

Next meeting Wednesday October 15, 2008

Scottfield Civic Association Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2008, 7:30 p.m., Gauger School

www.scottfield.org, sca@scottfield.org

Attendees: 14 Scottfield residents and Claire Podesta (representation Bethany Hall-Long's campaign) were in attendance. Dave Tackett was detained, but caught up with board members in the parking lot after the meeting and noted our list of action items (which he began addressing on 9/18). If you would like additional information about any of the topics discussed at this meeting, please contact our board for a prompt response.

1. **Treasurer's report:** Account balance \$6311.69.
2. **Crime report**
 - a. Statics were presented for the entire summer
 - b. A variety and good number of events requiring police involvement were reported
 - c. Most were of a mischief or domestic nature. Complete details are found at the county's crime mapping web page: <http://www.co.new-castle.de.us/publicsafety/home/webpage4.asp>
3. **Old Business: Updates**
 - a. Park improvement request is being reviewed by the county.
 - i. Basketball and tennis courts were resurfaced and repainted. Basketball nets were installed. Tennis nets and painting the chain link enclosure are forthcoming. Bench repairs were done and additional trash cans provided.
 - b. Additional upgrades have been discussed (more detail below)
4. **Elections:** Vice President and Street Representative positions are open. Interested parties, please contact a board member.
5. **New Business**
 - a. Community Day, August 23, 2008
 - i. Premier event considered a smashing success by all.
 - ii. Attended by over 200 residents. Involved over 40 volunteers. Lead organizers: Gwen Jones, Buel Mutter, Robert & Roberta Rossney
 - iii. Neighborhood talent: DJ (Frank Renai), ATA Martial Arts (Marc Jouan), moon bounce, kids games, basketball dunk, sack race and crafts. Popcorn, soft pretzels, water ice (donated by Capelli's) and soft drinks were served.
 - iv. Community outreach: Comcast, Aetna Hose Hook & Ladder, NCC Police, and other non-profits were present.
 - v. Some of the local politicians who made an appearance: Dave Tackett, Chris Coons, Jack Markell (candidate), Bethany Hall-Long (candidate), Tom Gordon (candidate)
 - vi. See the slideshow on the website.
 - b. Annual Membership drive begins
 - i. Membership runs from September through August
 1. Current membership is at 51%
 2. Dues remain the same: standard \$20, seniors \$10
 3. Postcards will be mailed to all residents to promote payment.
 4. Neighbors Helping Neighbors section will drop unpaid members in after October 15

5. Promotion of valid reasons to join including snow plowing and continued community events is funding drive focus.
6. SCAN wording to relay "fresh starts" and disregarding past balances.
7. The goal is attract new members without repercussion, cultivate an air of community
 - a. Some people were alienated when, as new neighbors, they received a past due membership notice for several years.
 - b. Renters can be members even if they aren't the "home owner"
 - c. Home owners of rental properties can also be members. We'll sort out the bookkeeping if 2 individuals want to pay dues on the same address.
8. Current funds can pay for 2 rounds of snowplowing
 - a. Bids are being accepted for snow plowing (not removal)
 - b. Del Dot will reimburse a portion if heavy snowfall occurs, but that takes time. Plower must be paid at time of service.
 - c. A percentage of all dues will be reserved for snow plowing
- c. Yard Sale: September 26th and 27th
 - i. Coincides with MOP resale hosted at Gauger
 - ii. SCA will advertise in the News Journal (and possibly Newark Post)
 - iii. Neighbor has offered to post on craigslist.org
 - iv. Help spread the word because the SCANs won't be printed and entrance banners won't be distributed until the Sunday before the sale
- d. Halloween Costume Contest & Parade
 - i. Saturday, October 25, 1:00-3:00, Hann Park
 - ii. Gerry McVey, 738-6185, is organizing
 - iii. Snack, costume judging, parade to shopping center
- e. Hann Park activity
 - i. Residents have seen increased activity at the park recently
 - ii. Brookside soccer fields have been closed due to lack of maintenance funds and some of those leagues may have moved to Hann because of location
 1. We'll request a list of permitted activities from NCC Parks & Recreation and confirm that regular structures activities are permitted
 2. If the park is generating revenue and activity, we can justifiably request more upgrades: additional parking, area lighting (possibly solar), a walking trail, etc.
 3. These items have all been discussed with Chris Coons and/or Dave Tackett
 - iii. Wellness expert and Scottfield Neighbor, Linda Smith, forwarded this information that underscores the value of a well maintained local park after the meeting:
 1. **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS.** Researchers collected observational data on 28 specific features from 33 parks, and 7-day physical activity logs from adult residents to study whether park size, number of features in the park, and distance to a park were related to its usage. Results showed that number of features was a significant predictor of increased use for physical activity, while size and distance were not. Park facilities (e.g., bike trails or ball fields)

were more strongly related to park-based physical activity than park amenities (e.g., drinking fountains or picnic area). Of facilities, trails had the strongest relationship with park use for physical activity.

Source: Kaczynski, Potwarka, Saelens. *Association of Park Size, Distance, and Features with Physical Activity in Neighborhood Parks.* American Journal of Public Health, 98(8): 1451-1456.

- f. Buses on side streets
 - i. Concern was raised about buses using Deerfield and other side streets
 - ii. There may be a valid reason: kindergarteners or special needs children
 - iii. Please report bus number and company to the SCA and we'll inquire and have the route altered if possible
- g. Scottfield roads
 - i. Prefab bumps are scheduled to be installed on Scottfield where one was removed by Verizon during their service work
 - ii. Dave Tackett is working to get them installed on Broadfield between Longfield and Scottfield
 - iii. TAC units will be a continual presence to reduce speeding. Most tickets have been issued to adult Scottfield residents.
 - iv. Postfield has been bumped up on DelDot's list for evaluation and repair