

Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association
Board Meeting
Saturday, May 21, 2005

Board Members present: Elaine Boyle, Hoyte Decker, Andy Dorosky, Neil Frock, Greg Gause, Fritz Hessemer, Trixie Miller, Roger Pool, Tim Spies, and Libby Stiff

Board members absent: Linda Kauffman

Guests: Elizabeth Burrowes, Sonie Decker, Patrick Gossett, M. L. Langhran, Marcia Maldeis, Bill and Rhoda Nary, Ron Paterson, and Kevin Spence (Cape Gazette reporter)

The meeting was called to order at 9:07AM.

Minutes---The minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2005, copies of which had been distributed prior to the meeting, were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report---Mr. Decker presented the Treasurer's and Budget Reports (attached) noting the bank balance of \$7,480.23 as of May 16 and a budget surplus of about \$2000. Both reports were approved.

Committee Reports

Secretary's Report---Ms. Boyle reported that the March Newsletters had been mailed.

Membership---Mr. Dorosky reported that there are 432 members.

Bylaws---Mr. Frock discussed the two changes which will be presented at the May General Membership Meeting. Mr. Gause suggested that the Bylaws be revised to reduce the number of general membership meetings from four to three and the number of Newsletters from four to two a year. Mr. Decker suggested that the general membership meeting be devoted to specific issues. Mr. Frock and Ms. Miller will discuss the proposals and present them at the June general membership meeting.

Nominations and Elections Committee---Mr. Frock presented a written report (attached) which shows the reelection years for board members:

2005: Miller, Gause, Spies, Hessemer, and Frock

2006: Decker, Dorosky, Pool, and Boyle

2007: Stiff and Kauffman

In order to remedy the imbalance, Mr. Frock proposed that for those terms expiring in 2005, four of the seats be given a three-year term and one of the seats a two-year term. Ms. Miller and Mr. Decker abstained and the other board members voted to approve Mr. Frock's proposal.

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Ordinance---Mr. Decker reported that he presented the suggested changes to the ordinances to the mayor and commissions at the April City Commissioners' meeting and that the mayor put it on the agenda of a future workshop meeting.

Environment---Mr. Hessmer has found more kudzu in Central Park. He said that the city will pay for the replacement of the recently destroyed forsythia bushes bordering the Park.

Planning Commission--- Mr. Spies and Mr. Paterson reviewed the status of the subdivision at State and Canal Streets. They stated that it appears the developers used a zoning line incorrectly drawn on the zoning map which is for sale by the city at the building inspector's office, rather than the line as shown on the official map designated by the City Code.

Old Business

Membership Feedback---Mr. Decker discussed the survey which he has drafted to solicit comments of what people think defines the Character of Rehoboth Beach. Mr. Gossett suggested that sketches or photographs may be the best method to help define "character" and streetscapes. Mr. Decker asked for suggestions as to how to frame the wording of survey from the board.

Strategic Plan---It was agreed to discuss the strategic Plan and the "Character of Rehoboth" at the June General Membership meeting. Also, Mr. Hessemer will provide information on Lewes' plans for park and tree preservation. Mr. Dorosky, Ms. Boyle, Mr. Gause and Mr. Spies will prepare an action list for part 3 of the Strategic Plan (Increase Number of Members) prior to the June meeting.

Website---Mr. Decker asked the board members to provide information for the website:
RBHA calendar, description of RBHA committees, and descriptions of other local civic organizations, etc.

Ms. Stiff suggested sending out a postcard to all property owners advising them of the website. Mr. Spies agreed to find out the cost of obtaining the list from the city. It was also suggested the June Newsletter be mailed to all property owners, instead of the postcard, as a means of increasing membership.

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Neighborhood Liaisons---Mr. Decker and Mr. Gossett discussed the overlap of the RBHA and Neighborhood Watch. Mr. Decker said he prefers to keep the two organizations separate, but noted that Neighborhood Watch has a network of people already set up.

Ms. Miller asked that the name and number of the City's Code Enforcement Officer be posted on the website so residents will know who to contact if there is a problem. Noting Ms. Maldeis' comment that complaints by individuals are often ignored by the city, Mr. Decker replied that the RBHA can forward complaints on to City Hall and, if there is no response, continue to follow up.

New Business

May 16 Public Hearing on FAR Reductions. ---Mr. Gossett stated that the changes to the code are a starting point in addressing the issue of density. He said modifications will be discussed at the next workshop. He reported that two methods proven to control growth in other communities have been:

- 1) sewer controls, e.g. going from a two bathroom house to a five bathroom house with Jacuzzis and a pool; and
- 2) A cafeteria list of design elements to chose from.

Ms. Miller offered the June meeting as a forum to discuss the changes.

Mr. Decker said he and Stan Mills will write an article for the June Newsletter about Mr. Mill's FOIA Complaint. Mr. Spies agreed to write an article on the recent changes to FAR.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:28AM.

Timothy C. Spies, Recording Secretary