



FOREST HILL HOME OWNERS
FALL TRUSTEE MEETING
September 15, 2015

The Fall Trustee Meeting of the Forest Hill Home Owners was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at the Blue Cottage beginning at 7:15 p.m. There were 28 residents in attendance including the following Executive Committee members: Christopher Hubbert, Chair of the Board of Trustees; Hester Lewellen, President; Tony Rucpic, Treasurer; Joyce Rothenberger, Secretary; Dale Rothenberger and Dean Sieck, Co-Chairs of Standards; Les Jones, Chair of Marketing; and Trina Pruffer, Representative of the National Register of Historic Places.

Betsy Kaufman, Chair of the nominations committee described the process of how they came up with the current slate of officers for the 2016 year. Pete Grebus was nominated for the open position of Senior Vice-President and gave us his background information. Judy Charlick, a new resident has volunteered to replace Sally Miller as the Chair for Cottage & Grounds. **A MOTION to accept the slate of officers was made by Chris and supported by Kate Lewis. CONSENSUS**

A MOTION to accept the minutes from the April 14, 2015 Spring Trustee meeting, previously distributed to trustees via email, was made by Dean and supported by Rich O'Donnell. CONSENSUS

Treasurer's Report: Tony presented his treasurer's report. He feels we could be ahead by \$3,500 by the end of the year. We have received \$500 in transfer fees since May. This past year we have eliminated some expenses such as getting rid of the old phone line and internet. Property taxes for 2016 will be lower. Postcards reminding residents about paying their 2015 contribution have been mailed. **A MOTION to accept the treasurer's report was made by Chris and supported by Nate Wright. CONSENSUS**

Membership Report: Hester said that Mary Rice has stepped up and volunteered to take the Vice President of Membership role, but was unable to attend this evening. Mary has been doing a great job and it seems that the number of new home sales has increased.

Standards Report: Dale reported that he and Dean are trying to keep track of properties not being cared for. They have had success working with both Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland, but have found that the court system is a slow process. Frank Ricchi said that the Ballesteros home was finally put back on the market as of yesterday (9-14-15).

Marketing Report: Les wants us all to market to our own residents and surrounding communities to raise awareness of FHHO. He reported that three newsletters have been distributed this year focusing on current news. He is looking to transition all of the newsletters to electronic delivery so email addresses are critical. The welcome kit has been re-designed as well as a brochure for businesses in University Circle and for new employees to the area. The 38th Annual Heights Heritage Home & Garden Tour will

be this coming Sunday, September 20, 2015, and it will include a Rockefeller home for the first time on this tour since 1978. FHHO hosted a party this past August for donors at the gold and platinum levels. Thank you cards have been sent to all other donors. Les is also looking to update the website.

Cottage & Grounds: Sally Miller was unable to attend this evening but submitted a report. Care for our common properties and the cottage sets an example for what we expect as a standard for our Forest Hill community. Volunteers have helped care for the grounds by weeding, pruning hedges, and picking up debris. This summer an attractive cement walkway from the parking lot to the cottage was put in. The exterior of the cottage now needs to be repainted. We have the Cleveland Restoration Society recommendations for painters and estimates from three contractors. This will be taken care of in the coming year.

NRHP Report: The National Register of Historical Places Chair, Trina, reported that she moved into a Rockefeller home 6 ½ years ago and has an interest in home preservation. She has been working with many volunteers to get all of Forest Hill registered and feels that she is in the final stretch with the Cleveland Heights portion. Data required for the application includes photos of each home, name of the architect, year built, deed data, permit numbers, and name of original owner.

President's Report: Hester thanked her team of officers and chairpersons for their work this past year; also the nominating committee. At the party in August several ideas emerged: monthly meeting for residents at the cottage on Fridays to just get together; create a consortium for snow plowing/yard work; help East Cleveland residents find a way to join the Cleveland Heights Community Center; and work with a volunteer organization to provide help for the elderly. We currently have 347 people on fhho.nextdoor.com. Hester would like to set up a committee to look over our code of regulations to clarify our governance structure. She recently had an inquiry on how to start a block association and encouraged other trustees to start one as well. She would like to have a Trustee-At-Large on the executive committee. Hester also informed us that Dick Secor has many photos of Forest Hill that he can make into posters, note cards, calendars, etc. and would like volunteers to work with him.

Hester then reminded all that First Saturdays at the cottage are from 10:00-1:00, and that the Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at the McGregor home. Our speaker will be Tom Bier, Urban Studies professor at Cleveland State University.

Comments from the floor:

- There was a complaint about the “Little Library” on the front lawn of a house on Chelsea, that it was an unattached structure not allowed by FHHO’s code of regulations. In the discussion that ensued, it was pointed out that “Little Library” is a national movement and serves a communal purpose. Many people are apparently using the “Little Library” to put in and take out books for free. The “Little Library” was strongly supported by trustees who live on Chelsea and nearby. The consensus seemed to be that overall it was more positive than negative.
- Some residents are interested in getting speed limit signs posted on Chelsea.
- Hester is working on getting information out for members interested in volunteering.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

/s/ Joyce Rothenberger
Joyce Rothenberger, Secretary