

**Ednor Gardens Lakeside Community Association
Community Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2008**

Next Meeting: January 27, 2009

Opening Remarks and Committee Reports

President Karenthia A. Barber, welcomed all in attendance and began the meeting by inviting committee *reports*.

Youth and Education Committee:

- **Waverly School Volunteer Opportunities.** 1) Experienced teachers are needed to mentor new teachers at Waverly Elementary and Middle Schools. 2) Community input is needed in designing Waverly's new addition. Contact Joan at stannejoan@yahoo.com or 410-889-0329.
- **College Access Volunteer Opportunities.** Volunteers are needed to work one-on-one with Lake Clifton High School seniors as they apply to college. Contact Christine Youngston at Unchained Talent at 443-386-4365 or chris@unchainedtalent.org.
- **Stadium Place Playground Volunteer Opportunities.** Rebuilding is set for May 2009! Volunteers are currently needed to for two committees: 1) Volunteer recruitment and 2) Food donations. Power tool trainings will be offered to support volunteer participation.

Public Safety Committee Report:

- **Block Captain Meetings.** All residents are invited to participate in ongoing block
- **Captain meetings.** The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 17. Contact Chris Ryon at crryon@hotmail.com.
- **COP Volunteers.** Drivers, bikers, and walkers are needed for Communities on Patrol. Contact Chris Ryon at crryon@hotmail.com in regard to evening shifts (Thursday, Friday and alternate Saturdays). Contact Jeanne Adams (410-236-0174) in regard to daytime walking groups. EGLS currently ranks second in the district for COP participation, which is both an accomplishment and a challenge; let's claim the top spot.

Housing Code Enforcement

Inspector Howard Oliver praised Ednor Gardens Lakeside for the community's dedication to beautification and upkeep. He noted several points to remember:

- **Rodents.** Abatement efforts in our area continue.
- **Trash.** All trash must be placed in a metal or hard plastic container for collection. Notifications and citations will be forthcoming for those who do not comply.
- **Abandoned Vehicles.** Cars must be parked on paved surfaces and must display current tags even when covered or on private property. Report abandoned cars via 311.
- **Garages.** Garages must be maintained.
- **Permits.** Those conducting home improvements must get a permit from the city. At around \$50, these permits are an inexpensive way to protect residents from the expense and liability associated with shoddy construction work.
- **Leaves.** Take bagged leaves to the median strip of Alameda, and they will be collected on Sundays. There is uncertainty about alley leaf pick-up, which will be explored further.

Inspector Oliver encouraged residents to approach neighbors about potential housing code violations when possible. However, when informal mediation fails or is not possible, code enforcement can serve as an effective means to address neighborhood problems. Typically, inspectors first issue a notification warning, which if ignored, may be followed by a fine of \$50-60. Complaints should be made by calling 311. Callers should note that, once on site, inspectors will survey not only the reported problem but the surrounding area as well. More persistent problems can be reported to our own Sam Snowden in the Mayor's Office at 396-4721.

Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative

Angie Sriram of Greater Homewood Community Corporation shared information on the Healthy Neighborhoods program. Residents wishing to make renovations to their homes may apply to the program for loans beginning at \$5000. Furthermore, those who qualify may receive **matching funds** from Greater Homewood. Loans related to purchasing and re-financing are also available. Angie is available to speak to you one-on-one or to make group presentations to interested residents (asriram@greaterhomewood.org/410-261-3511). Find more information about the program at www.healthyneighborhoods.org.

Andover Park Renovation

The renovation of Andover Park is moving full steam ahead thanks to committee of residents. EGLSCA has been awarded a **\$65,000 grant** to completely redesign the space. The committee plans to present a plan for the new park at the next meeting. Construction is slated to begin Fall 2009.

Stadium Place

The Stadium Place condominium project is currently on hold, and it is unclear at this time whether the contract has been terminated. Development of the Greenhouse Project, a long-term skilled nursing facility, will continue. Developers are seeking community input concerning the retail center planned for Ednor and 33rd St.

Public Safety Update

Deputy Major DeSousa from the Baltimore City Police Department reported on developments in the Northeastern District. Of particular interest to the group were staffing changes, which will bring new officers to the district. Specifically, Deputy Major DeSousa promised that Ednor Gardens Lakeside could expect to benefit from newly organized "power shifts" during which shifts of officers overlap to provide extra coverage during the most vulnerable times (between 9:00PM and 2:00AM). Deputy Major DeSousa asked for community feedback in regard to which streets needed the most surveillance. Residents were particularly concerned about how to notify police about problems, with the following advice offered:

- If residents see crime happening, they should first call 911. Second, they can call Shawn Harrison at the department directly at 443-690-7120.
- Sergeant Tserkis also offered his number: 410-889-6499.
- If residents experience crime, they should report it to the police. However, they should also alert community leaders by reporting the incident to eglsalert@aol.com.
- Residents were reminded that crime rates climb during the holidays. Protect yourself by removing change, electronics, and clothing from your vehicle; by closing your blinds; and by asking neighbors to meet you on the porch if you come home alone in the dark.

Announcements: Brad Schlegel (william.schlegel@us.army.mil) has been honored by Bank of America for his community service. He will use his award to begin a community fund via Greater Homewood that he hopes others will contribute to as well.

Association Elections

The meeting concluded with an election for 2009 association officers. The association's officers by unanimous confirmation for 2009 are:

President	Karenthia A. Barber
1 st Vice President	Sam Snowden
2 nd Vice President	Phyllis McNeal
Secretary	Melissa Gilkey
Treasurer	Thelma Wharton
Sergeant-at-Arms	Elva Friesen
Ednor Gardens Rep	Chris Ryon
Lakeside Rep	Marie Steedley

The association will hold its next meeting on January 27, 2009. Please note that this is the fourth (rather than the third), Tuesday, which falls on the presidential inauguration day.