

Monday, January 31, 2022

**PRESIDENT’S REMARKS - JENNIFER ALEXANDER**

Hello Old Beechwold neighbors! Again, in lieu of a meeting, we are offering this update from the Old Beechwold Executive Committee.

I’m pleased to announce the addition Sara Sabihi as Secretary and returning Treasurer Laura Phillip to OBA’s Executive Committee – we will be sharing more about our new committee members in our next report. We thank Becca Donnally and Melissa Sickles for an outstanding job serving the neighborhood as Treasurer and Secretary, respectfully, for the last two years. Please share your appreciation with these two for the quality work and dedication they provide.

I hope everyone is staying safe and warm!

**Infrastructure Updates**

Columbia Gas (Miller Pipeline) is nearing the completion of their work and on track to be out of City conflict sometime in February and completely done in March.

If there are any project questions or concerns on the gas line work, please reach out to Columbia Gas Public Affairs Manager Luka Papalko at [lpapalko@nisource.com](mailto:lpapalko@nisource.com) or (614) 420-1376.

The City’s contractor for the next phase, Elite Excavating, plans to start the week of February 14th on the service road that parallels High Street.

Curbs

A question was raised late last year about the possibility of having curbs installed in the neighborhood. In reading through past Blueprint/Infrastructure updates and OBA meeting minutes I found a few references to curbs. Below are a few excerpts mixed in with road widening details. It appears residents were concerned about the loss of any curbs or gutters they personally had installed and were pleased to learn that the goal is to maintain these homeowner installed features whenever possible.

July 2019

Roads**:**The width of each road in our neighborhood needs to be carefully studied as each area has a different set of issues/conflicts. While the neighborhood clearly does not want a mass widening of the roads, there seems to be opportunities to recapture the width of the originally designed roadways. On W. Jeffrey, for example, it’s clear the road was once 1-2 ft wider in total and the mass of water flowing down Jeffrey has eroded the road edge. Proposed roadway widths need to consider future erosion issues. Hopefully, the new design will not only deal with this issue but maybe give 1-2 more feet of room for cars to pass each other and to maneuver around stopped trucks and City Service vehicles.

The turning radius needs to be studied at all intersections to try to minimize the “mud rut” effect that has existed in our neighbor for decades. Again, some minimal and selective widening of the intersections may be helpful to alleviate these ongoing issues. **Some very selective use of curbing**at these historically problematic intersections could also be explored to demarcate the edge of pavement to prohibit these muddy ruts. This will require much more discussion and consensus building

October 2019

OBA representatives met with the City of Columbus staff and their consulting team on 9/19/19. At this meeting tentative storm sewer and roadway plans were discussed. At the conclusion of this meeting, it was determined that another field visit was necessary to walk the streets and review existing conditions. That neighborhood walking tour occurred 9/25/19.

GOOD NEWS! - The City of Columbus and their consultants have been very responsive to the requests of the neighborhood. Here’s a summary of the major items:

There will be no widening of the roads. The roads will be repaved at current widths, except as specified below.

The city intends to preserve resident installed curbing and stone walls

Roads: The width of the new roads will generally follow the current road widths (16-18’). No major widening is being proposed. The only exception will be at the bottom of W. Jeffrey and W. Beechwold where sections of the original road edge have been eroded by years of rushing storm water. Some of these roads have narrowed to 14’ because of this erosion. The City’s intent is to reclaim some of the original road width, but in no case would road widening add more than 1-2 feet in these eroded areas. Here are some other highlights of the proposed road work:

* The very old, sporadic, existing cracked curbing will be removed and not replaced.
* No new curbing is being proposed as part of this project.
* The more recent “homeowner installed” curbing and stone walls will be preserved wherever possible. The only exceptions to this will be those existing curbs built from pavers or stones which are expected to crumble during road construction.
* Downspouts that currently drain to the street will be maintained.

Due to the historic status of Old Beechwold, the city would not be installing curbs. I am in continued conversation with the City and the Historic Commission on this issue. There does seem to be some need to install selective curbing to prevent erosion or disintegration.

**VICE PRESIDENT’S REMARKS – GAIL MAHAFFEY**

Report of HRC Actions attached.

**TREASURER’S REPORT – BECCA DONNELLY**

Report attached.

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE – KIRSTEN MINNIE**

Will be working on activities for warmer weather when we can gather more safely.

**ARBOR COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Lindalee Brownstein is stepping down as head of OBA’s Arbor Committee for the past five years. We cannot thank her enough for her passion and dedication in leading the Arbor Committee as we have all benefited from her commitment to helping keep Old Beechwood beautiful place to live.

I am excited to announce that Gregg Peace will now head up the Arbor Committee with support from Kevin Milstead. The Arbor Committee is one of our most active association committees and any residents interested in joining can contact Gregg at [gpeace@columbus.rr.com](mailto:gpeace@columbus.rr.com). Stay tuned for activities you can participate in once the weather allows for it.

**ELECTION COMMITTEE UPDATE – JACK JACKSON**

Article V, Sec.8 of the OBA Bylaws requires a signed Teller Report outlining:

1. The total **number of ballots** cast – **59 of 108 eligible residences (55%)** participated in the election.
2. The **number *needed*** for election - **plurality** (i.e., number of votes cast for a candidate who receives more than any other but does not receive an absolute majority of actual voting members) – **each candidate earned a unanimous or nearly unanimous endorsement for the ballots cast in their individual races, there was a single household ballot that opted to write-in a candidate for President.**
3. The number of **votes received by each candidate**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **President – Jennifer Alexander** |  | **98%** |
| **Vice President – Gail Mahaffey** |  | **100%** |
| **Secretary – Sara Sabihi** |  | **100%** |
| **Treasurer – Laura Philip** |  | **100%** |

1. The number of **illegal votes** - **0**