



# FOREST HILL HOME OWNERS INC.

Combined Executive Committee  
and Board

Date: February 9, 2022, 7 pm

Zoom

Attending: Fran Mentch, Gretchen Mettler, Ko Carten, Donna, Mary Rice, Lee Barbee, Tony Rucpic, Jo Fox, Jim Havach, Beryl Tishkoff, Tracy Kirksey, Jammie Artise, Jan Milic.

Absent: Chris Hubbert, excused.

## Agenda

1. Call to order at 7:07pm. New members, Jammie Artise and Tracey Kirksey were welcomed and introduced themselves
2. Approval of January 12, 2022, Meeting Minutes Corrections were made; minutes were then approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** Tony reported that there is little new to report. The bulk of information—the 2021 year-end report— was presented and reviewed at the last meeting. All financial information is at the auditors for tax preparation. Trustees were reminded to pay their contributions and consider an additional generous donation.
4. **Gordon Hay, East Cleveland Park Update.** There was a January 25, 2022 meeting at the East Cleveland Public Library between East Cleveland city officials and Metroparks administration. Gordon as the President of the East Cleveland Park Association- a non-profit in existence for 28 years - helped to arrange the meeting. The meeting was the initial step for Metroparks to take over administration of the East Cleveland Forest Hill Park. Cleveland Heights was not invited to the meeting. No next meeting is yet planned. The next step was for those at the meeting was to break into small working groups. Gordon is working on fund raising.  
Gordon reported that the graffiti on the stone wall along Forest Hill Blvd is going to be removed by the city of East Cleveland.  
In 2019 an assessment of the park was done that was paid for by MacGregor Foundation. The assessment can be viewed at this link:  
[https://www.dropbox.com/s/ypxijhq177wme7c/LOW%20RES%2019%200208%20Forest%20Hills%20Park%20%20Assessment\\_final%20reduced.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ypxijhq177wme7c/LOW%20RES%2019%200208%20Forest%20Hills%20Park%20%20Assessment_final%20reduced.pdf?dl=0)
5. **Bylaws Committee** Chris Hubbert Chris was unable to attend this meeting, so there was no report. The work of the committee has been done via email and will continue in this way until.
6. **Preservation/Standards Committee** Jo reported that she and Tony intervned in the loss of a tile roof on a house in East Cleveland. Some of the tile was removed before FHHOA found out about the tear off. But they did meet with the homeowner and a roofer and as a result the roof will be replaced with tile-like shingles. The

Preservation/Standards Committee's mission is to enforce covenants in order to maintain or improve property values in the neighborhood. Discussion ensued about how to educate people about the HOA and the standards, particularly about the roofs. Standards committee has already talked with building departments in East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights about the standards in an effort to help educate the community. In the past, East Cleveland staff suggested that the covenants could become part of the city's code, however no work has ever been done on this.

Jo would like to have ambassadors on each street to reach out to homeowners and let them know HOA and standards.

The suggestion was made that letters be sent to people who own homes with tile, cedar shake, and slate roofs to gently inform them about the HOA standard to prevent them making a costly repair/replacement they could avoid. Additionally, people should be informed of resources available to them to help them finance the roofing and other repairs. Suggestion was also made to work with realtors. Suggestion was made to use the FHHO website to post the list of resources and Department of Interior standards for repair and additions to historic properties.

7. **Branding and Marketing.** Jan and Beryl. Jan reported that the goals of the committee are to create pride in home ownership and educate people about Forest Hill homes and the desirability of owning a home here. Suggestion was made to put signs in yards of people whose homes won awards. An additional suggestion was to make videos of homeowners making testimonials about why they like living here and why they live here. We want to improve our presence on Facebook and Instagram and need someone to take this on. We could look into asking Future Heights or the City to help with this. Additionally, it is important to have articles in the Heights Observer and the city's Focus magazine.

Suggestion was made to use a GoFundMe site to raise money for costs of Blue Cottage; history and preservation buffs may want to help with restoration of the Cottage if they knew of the need. Suggestion was made to reach out to colleges and universities to see if they have students who, as part of class project, would help with our marketing.

8. **Activities/Events schedule** Membership chair, Jan Milic.
  - a. First event will be the Burlington lot clean-up. Date to be announced. Will be either in May or June.
  - b. May 21, 2022, is date for BOTH the Giant Garage Sale at various homes in the neighborhood and the Plant Sale/Exchange to be held at the Blue Cottage. There is a \$10 fee to participate in the Garage Sale; this fee covers publicity and use of a sign.
  - c. July 17, 2022, Tea. Events committee is working on the plans and hopes to hold it in the garden area of the Rockefeller Building
  - d. September 8, 2022. New residents welcome. A party was held in 2021 at Jo's house and there was a nice turnout. If anyone wants to hold the event at their home in the garden this year, please let Jan know.
  - e. November (second week) we will hold an in-person annual meeting if COVID does not prevent it. Activities will do a social hour prior to the meeting if it is in person.
9. **Other business** Jeff Dross volunteered his time and skills to repairing the outside lighting at the Blue Cottage and it looks great. Beryl is looking into lighting the inside of the Cottage as part of the curb appeal of the property. Beryl called two landscapers; one responded and gave a bid for cutting the lawn at the Blue Cottage-\$35 per cut. She will talk with him about organic fertilizing and reseeding lawn also. There was discussion about the importance of not using toxic chemicals on the Cottage lawn.

**10. New Business** Motion was made, seconded, and passed that up to \$2,000 be spent for maintenance of the shake roof at the Blue Cottage. Tony is going to manage this for us.

Meeting ended at 9:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Mentch