

Minutes Center Square Association

03/20/2014

President Jackie Ring calls meeting to order at 7: 02 P.M. Minutes from January 16th, 2014 meeting. President Ring MOTIONS TO PASS MINUTES FROM JANUARY 16th, 2014. SECONDED. PASSED

President Ring states that Treasurer John Quinn and Jenny Quinn are unable to attend the meeting but that Treasurer Quinn has all the finances of Center Square Neighborhood Association laid out. President Ring presents the financial situation of the Association and states that this includes the profits from the Silent Auction at the Christmas Party. President Ring MOTIONS to pass Treasurer's Report. SECONDED. BUDGET PASSED.

BROCHURE

Michelle Bruck and President Ring introduce the new Center Square Association Brochure. It is a color, three fold brochure. The photos were taken from around the neighborhood that is featured in the brochure. It is meant to entice and introduce visitors/renters/homeowners to the area. This was made in a continual effort to promote and raise awareness about Center Square. With an update Facebook, New Website and New Brochures, Center Square is ready for new projects.

House and Garden Tour Update: President Ring gives an update to the House and Garden Tour, the Chair Jenny Quinn is absent from the meeting but sent a report. President Ring states that plans are coming along nicely. President Ring states there is a hope that restaurants on Lark Street and surrounding restaurants will want to participate- maybe offer a percentage off to patrons who have House and Garden Tour tickets. More information to come closer to the date.

Neighborhood Clean Up

Secretary Daly states that she is the coordinator for the Albany Clean-up Day. The Center Square Neighborhood Association will be coordinating with Hudson Park Neighborhood Association as well. Supplies are included, and lunch will be offered as well. Secretary Daly will be sending out reminders and a signup sheet- mark your calendar, May 3rd, 2014.

Richard Conti Representative states that 90 South Swan permit was not approved and no other new developments concerning 90 South Swan.

Mr. Conti states that moves are being made to greater enforce the parking permit system and parking security. The Parking Enforcement has been vastly improved according to Mr. Conti and the proof is in the issuing of ticket numbers. The Parking Authority states that during January and February, 238 tickets for parking permit violations in this area were given out. The Officer present states also that the Scanners have been issued and are being used. As explained before, the scanners help scan residents' cars and check that they are allowed to park in designated areas. It is believed that the congestion in Center Square had died down but once students returned again to the City after break, it became congested once again.

Walk and Watch Program

Laura Ianelli states that for years she has run the Walk and Watch Program and now she is moving and needs to hand over the reins on running the program. Ms. Ianelli explains that it has been a pleasure and an honor to help the neighborhood. The whole point is checking on the area- and being aware of what is happening, walking around and making sure the neighborhood is safe. It's been a great way to connect with neighbors for a common cause! She put out Ms. Ianelli states that let me know if you need her email, she's on Facebook, she is reachable and she is begging that we don't let this die- despite her moving. This is a critical part of the neighborhood. She is happy to do whatever she can.

Port Of Albany

Claire Yates discusses what is happening at the Port of Albany. The Port of Albany is becoming quite the major hub for rail shipments of volatile crude oil to then be refined. This crude oil is highly explosive- you have probably heard of 3 explosions in the last six months. This is a very serious situation and presents a high risk to Albany residents. The safety of the cars is at risk, So President Ring asked Claire to draft a Letter to the Department of Environmental Conservation which will be hearing feedback until April 2nd, in addition to one from Center Square if you would like to write one- please do. This is an issue that is very important and Center Square Residents need to recognize. It is very important that we take a stance and get our comments heard. We are around a mile away- evacuation would be almost certain. The reason, Claire explains that this is coming up now, is that they are looking to expand and build around 7 boilers near the port, which would heat rail cars to liquefy the thick crude oil. It is not refining, but more or less strictly heating. Please let Claire know if you have any questions.

President Ring MOTIONS to adjourn meeting. MOTION SECONDED. MEETING ADJOURNED.