

Archdale Civic Association / General Meeting

Minutes
2024.02.15

Opening

The Archdale Civic Association / General Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm on 2024.02.15 at the North Charleston Fire Department Station 8 by Marty Besancon.

Present

From the sign-in sheets: Ted Hucks Board member, Charles Besancon, Marty Besancon President, Dale and Darlene Linker, Joe Friend Secretary, Rhonda Sweatman Treasurer, Ellis Axson Board member, Angelika Dorsch Vice President, Lee Johnson, Chuck Lowry, Peggy cannot read her last name, Krista McCracken, Cindy Varnado, Chris Kindt.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 11/16/2023 General Meeting were presented for approval by Secretary Joe Friend, second Diane Linker. Motion approved. (Available online www.OurArchdale.com/aca)

Treasurer's Report

1. Rhonda Sweatman is learning how to do all the tasks from the previous Treasurer, Cindy Varnado. List of taxes 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020. Taxes rejected in 2020 due to not being filed. Did not be put in the books until 2022. taxes in 2022 had an extension. Extended due to a storm filed on February 15, 2024. Our 2023 tax filing should be on track with no extensions.
2. Updated Post Office, Insurance, South State Bank. Updated Dominion Energy. Put Money in bank and learning how to pay bills. Per Cindy having problems with the online payment system. Working on it with Krista. Per Cindy we do not have access to private information for people to pay. So, we are not liable. Let Board know if any members have any problems. Put on Facebook that payment online is ok. Any Questions on the printout of the Financials Per President Marty. There has been a lot of work with the new Board members trying to learn everything, work in progress. Learning curve President Marty said thank you. The Treasurer's year-to-date report will be presented. (Available as a handout at the registration table and online following the meeting)
3. Membership Drive Update given by Joe. Will stuff the envelopes and send them out by February 22, 2024. If they received an email last year, we will send out email again this year. Last year sent out 600 envelopes first round. Second round about 200. We will probably mail around 400 this year. Joe will get everything ready. Rhonda is helping with training. Members were asked to talk to neighbors about joining.

Old Business

1. Administrative/Neighborhood Update

A. We are making progress with the transition and training of new officers and board members. The board is working together to move forward. Krista still helping us with technical stuff as webmaster. Thank you, Krista. Anjelika has taken on administrator duties for our Facebook and will post meeting nights and special events. Ted has taken on the task of posting messages on the reader board.

B. Ted will update us on 112 Mansfield called company about foreclosure process. Last email Ted received said Mortgage company does not own the property at this time. We will follow up on the foreclosure sale when that happens. Foreclosure will not happen before April. State owns property.

C. Landscape contract renewal. Update was given by Ted and Marty. Due to an increase in price Natural Tendencies will

be cutting once a month instead of twice a month. We will be taking bids at the end of this year. Marty stated more information will be given later in the meeting as we discuss green space mapping.

D. Website Business Listing & Services update was given by Marty. The listing was at the request of ACA Members. The board needs several months to give the new board time to work out some final details and to be at a point to begin administering the listing. We hope Businesses will give a discount to ACA members.

2. Volunteer and Events Announcements

A. Festive Food Truck 12/14/23 Debrief. We had a very good turnout for Holiday food truck night. Some suggestions for next year include march mellow toasting and Makers Market sales booth. Other ideas are always welcome.

B. Community Spring Spruce— Community Spring Spruce, Sat. March 9th , 9am-12 noon. We will meet at Archdale Hall. Archdale Hall has been cleaned annually for many years. We will expand the work area this year to include Archdale Hall and common areas throughout Archdale since common area maintenance does not include all common areas in Archdale. Want more Neighborhood involvement. Marty has usually provided a beverage dispenser with lemonade. This is no longer feasible as we hope to work on more than one site. This year we plan purchase bottled tea and cookies (est.\$50.) for volunteers as these snacks can easily be picked up and taken to other locations. The event will be promoted on the web, Facebook and reader board Archdale Boulevard. Rhonda will contact the Land Trust following the clean-up and schedule their annual inspection of Archdale Hall.

New Business

1. Green space mapping and photo inventory review and landscape plan development. Marty presented a photo display of all the common areas in Archdale along with corresponding numbered map of their location in each neighborhood. The board worked on making adjustments to new Landscape Contract with Natural Tendencies based on the fact that our 2024 budget for Grounds Maintenance is \$15,600 and the 2024 proposal from the company was received just prior to our last General Meeting and came in at \$19,380 (\$3,780 over budget). The board considered various options at their December meeting in order to do some cost cutting and shift the savings to annual transitioning, where feasible, to low maintenance options. The goal is to put the ACA in a better financial position for the future while improving the appearance of the neighborhood. The board voted to contract monthly maintenance on Archdale Boulevard and 8 large grass areas as noted on the Numbered Common Areas Map (#s 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 23, 24). Cost \$10,260 per year or \$900per month/\$855 with the card on file discount.

The board considered all of the following options:

- Reduce ground maintenance to once a month.
- Reduce ground maintenance during the dormant months (mid-Oct to mid-March) to every two weeks for a total of 16 times.
- Remove all common areas in the neighborhoods from the service list that are just dirt or pine straw. Many are not on the maintained roster and others do not appear to be maintained as was evident in the photos of the common areas.
- Remove the small common areas at the entrance of each subdivision from service and slate for low maintenance options. Pick new areas each year.
- Remove the back portion of the pond under the power lines from service. Dominion Energy will cut about every four years.
- Brainstorm on ways to accept donations for low maintenance options in neighborhoods.
- Allocate funds from the proposed Business Listing to low maintenance transition.
- Other.

We should save roughly \$5,340 to be used to move to Low Maintenance planting where feasible in common areas that are not maintained by the landscaper. Our goal is to provide basic services to improve common areas in every neighborhood. We have \$600 in our 2024 budget for common area improvements. We have

no seating in any of the common areas and these funds could be used to help purchase picnic tables for Archdale Hall. Our next General Meeting will include a review of a list of low maintenance ground cover plants from Clemson Extension website and photos of samples of these plants that are in area neighborhoods and shopping centers. ACA members were invited to help gather information and take sample photos for presentation at the next meeting.

2. The board wants to develop plans for website community calendar for meetings, special events sometime this year.

3. Quarterly Events. Marty discussed the development of events by the ACA. We have done an annual Community Spring Spruce for many years. The Festive Food Truck was started several years ago and the Fall Community Yard Sale was added last year based on ACA member request. The development of a fun summer event for the neighborhood will round out the quarterly ACA events (two fun events/ two neighborhood service & improvement events). This new addition is slated to be a Community Fun Day scheduled for Sat. June 8th with the time TBD. Krista said the event will fall on the first weekend of summer break from school and suggested we call it "Welcome to Summer! Neighborhood Fun Day." The membership agreed to this name by common consent. ACA members were asked to think of ideas and volunteers to be discussed at the next General Meeting. Quarterly Events are scheduled for the second Saturday of the month during the months of March/Spring Spruce; June/Welcome to Summer; September/Neighborhood Yard Sale and December/Festive Food Truck which is held on the second Thursday of December.

4. The Fire Hydrant at the entrance of Archdale is eroding dirt having problems with dirt going away from it. Ted contacted Dorchester County and they are working on the repair.

5. People in the apartments are putting their garbage on the car to transport it to the dumpster and are forgetting about it. At least one bag of trash a week is dropped on Archdale Boulevard. Ted has spoken to their management about this problem. Ted, we appreciate what you and your wife do cleaning the main Archdale Boulevard.

6. Ellis Axson wants to keep up on Archdale crime reports from Dorchester County. Anjelika wants to check with Dorchester County on regulations and laws on Air B&Bs. Also, questions on what tax rate for Air B&Bs paying 4 or 6 percent tax. Mr. Dale Linker stated If there is a party at an Air B&B and it is too loud call the Sheriff's Department.

7. A question was asked if solicitors are allowed in our neighborhood? A Security Company was soliciting in the neighborhood. Answer: If your county maintains the roads, you cannot stop solicitors. The comment was made. If you see something not right in the neighborhood report it. If you see something say something.

Public Comments

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm by Marty Besancon. The next general meeting will be at 7:00pm on 5/16/24, in the meeting room at NCFD Station 8.

Submitted Joe Friend Archdale Civic Association April 15, 2024 22:39

Approved by:

