

**Highlands Community Association
Fall Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2011**

Denison Hatch, President of the Highland Community Association called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and introduced the other Association officers including Vice President Meg Holden, Zoning & Property Committee Chair Paul Crawford, and Secretary Charlotte Arnold. Treasurer Mike Cradler was unable to attend.

Denison called for approval of the prior meeting minutes by voice vote and they were approved.

In Mike Cradler's absence, Meg Holden provided the Treasurer's report, which consisted of reporting the following balances in the two Highlands Community Association accounts:

\$2,719.89 Highlands Community Association General Fund
\$9,465.11 Rockford Falls Working Group Fund

Denison provided an update to the community on several items including:

- Dog Licensing
 - Proper care of domestic animals is required, including proper food, water, shelter and veterinary care.
 - Dogs are to be on a leash.
 - Fecal matter must be removed immediately in a sanitary manner in an airtight bag or other closed container and deposited in a trash receptacle. Violations are punishable by fines ranging from \$250 to \$1,000.
 - Abuse and abandonment are prohibited.
 - City dogs must be licensed.

- Kentmere Parkway Drainage Improvements

Denison reported that the City of Wilmington is awaiting a decision about funding for drainage improvements for Kentmere Parkway. The purpose of this project is to install new infrastructure to partially separate storm water from entering the sanitary sewer system and therefore mitigate the frequency of combined sewer overflows near Kentmere Parkway and Union Street. The City expects to have an update about project funding later this fall.

- Food Bank of Delaware Food Drive

Denison confirmed that the Food Drive is scheduled for November 18th through November 21st. Donations can be dropped off in the bins located on the front porch of 2106 North Grant Avenue.

- Gibraltar

Denison invited Paul Crawford to report on the current status of the Gibraltar property. Paul noted that although the property development plan is “shovel-ready,” the property owners are still looking for tenants and are not likely to begin construction until those tenants have signed long-term leases.

- Red Oak and Kentmere Lighting Project

The Honorable Gerald Brady has arranged for the funding of approximately \$220,000 and the Eight District Neighborhood Planning Council has funded \$10,000 for 30 street lights on the Red Oak triangle and Kentmere Parkway and a light design has been agreed upon. The bid documents are being prepared and should be ready to go out by the middle of November 2011. The process will take approximately three months. A pre-construction meeting will take place in March 2012 and the first shovel in the ground could occur in early spring.

The Honorable Steve Martelli, Wilmington City Council Member for the 8th District, acknowledged the presence at the meeting of Mr. Dave Blankenship, Director of Transportation, Department of Public Works for the City of Wilmington and The Honorable Kevin Kelly, Wilmington City Council Member for the 6th District. Mr. Martelli provided an update on the several items, including the recent reappearance of individuals soliciting magazine subscriptions door to door. Mr. Martelli reminded everyone that such activity requires a valid city business license and that neighbors should call the police if they see this activity taking place. Mr. Martelli also noted that, per the City’s codes and policy, homeowners are responsible for all maintenance and removal of trees on their property. He also provided an update on the City’s plans with respect to Firehouse Station 5. Mr. Martelli reported that the Firehouse has been added to the National Register of Historic Places and possible future uses include a museum or a community center. Mr. Martelli then fielded questions from community members including concerns regarding a recent residential break-in on Delaware Avenue.

Denison then introduced Mr. Dave Blankenship, Director of Transportation, Department of Public Works for the City of Wilmington. Mr. Blankenship fielded questions from the community regarding signage at specific intersections, traffic control options, and access restrictions. Denison asked those in attendance, if interested, to contact Mr. Blankenship and Kevin Melloy (kgamelloy@aol.com) for the purpose of working with the City on parking, traffic, and speeding issues in the neighborhood.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Arnold
Secretary

