**Archdale Civic Association General Meeting**

Minutes

2/20/2025

**Opening**

The Archdale Civic Association General Meeting was called to order at 6:31pm at the Dorchester County Public Library Patriot Boulevard by Marty Besancon.

**Present**

From the sign-in sheets

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes from the 11/14/2024 General Meeting was presented for approval (Available at the meeting and online [**www.OurArchdale.com/aca**](http://www.OurArchdale.com/aca)**).**  Dale Linker made a motion 2nd by Ted Hucks.  Call of the Motion all approved. No Nays.

**Treasurer’s Report**

1. The Treasurer’s year-to-date report was distributed by Rhonda. Last year ended with $6,400.34 because Cindy moved $2,000 in from Savings to start 2024. This year collected total to date 2-20-25 $7,695.00. Add the $6,400 plus $7695 totals in checking $14,095.34. Spent and moved back the money that Cindy moved and that totals $3,667.71. This leaves $10,427.63 in checking to date of 2-20-25 matching QB checking. Savings is $38,636.56. Cindy Varnado has helped Rhonda with Quickbooks and financial reports but now has limited time to assist. If somebody has Quickbooks experience and would like to help please let us know.
2. Tax Filing Update. Rhonda emailed the tax information to the CPA firm before the end of January. She has not heard anything back for them. She told them not to do the filing extension since the information was submitted to them on time. The CPA firm used the 1040EZ form to submit our previous years’ taxes. The IRS sent the taxes back to the CPA firm to be refiled using the long form. The CPA firm will not charge ACE to file the correct forms.

3. Membership Drive Update. Based on mailing preferences, letters were emailed on 1/25/25 and mailed on 2/7/25. Will do 2nd mailing by 1st of April 2025.

**Old Business**

1. Administrative/Neighborhood Update

 a. Website Business & Services listing Update. The Business Ad Listing is up on the Website thanks to Vice President Angelika. We have two companies in Archdale purchase ads. Not just businesses in our neighborhood but outside as well can purchase ads. Archdale businesses pay $50 for ads and non-Archdale businesses pay $100 for ads. Youths can also sign up for the website with their parent’s signature. The ads run for 1 year on the website starting in March. Angelika has also updated the ACA website with more Dorchester County services listed. We would like to start an email newsletter but are in need of someone willing to work on it.
 b. Low Maintenance Landscape Plan Development Update. We started the landscape improvements in 2024 with only $600 budgeted for the neighborhoods. Marty stated this topic will be discussed during New Business Surplus Funds 2024.

 c. Landscape Contract for 2025. The Landscape Contract was awarded to Archdale resident, Paul Soda from Knight Hammer Lawn Care.  We are keeping 12 cuts per year but changed the schedule from once a month to two cuts per month during the growing season of April through September.  A question was asked if Dorchester County was going to cut Archdale Boulevard several times per year as promised. Marty responded that the County Administrator relayed a message through our County Council representative, Rita May Ranck, that the county would not be funding any grass cutting.

2. Volunteer and Events Announcements

 a. Quarterly Event – Community Festive Food Truck, Thurs. Dec. 12th, 5-8pm Debrief. This was the first time the event was moved to Archdale Hall. The event was well received. There were two fire pits with smores, marshmallows and hot chocolate. The event had a food truck and lots of children’s activities. It was a fun time for all and folks said it was nice to meet neighbors. We had about 60 to 70 people attend. The food truck vendor liked the location and was pleased with the turn out. We could have Archdale business ad listing information on a table at future community events.

 b. Little Free Library - Opening Dec. 12th, Debrief. Volunteer Coordinator, Jacklyn Yuhanick. The library opening was held in conjunction with the Festive Food Truck. The library was filled with books. Jacklyn was pleased with the opening. She read some stories to kids around the fire pit. Her husband, who was going to play the guitar, was not able as it was too cold.

**New Business**

1. ACA Budget Worksheet for Surplus Funds 2024. (Distributed at the meeting and included with the minutes)**.**  Marty gave background information. In order to keep from going over our 2024 ACA Budget, changes were made to our mowing contract. We reduced the number of areas to be cut and reduced the number of mowing from 24 to 12 per year. This resulted in surplus funds. Volunteers are playing an increased role in maintaining the common areas in their neighborhoods. At the November General Meeting members voted to approve the 2025 budget including putting all surplus funds from 2024 back into the 2025 to address neighborhood maintenance and improvements that have lacked funding in the past and any funds left over after that to be allocated as seed money earmarked to replace the Archdale subdivision sign. In the following months the board discussed the surplus funds. A Budget Worksheet for the Surplus Funds was developed, reviewed by Board, and approved for recommendation at the February General Meeting. Marty reviewed the worksheet with the members. How much money was spent in 2024 - marked in green.  How much money we budgeted in 2025 - marked in blue.   Proposed surplus dollars amount spread throughout the neighborhoods and money to repair Archdale signs at the front of the neighborhood, street signs, and reader board and additional seed money for the Archdale entry sign replacement - marked in yellow. A question was asked if the amount of funds for Archdale signs was sufficient. The answer was yes. The sign appears to be in the path of the Dorchester Road widening project so we just plan to do cosmetic repairs to the Archdale entry sign. Anyone interested in helping with the cosmetic repairs to the entry sign was asked to contact a Board member. We will present plans for the repairs at the May General Meeting. We will also have a photo of the Archdale entry from the proposed Dorchester County widening. Motion to approve Budget Worksheet by President Marty, 1st Dale Linker, 2nd Paul Soda.  Motion was passed no Nays.

2. Quarterly Event - Community Spring Spruce Sat., 3/8/2025, 9am-12pm This event has been done for many years. Last year we worked on Archdale Hall. We will meet at Archdale Hall and clean this area first. It may not need too much work as it was cleaned for the Festive Food Truck activities in December. Based on the number of volunteers we will split up and do some on work on Archdale  Boulevard and maybe do some neighborhoods that need help.  Paul Soda volunteered to mulch the leaves on Archdale Boulevard. Marty and Charles will donate drinks, water and snacks on behalf of the ACA. The Land Trust will do their annual inspection of Archdale Hall per Rhonda.

**Board Vacancy**

1. As a Board we are responsible for the needs of Archdale. Candidates presented to fill two ACA Board Vacancies: Robin Roxas, Jodi Smith. Robin and Jodi were welcomed and each gave information about themselves and their interest in Archdale. Jodi and her husband Raymond moved to Archdale (Botany Bay Blvd) at the end of 2022 and quickly fell in love with the neighborhood’s beauty and welcoming atmosphere. With over 30 years of experience as a special education teacher and a history of supporting the Special Olympics in East Tennessee, Jodi is eager to contribute to her new community. Excited about exploring the Lowcountry and its history, she looks forward to fostering resident involvement and helping Archdale thrive. Robin, a lifelong Charlestonian, fulfilled her long-held dream of living in Archdale (Botany Bay Blvd) when she, her husband Emerito, and mother Rosemarie moved there in April 1996. After Emerito’s military service, they found a house that felt like home at first sight. With her background as a paralegal and a genuine passion for her community, Robin decided to get actively involved by joining the Archdale board to support and enhance the neighborhood she loves. Dale Linker made a motion to approve them as ACA board members, seconded by Ted Hucks. All approved. Welcome to the Board Robin and Jodi.

**Public Comments** 1. Discussion - Parking on common areas to be mowed or maintained by contractor or volunteers. Paul Soda previously notified the board of a vehicle parked on a common area in Archdale 1 that is scheduled to be mowed by his company in the near future. The car has been there for a long time. Common areas are not parking spots. The board will address the situation prior to the time Paul’s company, Knight Hammer, is scheduled to start mowing. Someone had a pool taken out and heavy equipment left ruts that need to be smoothed over before Paul starts cutting the boulevard median. Tractor trailer drivers were also discussed. Constant parking violation on Knightsbridge Drive and Archdale Boulevard.  Looks like a manhole cover has been damaged. The driver has been reported to the county numerous times. Marty said trucks can park in neighborhood for 1 hour per Dorchester County.  Street light at Mansfield and Archdale Blvd. has not been fixed  because of broken wiring underground.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm by Marty Besancon. The next General Meeting was scheduled for Thurs., 5/15/2025 at the Fire Station. ACA Secretary, Joe Friend, schedules our meeting spaces. He was notified this week that the Fire Station no longer allows groups to meet there. He checked and the library meeting space is booked on 5/15. Joe will check on spaces for our General Meetings and we will announce details as they are confirmed.

Submitted by Joe Friend
Secretary Archdale Civic Association