



www.italianvillage.org
P.O. Box 8001, Columbus, Ohio 43201

Meeting Minutes July 12, 2011

Short Stop Youth Center
1066 North High Street
7:30 PM

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests

There were 13 members and 4 guests present at the meeting, for a total of 17 people. All Board Members were present except Treasurer, Stephanie Harris.

Opening Comments

President Jared Wilson welcomed all members and guests. The standard who you are and your affiliation with Italian Village went around to each guest and member.

Special Guest Guy Dublin from the Short North Kroger

Guy Dublin the manager from the new Kroger Located at 1350 North High St. was introduced and thanked the society for the opportunity to give some information to the members present. There will be a ribbon cutting on Tuesday July 26th and a celebration with samples and giveaways from 4-6pm. On Saturday July 30th an Ohio Proud program will be from 12 – 2pm giving information on Ohio made products and produce.

He gave an overview of the new Kroger and its offerings. The Grocery store will offer: a Cafè, more organics and natural foods, bistro area, cheese monger, wine tastings, expansive bakery, fresh seafood, Angus beef.

Questions were fielded from the group which touched on; Bike Parking, the Northwest parcel for future development, the Kroger rewards program, the liquor store and size of bottles sold, Graffiti deterrents and lighting, security cameras and wholesale liquor sales to bars and restaurants.

Mr. Dublin passed out free Lunch coupons at Kroger Bistro to all the attendees. The Kroger store number is 294-2545. Mr Dublin's extension is 2161.

Wonderland – Adam Brouillette

Adam gave a update on the progress at Wonderland at the Wonder Bread Factory on Fourth St. He brought architect renderings of the development plans that were passed around for attendees to view. He spoke of interaction with the IRS to obtain non profit status, Kevin Lykens the for-profit landowner, Gerry Allen and the handling of the non profit status, the hedge group, The greater Columbus Arts Council, the Columbus Partnership and Kokosing as the construction contractor.

He spoke of plans for mixed uses with retail, movement space and studio space. Other points touched on were: a growing roof, pie pans as a way of showing support, flex spaces, opening by the bicentennial, interactions between AEP and ODOT and Wonderland, Parking, Skylights, Incubator space, Randy Bowmen consulting with traffic issues and the Jeffery Meadow.

Information on the project can be found at info@wonderlandcolumbus.com

IV Commission Report – Per Jill Clark

Jill gave an update about the Pizzuti project. Issues with the Sidewalks during construction and remote site parking for construction workers were brought up. The new developers of the Ibiza project were a no show at the last commission meeting. The Short North guidelines were discussed.

New Business include: New Build on the Northwest Corner of Detroit and Summit. A hooka lounge wants to locate at 1020 North Fourth St. News boxes are being planned for the area. The New Village Complex between First Ave and Second Ave on Summit St. suffered much damage during recent storms and will be before the commission for the necessary repairs.

Italian Village Park Update and more– Steve Hurtt

Clean ups and weeding will be held at the Italian Village Park on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:30.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from May 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Block Watch Report

Coordinator, Amelia Costanzo, was not at the meeting but provided the following report:

Italian Village Block Watch Report – April to July, 2011

July 12, 2011

Prepared by Amelia Costanzo, Coordinator

A. Events

- a. National Night Out
 - i. Ice cream social on August 2, thanks again to Nick W. – details TBD

B. Administrative Report

- a. Don't Get Towed
 - i. May: 61 tickets; 41 tows
 - ii. August
 - 1. The next street sweeping will be on August 16 and 17
- b. New members
 - i. Over 20 new Block Watch email members since April
 - ii. New Facebook members each day
- c. Leadership
 - i. Amelia will hold a meeting with existing Block Watch captains and those interested in being captains in August to discuss sharing of Block Watch facilitation responsibilities.

C. Issues

- a. Italian Village Park
 - i. Issue and action: A light was out but community calls to Columbus Recreation & Parks
 - ii. Issue and action: Drug activity has been noticed. Neighbors see LED lights being used by the dealers to communicate with buyers. Amelia has been in contact with Officer Smith about options and the possibility of increasing patrolling.
- b. After hours club on 5th
 - i. Issue and action: BW members have brought up issues related to an after hours club on 5th – noise, public urination, etc. Officer Smith has forwarded information about the club to the Vice Bureau and advises that people continue to call CPD regarding issues at the location.
- c. Russell and Kerr area
 - i. Issue: Numerous break-ins have been reported in the Russell and Kerr area
 - ii. Issue: Suspected gang activity has been noticed frequently at the CPO property
 - iii. past few weeks. Possible suspect has been identified as a tall, African American male with dread locks who can be seen walking the streets and alleys in that area almost daily. It appears as though he scopes out homes on his walks. He is often seen at the CPO property at Russell and Kerr. Russell and Kerr. "Tricked out" vehicles pull up and drug deals are likely happening. The cars are also noticed on the property's parking lot. Action:
 - 1. There were at least two stories on local news channels about the break-ins and the efforts of the Block Watch.
 - 2. Neighbors report sightings of the aforementioned man and any other suspicious activity to CPD's non-emergency line. A concern is that oftentimes the response time is too long and the suspect has left the area. Amelia has contacted Officer Smith about options and the possibility of increasing patrolling.

3. Amelia has also contacted the property manager of the CPO property to request that a light be installed at the corner of Warren and Kerr. The property manager is aware of the potential gang-related activity and has advised neighbors to not photograph, communicate with, or look any of the associated parties in the eye as it could be construed as a threat.

d. Dog thefts

- i. Issue: The thefts of four small-breed dogs have been reported in the Short North area over the past few weeks.
- ii. Action: Please spread the word and keep watch over your four-legged friends.

D. Other Involvement

a. Security cameras

- i. On May 12, Emily Noble Loopus attended the City's Public Safety Committee briefing about the Neighborhood Safety Camera Project
 1. A camera is proposed to be installed in Weinland Park near 5th Avenue and 4th Street

b. Anti-Graffiti Meeting

- i. On May 10, Emily Noble Loopus attended the City's meeting about graffiti prevention and remediation.
 1. Call #311 to report graffiti
 2. Council and public discussed potential next steps which included but are not limited to: a task force, anti-graffiti legislation, a required short time frame for removal

Website Committee-Emily Noble

Emily is always looking for assistance or volunteers for the website committee any help is appreciated.

<http://www.italianvillage.org/TheItalianVillageSociety.html>

Membership Report – Mike Renner

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

Treasurer's Report – Stephanie Harris

Stephanie was not at the meeting, but provided the following report which was available for non-verbal review:

Checking Opening Balance: \$5705.94

Income: membership fees – \$751.41

Expenses: movie night – \$214.77

Closing Balance: \$6242.58

Park Fund Opening Balance: \$960.25

Income: contribution – \$1000.00; interest – \$0.16

Expenses: Peabody (Irrigation Repairs – Labor and Materials) – \$130.00

Closing Balance: \$1830.41

Announcements

- A variety of activities at the Short Stop Center will be taking place. A Garage Sale will be held August 1st from 12:30-5:30.
- Recommending the Music in Park series to attendees since the Italian Village is a sponsor.
- Facebook site for the Martha Walker Garden club is a great place to get information on Italian Village parks.
- Meeting minutes, complete with hyperlinks, can be viewed online at (<http://www.italianvillage.org/MeetingInformation>).

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher L. Vidoni, Secretary