

# Old Beechwood Association

A HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD

Monday, October 26, 2020

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT, GREG MYERS:**

### **Jennifer Alexander Appointed to Fill Vacant VP Position**

After solicitation for interested persons and much searching, Jennifer Alexander has been appointed to serve as VP for the OBA. Jennifer will stand as candidate for President of the OBA later this year. Jennifer has provided her background in the VP report below.

Please join me in welcoming Jennifer to the Executive Committee. Her history with the neighborhood is a great benefit to us all.

### **Leaf Pickup Reminder**

Leaf pickup is scheduled to begin November 23 and is expected to be completed by November 25 in ideal conditions and by the end of the week in less than ideal conditions.

Important information related to the leaf pickup:

- Leaves must be placed at the curb by November 23 to guarantee pickup
- Leaves are picked up at the curb line
- Leaves in paper bags are acceptable; leaves in plastic bags are not acceptable
- Brush and sticks are not a part of pickup
- Placing leaves on gravel is to be avoided; gravel can damage the leaf machine

Pickup will be aided with the use of a skid loader (such as a Bobcat). This may be the last year a skid loader will be used. Once new roads are put down, the City advised us and GAG agreed that a skid loader would damage to the new roads.

*Important note: Only those residents who contribute to OBA dues are eligible for leaf pickup. If you are unsure whether you have paid dues, please send an email to Becca Donnally at [rrdzign@aol.com](mailto:rrdzign@aol.com) for confirmation.*

### **Snow Removal Reminder**

Snow removal will take place when snowfall reaches 2". Salting will be done on an as needed basis

### **Columbia Gas Work in the Neighborhood**

As indicated in our last report, you may have seen Columbia Gas in the neighborhood. They received copies of our project plans and any updates as they have occurred. Columbia Gas will be relocating some of their lines prior to the work of the general construction next year.

**TREASURER’S REMARKS, BECCA DONNALLY:**

We encourage those who have not had an opportunity to pay their dues to please submit them to me. These funds go toward snow and leaf removal and general neighborhood clean up and beautification.

If you don’t remember if you have paid your dues this year or you need the dues information sent to you, please email me at [rrdzign@aol.com](mailto:rrdzign@aol.com).

The OBA Treasurer’s Report as of October 2020 is attached to the email.

**VICE PRESIDENT’S REMARKS, JENNIFER ALEXANDER:**

I look forward to getting reacquainted with our neighbors and working with the OBA. Thank you for the opportunity.

I reside at 10 W Beechwold Boulevard (The Gatehouse) but first moved into the neighborhood with my parents in the mid 1980s when I was a freshman in High School. My father, John, a former OBA President, still resides in the same home on Olentangy Boulevard. After college I first lived in Delawanda for several years before building a home in Powell. I returned to Old Beechwold with my daughter, Lauren, then two years old, in 2004. We lived at the Gatehouse for 13 years until we needed to move to the Dublin school district so Lauren could graduate from the High School she started in. After Lauren's graduation from High School we came back to Clintonville and lived on Zeller for a year until the Gatehouse unexpectedly became available. Jennifer and Lauren moved back into the Gatehouse in July of 2020.

I earned her undergrad in Psychology from Denison University and a Masters in Business Administration from Capital. I currently work for American Electric Power in Organization Development. I served as Treasurer for the Old Beechwold Association during her last stint in the neighborhood.

The Historic Resources Commission Actions for all of 2020 are attached.

**ARBOR COMMITTEE UPDATE, LINDALEE BROWNSTEIN:**

Members of the Arbor Committee contributed to the City’s considerations in their design of the rain gardens (bio basins to be located at the circle at W. Jeffrey Place and Olentangy Blvd. and at Jastram Grove. As with the other project plans, these will be released for review following final city sign offs.

In August, the Arbor Committee and a dozen or more neighbors turned out to remove Tree of Heaven from the ravine and the park islands by High Street. Tree of Heaven is a particularly invasive weed and our attention to cutting or pulling these now will be helpful to maintain the a more native look in the ravine.

The entryways around the pillars at W. Jeffrey Pl. and W. Beechwold have been generally cleared. More permanent work around these areas is on hold until we see how those areas will be affected by Project Blueprint.

Our thanks to Gregg Peace who organized a tree giveaway in September and planted some trees in the common areas. More than 50 oak trees were distributed.

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE, STACIA CLIFTON:**

The social committee continues to provide welcome packets our new neighbors as they arrive. A positive result of this early communication has been that new residents are quickly able to reach out to the OBA to pay or confirm dues payment.

There are no social events scheduled due to COVID.

**BLUEPRINT COMMITTEE UPDATE, JOE WILLIAMS:**

Following our last report, the near final plans were routed to all the City departments for last comments and changes. The City's contracted engineering has since completed the now final plans and they plans are in place for each Department Director and Division Administrator to sign off on the project.

Our project manager has been diligent in guiding the project through the city, including the Columbus City Attorney who checks on potential real estate or property issues, the contracted engineers and the Ohio EPA. We've commented before that this has been a time-consuming process, made even more so by remote working conditions.

Once the signatures are secured, the OBA Blueprint Committee will receive a set of plans for their review. The plans will be made available to residents on our website. The City has been appreciative of the many, many meetings with Blueprint and OBA members as well as hearing directly from residents. They have incorporated our comments and thoughts as best possible.

The City expects to receive the necessary signatures in November and then advertise the project for construction bids in December with bid openings in January 2021. If this remains on schedule, the contractor who is awarded the bid will be given notice that they can proceed with construction in April 2021.

Finally, to repeat ourselves, the project is getting a later start than any of us expected when we first learned of the it over two years ago but the good news is that the project will occur and the end result will be an improvement to our current infrastructure. The engagement of our neighbors has been a welcome and positive experience for the city.

**ELECTIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE, JACK JACKSON:**

Following notice to the residents of the vacancy, the Elections Committee identified and presented Jennifer Alexander for appointment to the open Vice President position. Jennifer will stand for election as president later this year for 2021.

We are still seeking residents who are interested in standing for vice president for 2021. To date, no resident has offered to run. If you are interested, please contact Committee Chair, Jack Jackson or the other committee members, Stacia Clifton or Lindalee Brownstein, or Gregory Myers.

We have just six weeks to finalize the slate by the actual election which begins and runs through December.

Current OBA Executive Committee members, Rebecca Donnally and Melissa Sickles, Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, will stand for those offices again in the upcoming election. Gregory Myers, current President is not eligible to serve, having completed two years this December.