

Old Beechwold Association

A HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD

Monday, January 25, 2021

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS - JENNIFER ALEXANDER

Welcome to 2021! I know we all hope that this year brings more peace, increased opportunity for social engagements and greater unity overall. I know I do. In lieu of our first quarter meeting, we are again publishing a report. I would like to welcome our new Vice President Gail Mahaffey and express my gratitude for her serving as an officer and express equal thanks to Becca Donnally and Melissa Sickles for continuing to serve as Treasurer and Secretary respectfully.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS – GAIL MAHAFFEY

Thank you, Jennifer. I'm looking forward to supporting our Old Beechwold community. For those I've not yet met, here's a little background. I moved here in late 2018 from Chicago where I worked primarily in healthcare administration. Two of my children attended OSU; I'd fly down frequently to visit and discovered Old Beechwold on one of those visits. I was charmed but never imagined I'd be living here. Fast-forward 10 years, my middle daughter marries, moves to Dublin, and has two daughters. Wanting to be near my granddaughters, I join Franklin Park Conservatory as the Vice President of Philanthropy. However, I'll be retiring at the end of January so I have more time to spend with the grandkids... and the OBA!

HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION ACTIONS, CALENDAR YEAR 2020

A report of HRC Actions is attached.

TREASURER'S REMARKS – BECCA DONNALLY

Treasurer's report as of 12/31/2020 attached.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND BLUEPRINT UPDATE

Pursuant to City of Columbus requirements, the near-final plans were distributed to all impacted city departments for final review and comments in November. Comments were received by the City Project Manager and the plans were updated in December for what is expected to be final signatures from all departments. Once signatures are gathered, the plans will be released to the OBA BluePrint Committee and be the basis for a Request for Proposals from construction companies. The City is aiming for the RFP to be released in February with responses due in March/April, and actual work to begin late spring

or early summer. As we all know, the project will take us into 2022 and we recognize that at some point it will be disruptive to every resident.

Once construction begins, there will be several crews in the neighborhood performing various aspects of the work. The selected construction company or companies will provide a designated “on the ground” construction manager who the OBA can contact with questions from the field. A more detailed process for residents to pose questions will be developed as we near construction.

Columbia Gas in the Neighborhood

Please be aware that Columbia Gas will be returning to the neighborhood in January and February to identify and upgrade and relocate some of their service lines. While not a specific part of the Infrastructure and Blueprint projects, they are taking the opportunity to do this work ahead of the other work to take place. The Columbus Gas work may involve digging in the roadway and in yards. While there might be some disruptions, this is designed to prevent any unforeseen need to damage our new roads once they are in place.

Additional details about this work can be found on the OBA webpage in previous communications.

OLD BEECHWOLD ASSOCIATION 2021 OFFICER ELECTION RECAP - JACK JACKSON

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

1. The total number of ballots cast – 68 of 113 eligible residences (60%) 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 skipped a vote for President, Vice President and Secretary

The number of votes received by each candidate:

For President, Jennifer Alexander - 67 votes, 99%
For Vice-President, Gail Mahaffey - 67 votes, 99%
For Secretary, Melissa Sickles - 67 votes, 99%
For President, Becca Donnally - 68 votes, 100%

4. The number of illegal votes - 0

SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE – STACIA CLIFTON

Holiday wreaths were put up and taken down. We lost one this year either through theft or it blew away. The ribbons are looking pretty bad so consideration will be made to purchase new ones for next Holiday season. The committee is hopeful that an outdoor socially distanced get together can occur this summer.

ARBOR COMMITTEE UPDATE – LINDA LEE BRONSTEIN

The many Tree of Heaven near the bridge have been marked with red tape. The committee is looking into ways to control them. Thank you to Gail Mahaffey for arranging for an arborist to mark them.

Look for information for a workday in April to maintain the communal areas and remove invasive plants.

A very special thanks to Gregg Peace for his ongoing efforts on improving and sustaining the natural beauty of our neighborhood.

REPORT ON DEER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Old Beechwold participated in the December Clintonville Area Commission meeting discussing the negative effects of deer in our neighborhoods. A follow-up discussion will occur at get February CAC meeting. The problem is now recognized broadly in the Clintonville area. While we know the deer are prevalent in Old Beechwold, they seem to be just as prevalent in other parts of Clintonville including along the well trafficked East North Broadway. In December, two members of the CAC attended a meeting hosted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The meeting was largely informational and provided no new advice than we have gotten in the past.

A document from ODNR is attached.

The CAC requested assistance or advice from the City of Columbus and received the following statement from Mayor Ginther:

“While the presence of deer in Columbus neighborhoods can pose a threat to driver safety, and deer can certainly cause property damage, there is nothing to suggest the population of deer within any Columbus neighborhood has increased to a level that would justify harvesting deer within city limits. While a state program does exist which allows cities to permit limited bow hunting, the City of Columbus has no intention of pursuing this policy unless and until the threat to the health and safety of residents caused by the deer is greater than the risks and potential unintended consequences associated with urban hunting. In the meantime, the City encourages residents to take steps to avoid attracting deer to their property and to learn more about coexisting with wildlife.”

The CAC is now on alert that Old Beechwold wishes to be included in any exploration and implementation of a solution.