



www.italianvillage.org

P.O. Box 8001, Columbus, Ohio 43201

Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2012

Short Stop Youth Center

1066 North High Street

*** PENDING APPROVAL ***

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests

There were 14 members and 14 guest present at the meeting, for a total of 28 people. All Board Members were present.

President's Comments

President Jared Wilson welcomed all members and guests. A notation of a meeting change for the development 'committee' for the planning of the monument to be erected in Italian Village Park, possibly funded by Chase Bank through a partnership with the Greater Columbus Arts Council. The meeting moved to Friday Jan. 13th at Travonna Coffee House. Thanks were given to all that assisted in the Holiday Pot Luck. All present introduced themselves and their affiliation with the village and answered the question of when they retired on New Years Eve 2011.

Fireproof Redevelopment- Mike Fitzpatrick

A brief background on the Fireproof building located on North High St at Second Ave. was Given by Mike. He informed the society that Michael James, Fireproof CEO, is moving the company to Grove City.

The Redevelopment will use the main building with parking in the rear, and a three story new build on the corner which is now a surface lot. He started by saying the sign will be restored, and retail/restaurant will occupy the first floor with vaulted ceilings but keeping the existing façade. The building was built in three stages, which make redevelopment a bit more involved. During the past expansions the floors did not line up with previous construction. Windows will be installed on the north side. A one story building adjacent to the south is planned for demolition. The units will be rental to start but will have 'for sale' quality upgrades. He spoke of traffic engineers will be conducting a study with attention given to curb cuts, High St and Mt Pleasant traffic.

The Timeline is for start up in late summer with occupancy by summer 2013.

Some concern was raised by residents with the Traffic on Mt. Pleasant and how this development will affect residents in close proximity. Mr. Fitzpatrick spoke of contacting neighbors to hear their concerns, which hopefully will happen in the very near future.

Having a continuous flow for pedestrian/visitor traffic to continue northward from the south is a common goal among many. The developer wants ‘an experience’ to pedestrians to be the best it can concerning streetscape.

Since Mr. Fitzpatrick is also involved in the development of the (old Ibiza site) The Hubbard, he gave a brief update. February 9th is the Bankruptcy hearing with Judge Hoffman presiding. There is still TIF/Parking structure questions to be answered as well.

<http://www.fireproof.com/history.html>

IV Commission Report – Per Jill Clark

Commission meetings are held at 109 N Front St at 615pm the third Tuesday of the month. A Pizutti Hotel meeting will be Jan. 26th at 6pm involving the first floor details of the hotel.

There is an opening for the Italian Village Commission; Karen Lewis’ seat is available. Dan Morgan has expressed interest in the seat, at the next meeting commission nominees will be reviewed and the society will recommend someone for the post. Commission posts are a three year commitment. The Commission meets on the second Tuesday of the month at noon to discuss business and regular meetings the third Tuesday. Attendance is critical and points of zoning, signage and variances. The Commission considers applications and issues Certificates of Appropriateness for exterior alterations at properties located within the Italian Village Historic District boundaries, pursuant to Columbus City Code and uses the Short North Guidelines for the High St Corridor.

Block Watch Report – Amelia Constanzo

Amelia was not able to attend the January meeting but gave a written report to the society. In the report the following excerpts were mentioned:

Don’t Get Towed: Ticket and tow numbers for November street sweeping have not yet been received by the City of Columbus.

Street Lighting Survey: Volunteers noted 29 street lighting issues during the Street Lighting Survey in October. The issues have been reported to the City of Columbus 311.

Porch Light Campaign: The Victorian Village captain and Amelia, as well as a few interested volunteers, are meeting on January 21st to discuss ideas for a porch light campaign to make our residential areas safer at night. Please contact Amelia at info@shortnorthblockwatch.org if you or anyone you know is interested in helping out with this project.

Italian Village has been relatively quiet over the past two months. There have been random vehicle break-ins, usually with nothing being stolen. Two other issues have arisen recently. **Illegal dumping:** A resident in the area near Warren and Hamlet has witnessed a few instances of illegal dumping in the unnamed alley running parallel to Hamlet. A vehicle has dumped trash both on the ground and in dumpsters. The resident has the license plate number of the car and has called it in to CPD, but no action has been taken by the police since they have to catch someone in the act to be able to arrest them.

The Virginia on Summit St: Over the last month, three gun-related incidents have occurred on or around the property of The Virginia at Summit St. and Third Ave.

The first incident occurred on December 22nd around 3 PM when numerous CPD cruisers were on the scene with shotguns in hand. Someone was taken away by CPD.

The second incident occurred on New Year's Eve, December 31st, five minutes before midnight. A witness reported having seen someone from one of the units of the building shoot numerous rounds from a semiautomatic weapon into the air.

The third incident occurred in the early hours of January 5th when six shots were fired behind the building. No one was injured. A formal investigation is underway. A neighbor reported seeing the tenants of the property move out on January 6th.

A first timer to IVS meetings commented on how the Block Watch is great community organizing tool.

Crime Report – Officer Steve Smith

Officer Steve reported that there were Car Break-ins and Homelessness issues in the neighborhood and Construction tools were stolen in Victorian Village and Harrison West.

Italian Village Park Update – Steve Hurtt

New boxwood is in order due to a canine friend.

Membership Report – Mike Renner

Vice President Mike Renner 2 new memberships and a total of 61 members. (If you have not yet, you can join online, it is quick and easy. <http://italianvillage.org/JoinNow.html>)

Approval of October, November and December Minutes

The Minutes from October, November and December 2011 meetings were reviewed and approved (with one change.)

Treasurer's Report – Stephanie Harris

Opening Balance as of 1/2/2012 \$4540.24

Income from membership: \$125.00

Expenses for the month: Constant Contact \$40.00 and
T-shirt Printing \$1,000

For a Closing Balance of \$3,625.24

The Park Fund had one expense of \$153.00 to Estate landscaping Service and a closing balance of \$1816.14.

Closing Points

Stephanie also mentioned how Junior Achievement could integrate a community garden at the 2nd Ave School. This started a discussion on the Martha Walker Garden Club. Andy Klein gave a brief back ground on the “club”. For more info, check out the article in the Short North Gazette. <http://www.shorthnorth.com/MarthaWalker.html>

Beth from Urban renewal Properties stated that the Hooka Lounge on Mt Pleasant has been conducting after hour parties on Wednesday nights and that the noise has become a nuisance. Officer Smith said to report these occurrences to the police. Residents who have *any* issues should use the 311 service offered by the city.

Announcements

- T-shirts and Sweatshirts will be available on the website contingent on INFORMATION relayed to and contacting the website committee. Also, Italian Village T-shirts and Sweatshirts are available for sale at *What The Rock?! and PM Gallery*
- Alleys in the neighborhood will be discussed at the next meeting and voting for the Society Recommendation for the Commission.
- Meeting minutes, complete with hyperlinks, can be viewed online at (<http://www.italianvillage.org/MeetingInformation>).

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Vidoni, Secretary