



FOREST HILL HOME OWNERS
SPRING TRUSTEE MEETING
Tuesday, May 6, 2014

The Spring Trustee Meeting of the Forest Hill Home Owners was held on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at the Blue Cottage beginning at 7:19 p.m. There were 24 residents in attendance including the following Executive Committee members: Hester Lewellen, President; Tony Rupcic, Treasurer; Joyce Rothenberger, Secretary; Katie Lewis, V.P. of Membership; Sally Miller, Chair of Cottage & Grounds; Dale Rothenberger & Dean Sieck, Co-Chairs of Standards; and Christopher Hubbert, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Hester called the meeting to order and gave a welcome to all attendees. All in attendance then introduced themselves. She then highlighted points on the handout of notes to Trustees she had provided. In particular she asked Trustees to walk their neighborhoods as soon as possible and send the ADDRESS of any home that is in disrepair to Dale Rothenberger at Standards@fhho.org.

Secondly, she asked Trustees to try to gather UP-TO-DATE PHONE NUMBERS and especially EMAIL addresses of residents of their street; it was suggested this be done on Saturday, May 24 during the Monster Garage Sale put together by Marla Zwinggi. (Note: It is amazing the number of residents for whom we have no phone number or email address. We really need these for communication purposes.)

Minutes: A MOTION to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2013 meeting of the Board of Trustees was made by Linda Johnston and seconded by Hattie Helm.
CONSENSUS

Financial Report: The financial report for 2013 was given by Tony. He explained how we have had several major improvements made to the cottage this past year such as the roof, sidewalk, and internet capabilities. Interest income is down to almost nothing. This winter also caused water pipes at the Cottage to freeze giving us a \$900 water and sewage bill. We ended the year with net loss of \$2,259.26. This is the fourth year we have ended in a deficit and is the reason we have raised the dues to \$75 and \$125. A discussion was held on getting reimbursed for the water and sewage bill. Ron DeVito said he would look into accomplishing this. There are several capital improvements we would like to do in 2014, one of which is to improve the path from the parking lot to the entry sidewalk. Hester had received an estimate of \$1,700 from Romanin Concrete. A discussion ensued and it was decided that we could do it more economically by using gravel, pavers, or sandstone blocks. It was decided to obtain another quote. **A MOTION**

**to approve the Financial Report was made by Ron DeVito and seconded by Nate Wright.
CONSENSUS**

Standards Report: Dean and Dale did a drive-about today to check on the problematic homes, which seem to still be there. Things were quiet over the winter, but now that it is warming up Dean asked Trustees to please take note of problems in their areas and notify Standards. The house on Henley that Frank Ricchi worked with the owner last year has come to a standstill. Frank said the owner is “missing in action”. The copper has been stolen and the owner still has not resolved the water bill. Chris said that the standards applications will be online soon. Dean reminded Trustees that this is a voluntary position and to not expect overnight responses, but they do try to respond in one day. As a team they try doing things by persuasion.

Membership Report: Kate reported that so far in 2014, six homes have been bought, plus one home was bought as an investment, and currently there are fifteen homes that are bank owned. She provided everyone with an updated list of Trustees and asked for corrections, especially the phone numbers.

Cottage and Grounds: Sally reminded us that FHHO owns three properties: the Burlington Woods, property on Mayfield, and the Cottage. Hopefully the \$500 grant for the East Cleveland Parks Association to re-seed the Forest Hill/Northvale triangle will see fruition this week. Volunteers will meet tomorrow to rake up all of the many acorns so that it can be roto-tilled and seeded by Saturday. Sally also asked folks to take along an extra trash bag whenever they are on a walk and clean up along the way. The perennials in the bed next to the Cottage are coming along nicely. Frank Ricchi said that there are no nibbles on the Mayfield property that we have listed for \$16,000. Tony now needs to see if we can get the taxes lowered on that piece of land.

Dick Secor was unable to attend the meeting, but Trina Pruffer and Mark Lowe relayed information regarding plans for the East Cleveland part of Forest Hill Park. They have obtained a \$5,000 grant from United Airlines and plan on putting in floating islands made from recycled plastic bottles that will have plants on the top with the roots hanging down into the water so that they can increase aeration, increase plantings in the water below, and reduce muck levels.

Social Media: Marla Zwinggi would like feedback on whether FHHO should use Facebook, Twitter, and/or have a blog.

Newsletter: At the moment we don't know when the spring newsletter will be out, but it will include a second solicitation for dues. There was a discussion on the possibility of doing the newsletter by email. It was suggested that the fall newsletter be done in this manner. This would save a considerable amount of money.

National Register Report: Chris led a discussion on the process of getting all of FHHO on the National Register of Historic Places. It could cost \$20,000. We need to be committed to this amount, although grants for up to 60% (\$12,000) may be available. Benefits are: a focus on the history of this community since inception; we are a stand alone organization now; it will give us recognition of the historic part of the community; and give one a warm glow in living here. It

will not restrict what a private owner can do to his or her property, but it will provide a measure of protection if federal funds are used in a project that will impact the listed property.

Executive Report: Hester noted that she sent a letter to Time Warner regarding 43 of their pedestals in the neighborhood. They said they would replace and or straighten them during the month of May. Hester also sent out an inquiry on nextdoor.com regarding a possible merger of Cleveland and East Cleveland, but a few wanted Cleveland Heights to annex East Cleveland. Of the responses, East Cleveland wanted to stay as East Cleveland. The answers were complicated and Hester did not feel she could speak for FHHO one way or the other at this time. It was suggested that FHHO put out ads promoting our area during the upcoming Gay Games. Hester asked if people were interested in having an FHHO picnic, and it was decided to do so on Saturday, July 12, 2014 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees: Chris remarked that the Standards Committee has been great on getting the applications ready for posting, and he will get them online soon. He also noted that there is a lot of interest in having FHHO on the National Register of Historic Places and will proceed with the application and is ready for it to be successful.

New Business: None.

**A MOTION to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. was made by Chris and seconded by Dale.
CONSENSUS**

Joyce Rothenberger, Recording Secretary

/s/ Joyce Rothenberger