



www.italianvillage.org

P.O. Box 8001, Columbus, Ohio 43201

Italian Village Society Meeting Minutes – August 14, 2012

St. John's the Baptist Catholic Church

Marrapese Hall

168 E Lincoln St

7:30 PM

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests

There were 17 members and 27 guest(s) present at the meeting, for a total of 44 people. All Board members were present.

Opening Comments

Welcome was extended to meeting attendees by President Jared Wilson. All said their names and affiliation with the neighborhood. A thank you was extended to Reverend Father William A Metzger and the church staff for supporting the society having the meeting at their location. The Society booth at this year's Italian Festival will need volunteers to staff the booth during the festival. Sign up forms will be posted in the near future. An introduction was given to the main speaker, Randy Bowman, and two other representatives from the city, Keith Keeran and Mark Springer.

City of Columbus department of Traffic and Mobility- Randy Bowman

The main focus of the briefing from Mr. Bowman was to address the Residential Permit Parking. Points touched on were, forming and advisory group, the use of loading zones, the enforcement of parking in the neighborhood with regards to actual hard permits. The needs for parking in the neighborhood are obvious and managing the number of vehicles along with their spatial needs is something of great consideration.

There is a trend citywide of changing Parking Policies. The department is reasonably aware of some of the challenges and needs to hear some advice on policy and procedures. Mr. Bowman stated getting input from the University Area Commission and the Short North Alliance are way to deal with some of the issues. An explanation of the permit parking policy is needed as are the proposed modifications. The fact of how the businesses and residents will be affected during these policy "changes" is important to grasp. Apparently, these points are overwhelming the city's mobility office according to Mr Bowman.

The boundaries of the permit area need to be definitive and all the concerns need to be addressed. At this point, Mr. Robert Dennison, Italian Village resident attempted to make a point on behalf of the residents and their needs and concerns. Mr. Bowman continued on with the potential changes to the citywide policies. These changes include: Unpaid parking tickets must be paid before a permit can be issued, the Ohio State University area changed the

expiration dates of the permits to coincide with the end of terms to alleviate the Mobility department and, Proof of residency and employment for the issuing of permits. Striking a chord with residents, the issuing of permits to employees of surrounding businesses raised red flags. Mr. Dennison brought up a petition signed by many residents opposing the practice of the employee permits and the grievous policies that the community has endured. It seems that this practice was in fact due to a “clerical error.” The permits have fallen victim to fraud in copying of the hang tags and not verifying addresses. The man hours and equipment needed for indentifying bogus permits is a major hurdle, with finding whom to do the job first. Policing by residents and active business owners was brought up as a possible solution.

Residents spoke on issues surrounding neighborhood parking. Parking has changed over 20 years especially the conditions that were first promised to residents. Home ownership is an integral key to the prosperity of the historic district one villager noted. The businesses that were issued permits that are not in Italian Village must be made aware of the mishap, and find other alternatives for the parking challenge. Resident Mr. Dennison again asked the city to honor the petition, and explained the lacking urgency of the city in addressing the voice of the residents. He also noted the 80 to 90 landlocked residential parcels have no off street parking and that all businesses west of Pearl St. are not in Italian Village.

The debate was heated, but policy and procedures should be brought before residents before anything is changed. The society will be the vehicle to assist the residents and businesses in interacting with the Public Service department of the City of Columbus. 311@columbus.gov
(614) 645-8290

Membership Report – Mike Renner

Mike reported there was no change in membership leaving a total of 52 members. (If you have not yet, you can join online, it is quick and easy. <http://italianvillage.org/JoinNow.html>)

Italian Village Park Update – Steve Hurtt

Names are being taken for volunteers to assist in light weeding and maintenance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The July meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

IV Commission Report –David Cooke

Commission meetings are held at 109 N Front St at 6:15pm the third Tuesday of the month.

In brief, this month there were 13 new applications and 2 conceptual. In a follow up note, there were slight changes to the Goody Boy sign and the Budd Dairy did not have any changes. Special meetings will now be held during the day, with a recapitulation of public comment at the regular Italian Village Commission meetings.

Block Watch & Crime Report –Amelia Constanzo and Officer Steve Smith

The ‘Don’t get towed’ effort is in effect this month, and new window decals with the Short North Block Watch logo will be available soon with assistance from the Short North Civic Association. Crime statistics will be available soon and the neighborhood has been somewhat quiet. A resident asked about 105 Warren St and 67 Warren St. She spoke of prostitution and drug trafficking. A recommendation of using the city’s 311 service to report these, and most any issues, was given.

Friends of Goodale Park – Andy Klein

New lanterns on Goodale Street at the Southgate are fabricated and coming. The Northwest Gate is being renovated by, contractor Roger Farrell, an Italian Village resident. The gate at Buttles and Dennison will be rededicated Oct 7.

Treasurer’s Report – Stephanie Harris

The Treasurer report for August showed an opening balance of \$4,430.28 with income from membership of \$200 and an expense of \$100 to Rdesign with a closing balance of \$4,530.28. The Park Fund Account had an Opening Balance of \$254.98 and income of \$750.00 in the form of a Grant from the Short North Foundation leaving a closing balance of \$1,004.98.

Announcements

- Italian Village T-shirts and Sweatshirts are available for sale at *What the Rock?! And PM Gallery*.
- The Short North Alliance is promoting *The Short North’s got Talent* at the Garden Theater.
- The Italian Village Society Parking & Traffic Committee is sill moving along, interest in serving on this committee is coming soon.
- Meeting minutes, complete with hyperlinks, can be viewed online at (<http://www.italianvillage.org/MeetingInformation>).

Respectfully Submitted,

Italian Village Society Secretary, Christopher Vidoni