

Admiral Heights Improvement Association
General Membership Meeting hosted at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium
October 17, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Board Attendees: Shivaugn Ahern, Jayme Brooks, John Leupold, Liz Uehlinger, Cindy Radulovich, Amy Skinner, Chris Sheesley, and Matt Allen.

Absences: Elizabeth Robb, Jim Masterson, Stephen Holt

In addition to board members, approximately 35 members of the community were in attendance.

Call to order: 7:07pm

President Ahern welcomed the community and introduced board members in attendance.

After introductions, President Ahern went over upcoming events and volunteer opportunities:

October 28: Yard Sale; individual homeowners, no volunteers needed (9-12pm)

October 28: Fall Fest; volunteers welcome (2:00-5:00pm). AHIA is currently looking to secure a food truck for the event.

November 11: Navy Football Tailgate; volunteers and committee needed to head up this event and be present the day of the game for set-up and clean-up.

December 10: Santa Run and Gift Donation; more information to come as we get closer to this event. Many of the details of this event are dependent on the Annapolis Fire Department.

There are additional volunteer opportunities within the community that board members could use assistance with:

Grounds committee: there will be an increase in costs with maintaining the grounds of Admiral Heights. Additional volunteers are always welcome.

Social Media and Communications: Communications are a large part of outreach and increasing membership. The communication committee is already working effectively and could use additional help to increase reach on social media.

Social Events: AHIA is always looking for additional help with neighborhood socials. We currently have no budget for social events and the success of these events is dependent on volunteers. Specifically, there has been renewed interest in a Captain's Crawl. To volunteer for this event, neighbors would include a sign on their lawn and offer their space as a pit stop on the crawl around the neighborhood.

Weems Creek Committee: The Severn River Association (SRA) will be surveying our property in the upcoming months to see how we can continue conservation efforts for Weems Creek. We have a decent number of volunteers both on the board and in the community, but additional volunteers are always welcome.

President Ahern introduced Ward 2 Alderwoman, Karma O’Neill, and turned over the floor for the following updates:

- Farragut Road near Schley recently received additional sidewalk footage to give pedestrians distance on the downside of the hill to cross to the Navy stadium path. There will eventually be a sign at the top of the hill that says “watch for pedestrians.” Alderwoman O’Neill clarified that a crosswalk would give up all sense of security and increase the danger in this area. Neighbors who walk in this area have communicated positive feedback so far.
- A pilot project will be installed at Cedar Park and Windell in the upcoming weeks. The pilot will take away the turning lane onto Windell and will move the crosswalk to the east side of Windell. There will no longer be a need for pedestrians to double cross. This should increase safety in this area. A traffic study has already been completed to ensure that emergency and sanitation vehicles can access the turn with an island that will be placed in the road.
- A new “Friends of the Stadium Path” committee has recently been formed. This committee is headed up by AH neighbor Nina Fisher and the committee’s goal is to clean up the Navy Stadium path. The first thing the committee is going to tackle is to replace and add placards to include information on native birds and edible plants along the path. There are currently 4 placards and there will soon be 8. The committee is working very closely with NAAA (Naval Academy Athletic Association). NAAA has agreed to fund all costs that committee incurs to improve the path.
- NAAA will soon renovate the ‘53 Pavillion in the spring before the commencement of the lacrosse season. They will be taking away asphalt and adding in more green space. The double decker tents that are currently in place at the Farragut side of the stadium are in talks to become permanent due to popularity with class reunions.
- Farragut Farmers Market was a success the 10 weeks that it was held this past summer, having approximately 300-400 patrons per weekend. The market will return in the summer of 2024 and the committee is looking for new volunteers to serve.
- The boat ramp fee for Tucker Street was recently raised for non-residents.
- There is another project that was approved in the capital improvement budget that will add additional sidewalk footage from Cedar Park to Glen Ave. This project is currently in its infancy.
- City Dock Renovation: the feedback for this project has been mostly positive and every little bit is helpful. There is still plenty of time for public comment on this project.

- Short Term Rentals: there is new legislation being drafted that is trying to incorporate language to have owner occupied short term rentals. Draft is still being ironed out and Alderwoman O’Neill is accepting public comment and feedback.
- Hilman Park Garage: signage has recently been replaced to clarify payment methods for the garage. Alderwoman O’Neill recommends use of the app for ease. Tickets incurred that neighbors feel are inaccurate should be appealed. Neighbors can reach out directly to the Director of Transportation or Alderwoman O’Neill. The city is currently seeking a meeting with Premium Parking, the company that was contracted to manage payments. Alderwoman O’Neill still recommends the purple shuttle for getting downtown.
- Cedar Park Sidewalk: the project is currently in the second design phase. The design will be open to public opinion again towards the holiday season and in January the permitting process is slated to begin. The sidewalk is on track to begin in April/May 2024. There was a rumor that the sidewalk could not be worked on during the school year. This only applies to already existing sidewalks, not to this project. The work can commence at any time.
- Last week Alderwoman O’Neill met with the community development coordinator for the Phoenix Academy. There have been neighbor questions about the goats that used to inhabit the area. There is currently no one authorized to care for the goats, but the Phoenix Academy has expanded their greenhouse. Alderwoman O’Neill is working with the Phoenix Academy to create a partnership with students and Ah neighbors in building and caring for gardening plots.

A quorum being present, the meeting turned to the primary order of business, the Treasurer’s report, approval of previous membership meetings minutes, as well as the 2024 budget proposal.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried with none opposed, the minutes of the March 2023 General Membership Meeting were approved.

Mr. Leupold, AHIA Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. 2023 started with the agreed upon 1 year of operating reserves in the operating account. 2023 dues that have been received are in-line with budget expectations through the third quarter. Donations received for social events have continued to keep costs down. We need approximately 20 more members to meet our 2023 revenue goals. Current membership is 190 homes out of 600 which is the standard $\frac{1}{3}$ of homes in Admiral Heights.

Expenses: Expenses are generally up to include tree maintenance in common area properties, increased property maintenance, and mailing costs. Mr. Leupold went over the member dues, boat club lease, boat rack rental, utilities being generally the same, but property maintenance being up significantly. We do also expect a small increase in insurance costs. Member mailings usually pay for themselves with an increase in membership.

Membership: Efforts to increase membership are working. We have had 37 new subscribers in the last 30 days and our email list is up to 496 active contacts.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried with none opposed, the 2024 budget proposal was approved.

The floor was opened for final comments, questions, and new business:

- A neighbor had a fair point about increasing kayak rack rental costs. Given that AHIA has a waitlist and there has been significant inflation of the cost of other items, the price for kayak rack rental should be reevaluated before the spring membership meeting.
 - A neighbor also asked a question about charging for social events. AHIA has never paid for the cost of social events with no additional budget to spare. Donations and volunteer efforts have always covered costs so that AHIA can focus on relationship and membership building.
 - AHIA received positive feedback about the use of email communication.
 - AHIA will also be updating the neighborhood contact list to continue to blast communication to neighbors who are not current members to encourage membership.
 - A neighbor asked a question about losing the overhead canopy in our community and the need to add more trees when others are removed. This can be considered for a 2025 budget, but there is no opportunity for this to be added to the 2024 budget at this time.
 - A neighbor had a comment about street repair being spotty on Dewey drive. There are a number of streets in AH that are partially paved. Alderwoman O'Neill offered a follow up on additional information on how to report street concerns.
 - A neighbor is personally interested in different city wards and how AH might be a sister ward to another. Alderwoman O'Neill will provide information for making connections to other wards.
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There being no further business before the board and the general membership, the **meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.**