

Arbor Hills Neighborhood Meeting Annual General Meeting

Date/time: October 12, 2017 at 6:30pm

Location: Arbor Covenant Church

1. Jim Cortada called the meeting to order at 6:35pm
2. Jim introduced the invited guests and thanks Alder Sheri Carter for assisting with the lighting study and getting additional lighting for the neighborhood
3. Alder Sheri Carter
 - a. A camera facing the beltline will be installed to monitor traffic and for security purposes
 - b. Another light study will be started in late November; after which another report will be created
 - c. \$1.5MM was allocated for Penn Park and it will be opened in June 2018
 - d. Speed bumps on Ashford will be installed to slow traffic
 - e. The city has an initiative to ensure that all parks in the district will have new park equipment
 - f. Aster beach will reopen in 2018
 - g. Ocean park is currently been worked on
 - h. Capital and operating budget meeting for the city council will be held on Monday October 16, 2017 and will be voted by the council in late November
 - i. Sheri will be meeting with the 7-11 owner and will ask for some changes to be made
 - j. A member requested to have more lighting to be installed on Pelham Drive close to the park
 - k. The park board has its own procedures and AHNA would have to request new lighting from the park board
 - l. The park board was requested to install more lighting at James Madison park and the application was denied – AHNA may have difficulty getting more lighting at the park
 - m. George requested information about the camera being installed on the onramp to the beltline and it is monitored by the MPD
 - n. Neighbors should be asked to have their exterior lights turned on at night – few houses have their porch lights on
 - o. George asked about phase 2 lighting study and it would cover all of AHNA except for the areas under the township of Madison
4. Jim Cortada offered to represent AHNA concerns at the park board meeting
5. Jim Campbell, Chair – Township of Madison
 - a. 14% of AHNA – approximately 80 homes are within the township
 - b. All of Township will assimilated on October 31, 2022 to the city of Madison and Fitchburg
 - c. There is a map available on the city website that shows how the township will be annexed to the cities

6. Captain John Patterson

- a. Midtown police district would open on August 2018
- b. Midtown station will remove some of the areas of the south district and would make the south MPD a little smaller until the township is annexed
- c. Shared information about the top 10 service calls for 2017 YTD
- d. Asked neighbors to switch on exterior lighting – stated that Arbor Hills neighborhood areas are dark
- e. Trimming bushes and trees will help with security and lighting
- f. Burglaries have gone up from 12 in 2016 to 18 YTD in 2017
- g. Suspect a group of juveniles are responsible for the burglaries but no charges have been made
- h. There were 3 weapons related offenses in 2017 but its doubled in the city this year
- i. Theft from autos are at 9 YTD – was 9 in all of 2016
- j. Update on August 2, 2107 homicide at 7-11; commended the store for having installed video cameras that helped in the eventual apprehension of the suspects
- k. Neither the suspects nor the victims lived in the neighborhood
- l. 255-2345 is the non-emergency number for MPD
- m. Encouraged neighbors to report any of the incidents including the mysterious door knocks at night to the non-emergency number
- n. There are only 6 officers policing the south district at any given time
- o. Burglaries may be opportunistic and are tightly clustered around a very specific area
- p. Multiple neighbors reported that they had seen police patrols in Arbor Hills areas
- q. A neighbor asked AHNA to run a campaign to ask neighbors to turn on the lights at night
- r. A resident who lives on Churchill by the bike path inquired about safety. Suggested putting motion lights to help light up the path.
- s. 52% of residents in Arbor Hills have lived in the neighborhood for over 3 years; 40% over 7 years
- t. Jim Cortada mentioned that some of the people who responded neutral on the survey question to how safe they felt in Arbor Hills have only lived in the neighborhood for a short period and didn't seem to have a set opinion to answer the question
- u. There are various crime alert systems that will help neighbors get information on the prevalence of crime in specific areas – spotcrime.com is one such website
- v. A neighbor asked if there was a correlation between the instances of gun crimes and the new gun-control legislations
- w. Scott asked neighbors to report any suspected drug-related activities to the police

7. Budget for 2018

- a. We are currently at 195 members for 2017
- b. 70% of the income come from the AHNA members
- c. The rest comes from corporate advertisers
- d. 20% of budget is operations (\$1000)
- e. Membership support is an additional 20% (\$1000)

- f. Communications and marketing is the largest expense – about \$500 per print of each newsletter
 - g. Events budget is nominal with fewer events planned
 - h. AHNA will end the year with about \$1000 surplus
 - i. Proposed budget for 2018
 - i. Based on 200 members for AHNA
 - ii. Corporate membership will be \$300 per annum
 - iii. A neighbor asked for more digital content to engage younger audiences in the neighborhood
 - iv. A neighbor commented on the professionalism of the color printed newsletters
 - v. Proposed creating an opt in option for printed newsletters to further save on print costs
 - vi. Bob Alt moved to accept the budget and Jolene seconded; motion adopted unanimously
 - j. Elections
 - i. Jim Cortada accepted unanimously as President
 - ii. David Makovec accepted unanimously as Vice President
 - iii. Jodi Wabiszewski accepted unanimously as corresponding secretary
 - iv. Neil Dinndorf accepted unanimously as treasurer
 - v. Jim Campbell accepted unanimously as member-at-large
 - vi. Newsletter editor – open
 - k. President's report
 - i. The police will deliver the safety report and the board will create a task force to follow up and implement recommended changes
 - ii. Jim called for volunteers who have lived in the neighborhood with "institutional knowledge" to help AHNA with its activities and initiatives
 - iii. AHNA has a 2-page press kit available
 - iv. Jim called for volunteers for the PR campaign
 - v. AHNA paid \$2.2MM in taxes to the city and a few hundred thousand more to the township
 - vi. George recognized and thanked Jim Cortada for his service to AHNA
8. Jim Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm; motion was adopted unanimously.