

Minutes of the Bryn-Rose Civic Association Meeting of January 27, 2011

The Bryn-Rose Civic Association met in the Radnor United Methodist Church, 930 Conestoga Road, Rosemont, Pennsylvania at 7:00 P.M. on the above date.

Present

Bob Adams, President; Peggy Gaskins, Treasurer; Lynn Ellis, Recording Secretary, Township Manager Bob Zienkowski, 5th Ward Commissioner John Nagle, 7th Ward Commissioner John Fisher and members

Minutes of November 18 2010 and December 16, 2010

Peggy Gaskins motioned to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Bob Adams, the minutes were approved as written.

Overview of Rental Housing

Peggy Gaskins reported on the history of student housing in our neighborhoods, our sense of community, and the history of this Civic Association and why it had to be created due to lack of Code enforcement.. Neighbors had previously been told by Township officials to take photos of students and their cars, make a list of license plates, etc. if they thought rentals had too many students.

It was reported that 116 Garrett Avenue is being advertised as a student rental and it lost the right to be one. 105 Garrett Avenue can not be a student rental either. When asked what the procedure is for rental housing, Bob Z. said that a landlord must apply for a license with the Township and the rental must be inspected. The rental license fee is \$100 and documentation must be provided to the Township.

Township Manager's Report

Bob Z., our Township Manager, discussed getting the attention of Villanova University (V.U.) with dormitory inspections that would require a fee. 30% of our police and fire calls are responding to the institutions, which pay no taxes. The Township's biggest concern is safety. V.U. has proposed building more dorms to house all students on campus. There have been complaints about parking problems throughout the Township. He also noted that a dialogue must continue with the colleges, the Township and neighbors.

Bob Adams felt that our Welcome Back Picnic for the students has helped the residents and students to get to know each other as neighbors and be more friendly. The students we fed at a past picnic volunteered to clean all the windows of this church for their community project. It was also felt that the colleges protected "their own" in the past and ignored the residents and community. The students have also been victims of problem landlords, who should be dealt with. The students change, the landlords remain the same year after year. Bob Z. said that Commissioners Fisher and Nagle, Matt Bauman from Community Development, and he met with the landlords. He felt that we have to be pro-active and that now the problems are complaint driven.

Old Business

Peggy Gaskins noted that residents dread May when the students move out and leave trash and discarded furniture all over the place. They also put out their trash days before trash day with their trash cans sitting out front of their house and trash all over the sidewalks. Radnor Police have been good with our Zero Tolerance Policy, but the District Courts continue to lower the fines for citations to scofflaws. Absentee landlords are also a problem. The college's rules of no cars on campus for freshman and/or sophomores only means the cars are in the neighborhoods, not on campus.

Parking Permit regulations and problems were discussed. It was noted that there have been exceptions to the rules and non-residents have even been issued permits. Bob Z. has placed a moratorium on these permits until the procedures can be examined and remedied.

New Business

Ann Marie Hess who lives north of Lancaster Pike noted that sidewalks are impossible to walk on due to highly piled snow. Her houses backs up to the practice fields and there is noise pollution, flooding, and the stadium lights stay on until midnight. Commissioner Fisher said that the football stadium is booked for practices until midnight, but those lights are to be dimmed earlier in the evening. He noted that V.U. has purchased five (5) houses on Braxton Avenue and planned to tear them down as a “buffer” to the neighborhood. The neighbors met with University reps who now will be re-investing in these homes per the residents request.

Commissioner Nagle told members that all rental housing will be placed into the Zoning Code for better enforcement. Rentals can only be single family dwellings, not twins, and must provide off street parking. The burden of proof will be on the landlord, not the Township.

If V.U. gets into the Big East Conference in football, they will have to expand the stadium to 30,000 people, and build a new training facility, etc. V.U. now has 13,000 students but would be greatly impacted by being in the Big East with tailgating, and additional traffic and parking problems. Rick Barker noted that there are no standards for stadiums in the Township Code.

Other suggestions were to take the snow from Garrett Avenue and put it in Emlen Tunnell Park to open up the streets; and to adjust Township inspectors schedules so there is coverage on the weekends when there seems to be paving, re-modeling, new roofs going on, trees cut down, etc. Bob Z. suggested parking off street during snow storms if you have a driveway to keep roads clear, and licensing snow plow companies and making them aware of the laws. They have been plowing snow into the streets blocking parking spots and narrowing the roads for passage. Sara Pilling asked if the Emlen Tunnell parking lot could be plowed so residents could move their cars off the street. Commissioner Fisher will e-mail residents and the block captains to get cars off the streets so the plows can get through, but we need a solution specifically for Garrett Hill.

Jill Huentelman said that a new student housing ordinance was introduced at the Township’s and Delaware’s County Planning Commissions. There will be a public hearing on March 14.

Radnor Fire Company is taking over our ambulance service changing from Narberth Ambulance to Advanced Life Support. Originally Bryn Mawr Hospital ran the ambulance service..

Announcement

The Student Government External Affairs Committee of Villanova University is hosting a Community Dinner and Discussion on February 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Connelly Center. Please R.S.V.P. if interested in attending.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on February 24, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. All residents are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ellis