It's been helpful to have private plowers, and Deb Becker suggested trying to get bids in the off-season and lock in a company and price before a snowstorm happens. FYI, FNCCC had the head of the Snow Warriors as a guest speaker at a Far North Meeting. Yvonne suggested changing the committee name from beautification to something broader, like neighborhood pride.

Membership: Only 51 percent of 2012 dues are paid, roughly 63 homes. Efforts will be made to encourage residents to participate. Admission to neighborhood events is free for all family members who pay the \$25/yr. dues! That in itself is a bargain vs paying per person, per event for non-paying members. Snow plowing cannot be provided as a courtesy to our residents without ample funds. Dues checks are made out to OHCA for \$25 and dropped off or mailed to Doug Allen, 8367 Bridletree Way.

Public Affairs: Yvonne serves as our Far North Columbus Community Coalition Trustee and is also serving as Vice President of FNCCC. The new website will keep us alerted to development plans for our area and guest speakers. Meetings are held at Worthington Christian on the first Tuesday of every month almost without exception. Check the www.myohca.com site for meeting details and agenda. Yvonne also attends City Council, BZA and Development Commission meetings, as needed, as our advocate. Our Past President of OHCA, Erin Rabinowitz, is the FNCCC Secretary and as such attends all FNCCC Meetings and participates greatly with input and representation for our neighborhood.

Miscellaneous Items:

***Blockwatch:** New coordinator needed, Drew Jenkins recently stepped down. Three captains are needed to fill vacancies. Yvonne is scheduling a Captains meeting soon with our Police Liaison, Officer Larry Guise, as a speaker. Any input, ideas or interest in participation, please contact Yvonne.

***Deed Restrictions:** Deb Becker mentioned the deed restrictions expire next year. Yvonne asked her to head up the effort to re-draft them, or seek helpers to do that. Vinnie Lech

offered his help. This will then be discussed and voted on at an upcoming OHCA Meeting, date to be announced.

***Garage Sale:** Scheduled each year by Scott Swazak and hosted by Yvonne Honeybrink who runs ads in 6 area papers, Craig's List, Dispatch Website and displays a large entrance sign. About 12 homeowners participated this year; not sure of the traffic that came through. One idea was to have it every other year, possibly boosting participation.

Upcoming Dates:

Tuesday, Aug. 7: Neighborhood National Night Out and Cookout

Tuesday, Aug. 7: FNCCC meeting, 7 p.m., Worthington Christian Church (Guest Speaker regarding recycling update on agenda)

Aug. 17: Back to School Bash (details to come)

Aug. 21: 1st day back to school for Worthington students

Sept. 23: Start of recycling program in our neighborhood

**Yvonne asked the committee chairs to submit a summary of their plans to her by next Thursday as she will get together a website notice to update residents on neighborhood happenings.