



www.italianvillage.org

P.O. Box 8001, Columbus, Ohio 43201

Meeting Minutes September 13, 2011

Short Stop Youth Center

1066 North High Street

7:30 PM

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests

There were 18 members and 7 guests present at the meeting, for a total of 25 people. Board Members Stephanie Harris and Mike Renner were not present.

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 John Angelo

Highball, the Costume Celebration on High Street in the Short North, will be celebrating its Fifth Anniversary on October 29, 2011. The Festivities have moved north over the years and will be centered on Fifth Avenue and North High Street. The Vacant lot on the northeast corner of the intersection will be the sight of the main stage. Mr. Angelo gave a presentation of past highballs and celebrations around the world. He is filling in for SNBA Senior Director Diesha Condon while she is on maternity leave. This year the closing of streets will be staggered for Friday afternoon traffic and COTA routes. Residents expressed concern with COTA using 1st avenue to 4th street and recommended the use of 2nd avenue as the thoroughfare. Parking meters will be closed for the day. Signage for the general public will be up early and Candy Watkins will submit closing to residents affected and distribute passes.

Transformations- 'Who will you be' is the major theme for 2011. Many community partners will be participating. Dogtober will be an early event with dogs in costume. Glow also was repeated as a major component of the festivities. Expect Giant Puppets, Lasers, LED, Glow paint, extreme face painting to be seen. Ballet Met, Catco, Shadowbox and Short North Stage Follies will give performances along with the Olympic Theater's Zombie Prom. Props will include a giant Tarantula with its web. Page Tech will be installing a more superior sound system than in past years. Prizes for costumes and couture will be awarded and a tribute to Kevin Kerr for his work on the past highball. More information can be found at highballhalloween.com

The 2012 Highball will continue with the Glow theme and expect Giant puppets, Cirque de soleil and burning man motifs. Celebrity Judges and Models and a Larger Scale production will also be on board. VIP tents for community “big wigs” are in the works for names like the Limited, the Ohio State University and Abercrombie.

Police presence in the neighborhood will be present. Maps for business that want passes for patrons will be available. Last call for adult beverages will be at 12:30 am and music will stop at 1 am. An offer of \$500 for the society was made if 20 volunteers for security and beverage sales were signed up by the society. The hours for these volunteers would be 9:30 – 1:30.

IV Commission Report – Per Jill Clark

Jill gave a report for The Hubbard (old Ibiza sight) at 830 North High Street. Which will be 5 story with 4 townhomes facing south on East Hubbard. The project will have 325 parking spots. Apex Realty and Elford Development along with Wagonbrenner are all involved in this project which is moving forward quickly. It was recommended the society should become proactive with this project. A resident had suggested that royalty of parking income could go to the society or Italian Village Park Fund.

Pizutti guidelines were discussed and Murals facing Stonewall. Other points discussed were City Council and incorrect information given in the Columbus Dispatch, Historic Preservation/Commissions, the Italian Village Guidelines and the Senior Housing.

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. September Clean up will be scheduled. Light out at the park were of some concern and street sign at the corner of Kerr and Hubbard is missing.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from July and August 2011 meetings were reviewed and approved.

Block Watch Report- Amelia Costanzo & Crime Report- Steve Smith

Muggings near First and High were discussed – Were not Hate crimes and CPD is working on these and has leads. The Street light Survey will be coming up soon. Squatting in Homes and Suspicious Activity should be noticed by residents. Keep eyes open and mindful of vacant properties.

A resident shared information on trees on the All Ohio Masonry property. These trees are encroaching on the sidewalk and can provide places for hiding. The trees do not provide safe passage.

Flyer Campaign of *Don't get towed!* and Keep valuables out of sight.
Catalytic Converters are being stolen especially in the Warren Kerr area.
The Italian Village Block Watch will be merging with Victorian Village, the Circles and Harrison West in the Near future to become the Short North Block Watch. Communications will be combined and each area will have its own coordinator.

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

No Report.

Treasurer's Report – Stephanie Harris

No Report

Other Topics

Pearl Alley will be resurfaced with new brick next year. There will be an information session on September 22nd at the Goodale Park Shelter House. Other Alleys in the neighborhood need attention. McCarthy Alley near Shamrock was mentioned along with Pearl and Detroit Extension. Funds for these projects were allocated in the past, and hopefully are still available for alleys north of 2nd avenue.

Zip Cars were also discussed and residents were asked to go to zipcar.com and register for more information so the company would have our area as a zipcar location.

Announcements

- 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