



www.italianvillage.org

P.O. Box 8001, Columbus, Ohio 43201
Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2012
Short Stop Youth Center
1066 North High Street

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests

There were 17 members and 9 guest(s) present at the meeting, for a total of 26 people. Board member Stephanie Harris was absent.

Opening Comments

President Jared Wilson welcomed all members and guests. The president thanked Cookie Cravings at 227 East Third Ave for Valentine's Day refreshment provided at the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves and their affiliation with Italian Village starting from his left. He then introduced the evening's speaker.

Italian Village Alleys- Susan DeLay

Susan is with the City of Columbus' Department of Development in the Capital Improvements Programs division. Many alleys in the village are in disrepair and there is an open forum at tonight's meeting to discuss and locate alley in need of attention. Two large maps of the Village were brought and residents were asked to mark the locations of alleys in need. A few residents had some challenge finding the alleys of concern, due to their not being on the map provided. The names of all the alleys were not on the maps. Susan spoke of the rebricking of Pearl alley which is to start construction early this year. Sump pumps and their release onto alleys were also discussed.

Susan DeLay discussed the different gradings of alleys and the scoring system for them. Costs were discussed and procedures of which regrading are done. Certain alleys were brought to the attention of Susan while one map was passed around. Janis Hott assisted certain residents with the other map which was provided. The alleys of Greenwood and Pearl were discussed with concern by some residents as were Back, McCarthy, Booth and Bethany.

IV Commission Report – Per Jill Clark

Commission meetings are held at 109 N Front St at 6:15pm the third Tuesday of the month. Jill mentioned that some city funds became available and a discussion was opened on doing a door handle promotion for the village. The promo would notify residents of the commission and the certificate of appropriateness for construction and improvements to their properties. A Historic Resources Commission post is open for architects interested and interested parties should contact Randy Black at the Historic Preservation office.

The Commission report touched on the Wonderbread building which is to have apartments and an event space. The Hubbard development will come before the Commission on March 20th to bring plans so as to start construction. The Fireproof-Elford development is planning demolition of the additions that were later added to the original structure. Elford is planning 60 condo ready rental units with retail space. Plans for 100 parking spaces are also included in the development at High St. and East 2nd Ave. A city traffic engineer is to determine flow concerns around the Mt. Pleasant and E. 2nd Ave. area.

The Jeffery area which is approximately 43 acres east of North 4th St and North of I-670 will be channeled into separate meetings with the commission. This would not bog down the commission when assisting residents in the neighborhood. She mentioned that the area would be developed in phases with apartments, condos and other mixed use buildings. A community center with a swimming pool might be presented as well.

The Pizutti Hotel should stagger the construction so not become a deterrent to the neighborhood. The Jackson construction is a project that was mentioned as something that the commission does not want to happen. Pedestrian and automobile traffic should be very important to the developer with the least amount of intrusion. Scaffolding will be one way for visitors and residents to get about. David Cooke who also serves on the commission gave insights and elaborations on Jill's report. Italian Village Commission minutes can be viewed at: <http://development.columbus.gov/planning/italianvillage.aspx>

Commission Appointee applicants and Society recommendations

An Italian Village Commission seat became vacant recently. The society has a duty to make recommendations to Mayor Coleman to fill certain seats. Two residents have an interest in serving on the commission. The two candidates are Dan Morgan and Ben Goodman. Both Dan and Ben gave informative presentations on themselves and why they want to serve on the commission. Questions from the group were asked in an open forum after their presentations. Jill Clark and David Cooke both current Commission members gave introductions to Dan and Ben, respectively.

The members of the society present voted by ballot passed out by Jared Wilson. The votes were tabulated by Mike Renner and Jared with the result being a tie. The society then chose to recommend both candidates to the mayor. Andy Klein suggested the society send a letter of explanation to the mayor. This letter should explain the steps and the processes at which the recommendations were determined. Current paid society members, for more than one month, were able to vote for the candidates. It was mentioned that the mayor does not always take the society's recommendations.

Block Watch Report – Amelia Constanzo

Amelia gave brief background on what the Block Watch does and its history. The Short North Block Watch has 1100 "Likes" on Facebook and 253 email subscribers. She also gave the statistics on other block watch satellites along with the Italian Village stats.

The Don't Get Towed program results from last street sweeping showed a slight increase. The same if not more efforts to get the word out were made in the last campaign.

The Porch Light Campaign will be coming soon to the neighborhood. The Victorian Village will conduct the first phase of the campaign which is working with MORPC and others. For more information on the Block Watch please contact Amelia at: info@shortnorthblockwatch.org . She also mentioned: The Virginia Row House on Summit St has quieted down since the last update, and the area of concern at Summit and Warren streets has been discussed among residents as a safety issue. The issue is with pedestrians, automobiles, the viaduct bridge and entrances to Interstate 670.

Italian Village Park Update – Steve Hurtt

Spring is around the corner with bulbs coming up.

Friends of Goodale Park Update- Andy Klein

Andy noted that the pond at the park will have a clay bottom laid out to suppress the leaking. The project will cost approximately \$150,000. The city will pay for the project. The Friends of Goodale Park received a grant from Scott's in the amount of \$3,000. The Northwest gates of the park will be restored in the near future. A time capsule is located at the gate and will be opened in celebration of the city's bicentennial. The monument behind United Commercial Travelers building will be moved back into the park. It was taken out in the 1950's.

Membership Report – Mike Rennner

Mike reported a total of 62 members. (If you have not yet, you can join online, it is quick and easy. <http://italianvillage.org/JoinNow.html>)

Approval of January Minutes

The Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved

Treasurer's Report – Stephanie Harris

No Reoprt.

Announcements

- The Short North Yard Sale will be Saturday June 2nd.
- Italian Village T-shirts and Sweatshirts are available for sale at *What The Rock?!* and *PM Gallery*.
- Meeting minutes, complete with hyperlinks, can be viewed online at (<http://www.italianvillage.org/MeetingInformation>).

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Vidoni, Secretary