

Deerfield Association

Annual Meeting—13 January 2014

President Scott Grover convened the meeting at 7:10 P.M. Motion was made and passed to constitute a quorum.

Members present: Steve Clough, Scott Grover, Neil Warner, Carol Conte, Tammy Soter-Simoes, Steve VanKleeck, Gary Winters

Reports:

Secretary: January 2013 minutes were read and approved. Minutes were read: motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Membership: again president Scott Grover noted the superb job done by Carol and her volunteers in bringing in the year's dues.

Treasurer: Gary presented the budget in an A and B format, since we will be voting on adding liability and property insurance into the dues. So, his report will be covered under New Business.

Architectural Control: Steve reported that we approved three fence projects, and that the last few months have been very quiet.

Social and Welfare: Tammy reported successful events, including the Ladies Tea, the Christmas Light contest, and the Garage Sale, and the Block Party. She recommended that we schedule the same events for 2014. Tammy has also been the official welcoming face who meets new residents, and does a great job. Scott also noted that we did cancel the Chili Cook-off due to the threat of bad weather, but that we will try that event again this year.

The suggestion was made that we could add to the Block Party a car-show, so that all those with antique cars could show them.

Publicity: Neil noted that two newsletters were published this year; Neil has also taken over the website, on which he is adding a number of helpful links, such as trash pick-up and school snow days. He asked everyone to share other links that they would like to see included. He also noted that our Deerfield directory is a good place to advertise or recommend people and services, as is the association website—and those notes are free.

Vice-President: a note of thanks was given to the years of service of Roy Padgett, both as president and member of the Board.

President: Scott had no additional agenda items, other than his thanks to Roy Padgett for his dedication and work on behalf of Deerfield.

Old Business:

~Entrance Sign: Gary Winters reported that the sign is done. We still need to budget matching landscaping for the new sign, on the property of new residents John and Stephanie Schoonmaker.

New Business:

~Association Insurance: Mr. Charles Bostwick of American Family Insurance was here to present the proposal to the membership. The idea was presented and Mr. Bostwick was introduced by Neil Warner. The policy would cover the following benefits:

1. Any damage to the signs—basically anything that might happen.
2. Cover the association and the Board from any frivolous lawsuit, covering both property and liability.
3. Coverage for the specific Board members, in the amount of \$1,000,000 each.
4. Lawsuits that might come from disputes with the Deerfield Covenants.
5. Overall legal protection for Deerfield Association—residents and members.
6. There is a general \$500 deductible and a \$250 deductible for directors.

Cost per homeowner is \$5.27 per year.

Tammy asked how much we could expect the amount to go up—answer was that it could be 3% a year. A number of other questions were asked and comments offered.

Then Gary Winters presented both versions of the 2014 budget, increasing the dues to cover the insurance policy, Budget B or not, Budget A. He also went over the budget as it appears for 2013.

The question was asked about whether dues would then consistently rise each year. A number of comments were offered to allay fears.

Motion was made to approve Budget B as written, increasing dues to \$40—second was made. Motion passed, with two objections to the vote.

Motion was made, seconded, to accept the 2013 treasurers' report. Accepted.

~**Volunteers for covenants revision:** Scott asked for volunteers to serve. Question was asked: is this changing language or changing covenants, the answer for which is that the first priority is to update the language to conform to Fort Wayne code rather than the code of Allen County under which the covenants now exist. Any volunteers should contact Scott or Neil.

~**Nomination for new Board members:** Scott asked for volunteers to serve for terms of either 3, 2, or 1 year.

Gary Winters volunteered to stay another year as treasurer.

Neil Warner will also stay in charge of publicity.

Steve VanKleeck also volunteered to stay.

Carol Conte's term is still in process.

Tammy Soter-Simoes will stay another year as well.

Interested people can contact president Scott Grover or Neil Warner.

~The concern was raised about abandoned vehicles, so Neil suggested checking the Fort Wayne website or the 311 number to report the problem.

~Neil Warner gave us an update on street repair: this year we listed three priority streets for repair. All of Stag; Buckskin from Caribou to Deer trail; part of Yearling—meaning that in the next 2-3 years we will have major street repair to the whole neighborhood, as

well as major utility update.

Motion was made to adjourn, was seconded and passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:39.