

# Abell Improvement Association

## Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, July 11th, 2010

### Minutes

Attendees: Jo Ann Robinson, Shelley Treadway, Linda Forlifer, Miruna Patrascanu, Paul Burk, Allen Garske, Susanne Riveles

1. Called the meeting to order.
2. Approval of 6/12/10 EC Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the last meeting will be reviewed at the next AIA meeting. Bonnie Bessor, who took minutes at the last meeting because our former Recording Secretary resigned, has not had a chance to transcribe the minutes yet.
3. Abell Open Space Grants for Equipment/Amenities
  1. History – 2006 Parks & People Grant: A \$5,000 grant is available from Parks & People for improvements to open spaces. A number of residents, mainly from the Village Parents group, were interested in making additional improvements to the Abell Open space and would like to apply for the grant. In looking to apply for this grant, we learned from Kathleen Hruska, former AIA Treasurer from 2006, that there was an open grant to build benches for the open space. Paul researched the issue and learned that the grant had been approved, and the AIA received \$900 from Parks and People in 2006. Abell resident Morgan Kennedy was going to build benches for the space. Morgan confirmed that the AIA received this money and that he received it in cash from Kathleen, but the benches were not completed due to a number of construction delays. First, the Department of Rec and Parks required that we install a new swing set. The benches were put on hold until the completion of the swing set project. By the time the swing set was in place, Morgan and his family moved out of the area.
  2. Next Steps: Paul will work with Laura Wexler for the Village Parents group to obtain design advice for the open space so that it accommodates the various needs of the community. Paul will communicate to Morgan that we consider this to be an outstanding item on our budget and we expect Morgan to pay it back this money (possibly via installments).
4. Open Space Events – Policy re. Scheduling/Reserving: Paul has received several requests to use the open space recently. Among these, AIA residents Sarah Kenders and Campbell McLean were having a fundraiser at their home for a friend running for state senate. They thought this function might spill into their backyard and the adjacent open space. They also asked about using the screen to show a movie using their own equipment. Paul explained that it is a public place and we don't grant authority to use the space, we are simply stewards. Paul shared that the AIA wasn't going to be involved with the fundraiser or associated as a sponsor. Another request was Anna Slesinsky, who would like to have her wedding in the open space. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, she emailed Paul to let him know that the Department of Rec and Parks calls the Abell Open Space the

“32<sup>nd</sup> Street Park”, and there is a formal permit process. On August 21<sup>st</sup> Anna will have her wedding in the open space. She is following the permit process and will need to put up permit signs and notify neighbors. Paul will follow up with Anna to get more information about the permit and what it provides.

5. Follow-up - Noise and nuisance complaints: Paul received a number of complaints about two houses on the 3100 block who were having loud porch parties. Elizabeth Duverlie asked Paul to write letters to the tenants, and landlords and provide “Peace and Quiet” guidelines to property owners. The AIA sent letters to the two houses. Robin sent an email indicating that 3133 tenants have moved out. Another letter was sent to 386 E. 31<sup>st</sup> Street. Carlene Moscatt and other neighbors indicated that residents of this property were leaving their car blocking the alley behind the 3100 block. The AIA sent a letter letting the residents know that they are violating the law about blocking the alley. Paul has not received any follow up from the residents. Shelley suggested putting the “Peace and Quiet” letter in the September newsletter when we receive many new neighbors.
  
6. Update - Great Schools Charles Village Initiative: Paul has received concerns from parents of students and teachers at Barclay indicating that the culture and administration at the school were not up to standard. Jo Ann Robinson (long time Barclay volunteer, former Barclay parent), Laura Scott (Village Parents), Paul Burk (AIA president and Barclay volunteer) and Cassandra Orem (Barclay parent), have met over the last several months to discuss concerns and determine if there is a role for the AIA. Concerns include 1) a culture where teachers are yelling at students; and 2) safety concerns -- students are bringing weapons to school and the administration is not systematically addressing this concern. In addition, several concerns have been raised confidentially by teachers who fear raising these issues themselves. Principal Jenny Heinbaugh, who is going into her second year as principal, agreed with the grievances that were brought to her by the parent teacher association (PTA) but as of yet there is no resolution to these items. Jo Ann Robinson shared that Jenny plans to bring in a personal aide to help address some of these concerns, but the role of the aide, the funding for this position, etc. is unclear. The group discussed whether the AIA should raise these concerns to Greater Homewood or whether our group should raise them to Barclay first. Linda explained that Barclay has served our community in the past, and could serve our community more if they address these concerns. She suggested possibly raising some of these issues directly with the school administration.
  
7. Candidates’ Forum: Steve Gewirtz and Susanne Riveles organized the highly successful forum in 2006. Earlier this year, Steve, Susanne and Paul had talked about planning this forum for 2010. As of 7/10/10, the committee has not made progress with planning. Steve Gewirtz, a key organizer in 2006, resigned from the AIA and indicated that he did not want to be involved in the organization any longer. Paul has limited time to organize this. Susanne can not organize it alone. Time is running out since this event would need to take place the third week of August. Unless Susanne can obtain commitment from one of our members to help organize the event, we will not conduct one this year.

8. Street Fair Planning: Planning is well underway with chairs for all of the committees. There are no gaps or risks in volunteer needs. Over 50 volunteers have signed up to help plan, provide donations, and manage the event the day of.
9. Treasurer's Report: Andy Scott was not able to be at this meeting, but provided Paul with a summary report of the AIA finances. The group agreed that it is important to obtain a summary report at every meeting going forward. Paul will ask Andy for a report prior to each meeting.
10. Other Reports/Issues/Concerns
  1. Officer's Email List: Linda raised that the list is not up-to-date. Paul was granted access from Emil. Paul will review and update the list so that it is current committee chairs and officers. We discussed whether to keep the past president for the purposes of continuity and agreed this is a good procedure.
  2. 3210 Guilford Avenue: A family of homeowners moved in and done a beautiful job landscaping.
11. Adjourn
  1. Next meeting: Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM, 3230 Abell