



www.italianvillage.org

P.O. Box 8001, Columbus, Ohio 43201

Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2010

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests

There were 21 members and 3 guests present at the meeting, for a total of 24 people. All Board Members were present.

President's Comments

President Larry Totzke welcomed all members and guests. All present introduced themselves.

Larry mentioned that the August meeting cannot be held at the Short Stop and that an alternate location will be announced in the newsletter.

The Italian Festival is soon approaching, and we will once again have a booth, where we will inform people about the Italian Village Society, tell them what we do, and how we benefit the community. We will also sell t-shirts, have a resident artist or two selling their wares, and we need volunteers to staff the booth. If you have not done so before, volunteering for the festival is a good way to meet some neighbors, have fun, and get into the festival free. The festival is always a great time, with live music, culture, entertainment, people and delicious food!

IV Commission Report – Per Jill Clark

Jill noted that the economy seems to be picking up – there were 14 new applications. Some items of note:

- The Exile Club has an application for a variance for parking reduction, plus a 6' privacy fence, and enlarging the patio.
- 1030-1042 N. High St. next to New World Properties has an application for 2 new openings on the front end of the building, one for retail.
- Wonderland has received approval for exterior alterations and other modifications.
- The proposed Pizzutti Boutique Hotel – we are now holding joint meetings with the Victorian Village Commission. The next meeting will be at 240 Parsons Ave, July 22nd. Areas of concern: massing, amount of 'stuff' happening on the small site, demolition of the UCT building, preservation vs. return equation, circulation on side streets, building heights and materials, size, etc. It was noted that residents really need to be more involved in this process; the Commissioners main duty is to preserve architecture. When it comes to the final votes, the IV Commissioners only have voting rights for the East side of High St., not the parking lot. Regarding the parking lot, there is concern in its scope. Can 500 cars exit onto Russell? Is it right for our neighborhood? Why not spread the parking out over the area?
- Member concerns: not to the scale of the neighborhood, the Pizzutti folks have not engaged the IV Society in the program, the storefronts do not seem to match the neighborhood, what if this project falls through, how have the developers responded to

these concerns? (they have not yet). Finally, they intend to give the United Travelers Monument back to Goodale Park, but no news on how/when this will happen.

Wonderland Update – Michael Minnix

As Wonderland's "Volunteer & Community Outreach Chair", Michael is here for the community, to keep the aesthetic aspect of the area nice. They have a large list of volunteers willing to lend a hand, and will be looking for ideas. Michael mentioned that Wonderland received tax credit (The Wonderland project was one of 13 statewide recipients of Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit awards, and the only recipient in Central Ohio, nearly \$600,00. See: <http://wonderlandcolumbus.com/news.html>.)

The 501(c)(3) status is almost complete, and the tentative 'opening' of Wonderland is planned for August. Michael intends to attend our monthly meetings.

CPD Redistricting Plan – Officer Steve Smith

Per Officer Smith, the redistricting plan was implemented July 11, 2010. Precinct One has moved to the Polaris area. All 27 veteran officers are gone. The Short North area is now covered by downtown and the University area, 2 separate zones. The dividing line is East 2nd Avenue to High St., then Starr/3rd Avenue all the way to Grandview. Steve has taken the job as Liaison Officer for Precinct 4 (the University area), and will continue to cover the entire Short North area. Steve went on to say that the zone channels were not resolved, as were not the net loss of 27 officers. Steve will be able to monitor two zones on his computer, but the crime stats will be hard to combine. Significant issues will be communicated between the two zones.

Chief Deputy Jacobs approached Nick and Jared at the July 10th Block Watch organizer's 'National Night Out' and offered to hear feedback regarding the plan. We will use this opportunity to invite her to come speak at a meeting. Chief Jacobs noted that a new computer program will be implemented in the Spring of 2011 that may make redrawing the boundaries easier, so we will ask her to speak about that when she is here.

Block Watch Report – Jared Wilson

Jared noted that while the arbitration decision is disappointing, the Block Watch activities will proceed as normal. The next tow dates are August 17th & 18th. (The weekend before the tri-annual street sweeping, Block Watch members are reminding neighbors "Don't get towed!" with roadside signs and/or vehicle flyers.) The next Block Watch meeting is August 3rd, which is our one year anniversary, and the annual 'National Night Out'. We will meet at the IV Park at 7:30pm. The night will start with an ice cream social and short meeting followed by a 'night patrol'. A rain location will be announced, and the walk is rain or shine. Membership is still thin in some areas of IV (see online map), so if you know of anyone who may like to join, please direct them to the website. Once a week the IVBW sends out tips via email and on Facebook, and alerts as necessary. All IV Block Watch updates and information are on the website: <http://www.italianvillage.org/BlockWatchInformation.html>.

President Totzke commented that Nick and Jared have done a great job with the Block Watch, and on very limited resources.

IV Park Update – Steve Hurtt

Steve noted that the irrigation problem has been fixed. Also, all the chairs and benches have been replaced – with corrected mountings. We need to apply for grants for a \$1500 concrete slab for the dumpsters, and money for plantings. Please forward any grant ideas to Steve. Christie Nohle wanted to thank the children from St. Joseph's for their help weeding the IV gardens this summer. The Amici's are meeting at the IV or Christopher Columbus Park every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 6pm.

Membership Report – Raymond Schwab

Vice President Raymond Schwab noted that membership is at 56, 11 of which are new memberships. Some of the memberships were 'sustaining' so the amount of money collected has been substantial. You can join online, it is quick and easy.

Approval of Minutes of the September 2009 Meeting

The May 2010 meeting minutes will be reviewed and approved at August's meeting.

Treasurer's Annual Report – Stephanie Harris

The Italian Village Society Checking Account:

Opening Balance = \$5,478.75

Income = \$203 (Movie Night), and \$886.00 (Memberships)

Expenses = \$60.00 (PO Box), \$36.51 (Movie Night), \$100.32 (Membership Campaign

Mailings), \$103.65 (Annual Picnic), \$201.00 (Park Expense), and \$17.99 (Check Printing Fee)

Closing Balance = \$6,048.28

The Italian Village Park Savings Account:

Opening Balance = \$1,667.58

Income = \$0.17 (Interest)

Expenses = \$35.00 (Estate Landscaping), and \$42.00 (Urban Gardener)

Closing Balance = \$1,590.58

Announcements

- Meeting minutes, complete with hyperlinks, can be viewed online at (<http://www.italianvillage.org/MeetingInformation>).
- Patrick Piccininni attended our meeting to introduce himself. He is running for Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge. You can learn more at: www.patrickpiccforjudge.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Noble, Secretary