

Meadowthorpe Neighborhood Association  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.  
333 Larch Lane

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Adoption of the Agenda: Jim Stone made a motion to adopt the agenda and Russ DiBella seconded. All were in favor.
- III. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: David McCall made a motion to approve the September 13, 2016 meeting minutes and Jim Stone seconded. All were in favor.
- IV. Recognition of Guests and Presentations
  - a. Second District Councilmember Shevawn Akers and Second District Council candidate Sasha Love Higgins discussed their platforms and answered questions from the membership.
    1. Ms. Higgins introduced herself and her background to the membership. She is a hotel general manager by trade and has experience in sales, marketing, budgeting, and planning for the past 10 years through her hotel management involvement. She has been involved in local organizations such as the Rotary Club of Lexington, All God's Children (current board member), Boy Scouts of America, Community Inspired Solutions, Kentucky Hospitality Lodging Association, and the Kentucky chapter of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission. Ms. Higgins discussed the importance of education and the workforce, public safety, and economic development in Lexington. She addressed storm water issues in the neighborhood, as well as traffic flow and the timing of traffic lights on Leestown Road. She also addressed policing of the neighborhood. She has a four-point plan as part of her campaign structure: providing transparency and accountability (she is invested in the community and she values residents' opinions); implementing town halls with residents in the Second District (as well as the potential creation of an infrastructure committee and public safety committee); accessibility (she assured the membership that her team will answer emails and calls within 24-48 hours); and survey (via Survey Monkey, social media, and door to door inquiries). She introduced Monica King, who is with Bluegrass Crime Stoppers. Ms. King introduced Bluegrass Crime Stoppers and encouraged members to provide anonymous tips to help fight crime. If an anonymous tip leads to an arrest, the initial person to provide the tip will receive an award (\$22,000 in payouts have been given thus far this year). In 2016, 103 felony fugitives have been taken off of the streets in Lexington due to Bluegrass Crime Stoppers' endeavors. The group has solved 95% of the wanted fugitive cases and just over half of their "crimes of the week".
    2. Ms. Akers introduced herself and her background to the membership. She has been on the Second District Council for four years, after many years with a passion to become involved in the political spectrum. She has a background in social work, with a Master's degree and 15 years of experience in social work. She has worked for Volunteers of America, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, and other nonprofit organizations. She serves on multiple committees in the district, including the Corridors Commission. One of her favorite projects is the Oliver Lewis Way lighting art project, which she initiated in the Corridors Commission. She has been endorsed by the homebuilders' association, firefighters, and other organizations in the community. As someone who has served the Second District and who has lived in the west end for more than 14 years, she assured the membership that she does not think the west end has been forgotten. She believes the district has been effective in advocating for the west end, to bring more money, improve parks, and bring more attention to the area. She hopes that her prior service is a demonstration about what her future service will be. She announced that she is available via phone, email, Facebook, and Twitter.
    3. Questions for the candidates:

- a) **Question:** What drew you into public service and to run for this position?  
**Ms. Akers:** She has always wanted to help people. She went into social work for this reason. She saw a similarity with social work and politics, e.g. changing policy. She believes that changing policy helps a greater number of people than working one-on-one. To make the greatest difference on her life and her son's life immediately would be local politics.  
**Ms. Higgins:** In her career as a manager and in her humanitarian activities, she has always looked for the best in people. She has an inkling to want to learn more about people when she meets them. She has developed a lot of people who had before thought they didn't have opportunities to make a difference in their lives. She decided to run for office because driving economic development in the city can work to help to curb some of the public safety issues. She believes that providing people with resources and opportunities will help reduce criminal activity (e.g. providing activities, jobs, workforce development, et cetera).
- b) **Question:** What do you see as your role in the development of the area near Lisle Industrial Avenue that is zoned I-2  
**Ms. Higgins:** We need to have conversations about what we would like to see going forward in the I-2 zoned area. The town hall meetings would be an ideal opportunity for that discussion. She believes zoning can be changed.  
**Ms. Akers:** It can be a tough battle to remove I-2 land from city zoning. She suggests adding an overlay similar to the Newtown Pike overlay at the fourth street corridor to encourage more diverse uses in the future.
- c) **Question:** Where do you stand on the spectrum of two philosophies in politics: voters trusting the politician to make the best judgment, or the politician contacting voters to get the best idea on how the voters want the politician to vote?  
**Ms. Akers:** She is in the middle of the spectrum, and not on one single end of it. strives to do her best to represent the district. She tries to gather input from constituents to make the best decision based on the constituents.  
**Ms. Higgins:** She described the budgeting process in her hotel trade. City council tends to have the same conversation year to year, with similar action items. She discussed having a budgeting meeting at one of the town hall meetings to discuss items for the next year. In regards to the decision making process, she believes it is very important to have feedback from the community, but it is also important that the constituents trust the decisions of the person in office who represents those constituents. She also believes in having a check and balance process and due diligence is implemented beforehand.
- b. Lieutenant Newman announced crime statistics for the area. Over the past 30 days, there have been three burglaries in the neighborhood, all of those having been to detached sheds or garages with locks on them. They occurred sometime overnight. The locks were broken off or pried open. Various items were taken, including power tools and a table and chair set; nothing was taken during the third burglary. There was also a robbery at Speedway. The gentleman involved in the robbery ran back into the Meadowthorpe neighborhood, potentially to get back to his vehicle. From a crime prevention standpoint, Lt. Newman said that motion activated headlights or motion activated noise makers may help deter successful burglaries. The police department may perform an extra patrol in the neighborhood if it is requested; Lt Newman did offer to add this extra patrol. If police catch someone break into a vehicle, they cannot arrest them. State legislature passed a law two years ago to help deal with overcrowding in prisons (House Bill 463). This affected vehicular burglary. Since this law passed, the police has seen an increase in these types of crimes. There is currently a curfew for city residents under 18 years of age: weekdays at 11:00 a.m. and weekends at 1:00 a.m.

V. Committee Reports: There have been a number of statements on the Meadowthorpe Rocks Facebook page regarding an increase in crime in the neighborhood. Mr. Capillo reminded the membership that the neighborhood has a dormant Neighborhood Watch Committee. He announced that if the

Neighborhood Watch Committee joins the state neighborhood watch association, they can receive materials to distribute to the residents.

VI. Old Business

- a. Tom Blues provided an update in the Memorial Plaza Project. There were originally plans to sell the engraved pavers in November. The subcommittee decided to postpone that sale until January, as they are still in the permitting process with the city. They need an encroachment agreement, which requires a professional surveyor and an attorney. Once they receive that, they will need an installation permit.

VII. New Business

- a. Mr. Capillo announced a planning commission zone change request regarding 1315 West Main Street and 1353 West Main Street, which is currently zoned "warehouse and office". The request changes this portion from "warehouse and office" to simply "warehouse". Mr. Blues announced that this may result in an increase in large trucks on a portion of Forbes Road. Mr. Capillo suggested that the Development Review Committee discuss this. It was also suggested to call a special meeting on October 18 at 7:00 p.m. and invite the planning commission to answer the neighborhood's questions.
- b. The November meeting is currently scheduled on Election Day. Mr. Capillo asked the association if they would prefer to hold the meeting as scheduled, reschedule the meeting to another day, or cancel the meeting altogether. David McCall made a motion to cancel the meeting and Russ DiBella seconded. All were in favor.
- c. December 13 holiday party: The association has sufficient funds in the budget to bring in catered food, opposed to the traditional potluck participation. Russ DiBella made a motion to spend funds to cater the party, and David McCall seconded. All were in favor. The December 13 holiday party will begin at 6:30pm with Santa Claus and a catered affair.
- d. Assigned schools for Meadowthorpe neighborhood: This has been tabled for the next meeting.

- VIII. Motion to adjourn: Russ DiBella made a motion to adjourn which was seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:



Carrie Asalon, MNA Secretary