

Minutes of the Lindbergh Forest Neighborhood Association (LFNA)

Wednesday, August 17, 2016, 6:30 pm

Graystone Presbyterian Church

Attendees: Dorian DeLuca, Kelley DeLuca, Martha Emrey, Stephanie Greene, Jake Hudson, Baron Hyatt, Ben Ream, Heather Ream, Becky Wade.

Guests attending: Tracee Smith (Knox Co. District Attorney's Office), Adam Fritts (Dogwood Elementary), Betsy Pickle (Shopper News), Officer Wiggins (KPD).

Welcome and approval of Minutes of previous meeting

Kelley DeLuca welcomed everyone to the meeting. Motion made by Ben Ream to approve the Minutes of the June 15, 2016 meeting. This was seconded by Dorian DeLuca. Vote: all in favor. Motion carried.

Tracee Smith, Assistant Victim Witness Coordinator, Knox County

LFNA was grateful to have Ms. Smith address the group in regards to the ongoing nuisance case at the Executive Inn (EI). Ms. Smith commented that her office has cataloged many complaints about the EI from us as well as from other neighborhood groups. Building a nuisance case is slow-moving, as the County must collect enough information to potentially press "charges that stick" against a business in question. ***If a member of LFNA witnesses a trespass or any suspicious person that causes her or him to have concern about their own safety or property or the safety or property of a neighbor, contact the police first, and then contact Tracee.*** This is the most effective way to report our concerns.

In order to shut down EI (or any nuisance business), it must be proven that management is aware that they are renting to people who are committing crimes on or near their property. Prompted by a comment by an LFNA member, Officer Wiggins had stated at a past meeting that he could go in to EI at any time and could make an arrest for illegal activity. He had also stated that EI management has pointed out to him certain customers who are doing illegal things at the EI. Ms. Smith was not aware of this connection. It was determined by Officer Wiggins and Ms. Smith that he and other officers making arrests at the EI will contact Ms. Smith directly each time this happens, since typically only the organized crime and drug units deal with nuisance cases, not the patrol unit.

Ms. Smith's direct line is 865-215-3875. Her email address is tracee.smith@knoxcounty.org.

KPD update

Officer Wiggins has returned to work following his injury in the line of duty. In addition to the information discussed about the EI, Officer Wiggins reported that recently there were 3 vehicle burglaries per day at the Fort Dickerson quarry. A suspect was arrested with 20 phones and other items assumed to be stolen. Officer Wiggins reminded us to record our serial numbers, as they help KPD to return property and help tie crimes to the people who committed them. A suspect was arrested following the recent shooting in Montgomery Village. The victim and the officers involved in the pursuant car crash are recovering.

Dogwood Elementary

Adam Fritts stated that Open House was last night and that there were around 500 people who attended. LFNA had a booth, and our representatives talked to a lot of people. Adam had several people requesting more information about LFNA. He will get their contact info to Kelley.

Adam again encouraged the LFNA to utilize the grounds and trail behind the school. A new sign at the playground has been hung to make visitors feel more welcome. Buzz Thomas, the Knox Co. interim superintendent, sent out a countywide email encouraging schools to invite their communities to use their school grounds for recreation. LFNA is sending him a thank you card this evening.

If anyone has any ideas for family activities, or knows of a Spanish-speaking person who would like to volunteer his or her services at Dogwood, please let Adam know.

LFNA's September meeting is our quarterly school supply drive for Dogwood.

SKNBC meeting update

Jake Hudson stated that Tom Weiss spoke about being under contract to buy and renovate the old Sevier Hgts. Baptist Church building. Once it is zoned C-3, he wants to redline certain allowances of this category so that the property cannot become home to a neighborhood eyesore, like a big box store. He has several ideas for the building, including a youth hostel, condos, retail space, or performance space.

SoKno Taco, the business venture of Brian Hann and Jason Stevens, should open later this fall. They also might use adjacent property for some kind of outdoor activity shop.

The "Rails & Trails" project continues to be evaluated.

Treasurer's report

A copy of the monthly Treasurer's Report is also available to LFNA members. Contact Kelley or Heather for a digital copy.

Signs Update

All of the neighborhood watch signs have been purchased and picked up. Kelley was able to purchase 6 more removable yard signs that announce upcoming meetings, as well as 4 stickers advertising our website address, for the previously approved \$200. Dorian DeLuca will install the signs to save money for the LFNA. The neighborhood sign originally slated to be installed on the corner of Chapman and Woodlawn will now be moved closer to Druid instead, because a neighborhood entrance sign will be located at Chapman and Woodlawn.

Paint the Pavement

Adam Fritts and Kelley DeLuca have come up with several designs. We will revisit the topic next month.

Neighborhood Sign Grant – next steps

Kelley continues to work on this project. We will revisit the topic next month.

Halloween

We will discuss next month whether or not we want to hand out flyers again.

South High

Becky Wade reported that the old South High is for sale, and that proposals are due by Sept. 20.

Future Speaker

Becky Wade stated that developer Don Shepherd would like to address the LFNA in an upcoming meeting, since he is looking to build an apartment building behind the new Bojangles on Chapman Hwy.

National Night Out

Coming in October. We will revisit this topic next month.

Snacks

Adam Fritts has volunteered to bring snacks for next month's meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Heather Ream, Secretary.