



**Montrose WAMM CIVIC ASSOCIATION
QUARTERLY MEETING - JANUARY 9, 2018
MINUTES**

Lane Llewellyn, Acting President, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm at the Bering Memorial United Methodist Church meeting room.

Lane informed the attendees that the new Pastor of Bering Memorial wished to speak briefly to our members before proceeding with the meeting agenda. Rev. Diane McGehee introduced herself. She emphasized the commitment of Bering Memorial to our neighborhood and offered continuing collaboration with WAMM and support for our activities. Lane thanked Rev. McGehee for coming to our meeting and for the support WAMM receives from Bering Memorial.

Before moving onto agenda items, Lane indicated that this meeting includes members of WAMM, Audubon Place, and Westmoreland. She briefly recapped the strategic partnership between the three Civic Associations in the implementation of the Constable Patrol Program.

VOTE FOR WAMM OFFICERS

The first item in the meeting agenda was voting for the new officers nominated at the quarterly meeting held on September 12, 2017. A vote did not take place at that meeting because of lack of quorum, or at the quarterly meeting scheduled for December because it was suspended. Lane re-introduced the roster of positions and candidates:

First Vice-President – Lane Llewellyn
Second Vice-President – Diane Baker
Secretary/Treasurer – Maria Morandi

The position of President is vacant because there have been no volunteers to fill it. Lane Llewellyn will be Acting President until one or more members volunteer to run for the position. The vote was taken and the nominees were approved unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS.

Lane introduced the three deputies/officers from Precinct 1 at the meeting including Lieutenant Jeff Shipley, and Deputies Steven Skede and Latoyja Minx.

Lieutenant Shipley, Constable Patrol Supervisor, described the activities of Constable Patrol Officers. In particular, he emphasized that a patrol officer will be sent in response to calls received by his department even outside the hours stipulated in the contract with a Civic Association.

Lane indicated that the three Civic Associations are in a transition period towards restarting the Patrol on March 1, 2018. Based on the number of subscribers in the Constable Patrol this past year, we need to enroll at least 150 residents. She also remarked that our assigned Deputy, Raymond Garivey III, had done an excellent job. Lane inquired if there were any questions for Lieutenant Shipley.

Questions were raised on the issue of non-response to calls. Lieutenant Shipley again explained that an officer would be dispatched in response to a call even during the off-hours of the assigned patrol officer. Calls are rolled to HPD only if all officers in his Department are busy at the time of call. Lane thanked Lieutenant Shipley and Deputies Skede and Minx for attending the meeting and answering our questions.

In response to questions about available data on crime statistics, Lane indicated that she thinks security has improved and mentioned in particular improvements in the area around the Catholic Guild Charity. Maria Morandi responded that we have requested monthly crime statistics for the last three years; Captain Hennessey of Precinct 1 has assigned an officer to collect the data. We will inform all members about the results once we receive these data and analyze it.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Constable Patrol Recruitment Update

Maria Morandi presented the number of subscribers and pledges to subscribe through January 9, 2018, as follows:

WAMM – 12 subscribers
Audubon Place – 11 subscribers
Westmoreland – 10 subscribers
Pledges – 10

The total number of subscribers and pledges to date is slightly under 30% of the 150 members needed. The account balance was not provided because several checks received recently have yet to be deposited. Considering the low level of enrollment, Lane suggested that there are three options we can pursue:

- 1) Move forward if sufficient funds are available for the first six months and continue recruitment in order to achieve full year funding.
- 2) Continue recruiting and postpone the start of the patrol until October 1.
- 3) Discontinue the effort and return the fees to all subscribers.

Susan Fan raised the issue of not receiving any information about the CP since she enrolled in 2016. Bill Gazer also indicated that some of the subscribers had not received the email messages regarding the status of the patrol, and that there is a need to have an information

packet because email messages may not be getting to all addresses. There was a discussion about the pros and cons of sending communications by email and the reasons why subscribers may not have gotten CP news through the WAMM newsletter and the CP updates. Lane mentioned that there have been multiple CP notes in the WAMM newsletter and introduced Alle L'Eveille, our newsletter editor. Alle indicated that the emails might be going into spam boxes, at least in some cases. Dennis Pow-Sang volunteered to act as community liaison and make phone calls to all former CP subscribers who have yet not responded to our request for participation. Maria Morandi will send him the files with names, address, phone number(s), and subscription status.

Robert Turner raised the issue of the increase in the CP fee from the initial \$300, then to \$400, and now \$550. He knows of residents who are not participating because of the increase in the annual fee. More subscribers are needed so the fee can be lowered. Lane explained that WAMM went door to door to do recruitment, and this is a time- and person-intensive effort. David Soderberg also indicated that the fee increase is a negative factor in participation and asked about collaboration with surrounding neighborhoods that have implemented CPs. Lane explained that she had approached several of these associations and they were not interested in partnerships. Other associations such as East Montrose and Roseland Estates collaborated with WAMM for a short time but they did not have a sufficient number of subscribers. She also explained that WAMM had received sponsorships from a couple of non-profits, but that we were successful in getting sponsorships from businesses. Alle L'Eveille reminded everybody that local businesses also pay for security to the Montrose Management District, so they feel they are covered.

A potential alternative presented was raising the dues for all three Civic Associations. It was briefly discussed but it was considered unlikely to succeed.

Tadzia GranPre suggested placing signs with notifications of how to enroll around the neighborhoods. Maria Morandi suggested that additional information could be tacked on the existing CP signs. Others suggested approaching apartment complexes. Lane explained that fourplexes are eligible to pay the regular annual fee. She described the difficulties inherent with large apartment complexes providing the example of WAMM's experience with the Tremont Tower. She also provided statistics on the crime reductions for Winlow Place when they implemented their Constable Patrol.

Mark Kelly, Head of Annunciation Orthodox School, provided the School's perspective in terms of contributing to the CP. The school has hired two officers and has a substantial monetary commitment to security. These officers have assisted with security in areas beyond the School property, so they are already making a substantial contribution to safety in the neighborhood.

Robert Turner suggested that perhaps we should request a commitment of \$275 at this time and tell potential subscribers that the total annual payment could be as low as \$400 or as high as \$550 depending on participation. David Soderberg emphasized that residents do not want to make a commitment for a full year and then not get it because of an insufficient number of

subscribers. There was more discussion about the need for more participation in Westmoreland and Audubon Place. Lane emphasized that all monies will be returned if the patrol is not implemented.

Based on the prior discussion, the options for the path forward were revisited and reformulated as:

- 1) Move forward with a contract only if we have 150 subscribers by the end of January
- 2) If the subscription goal is not reached, refund all the fees paid.

David Soderberg proposed that if we do not get a sufficient number of subscribers, we should send a notification to all those that subscribed to the effect that they will receive a refund and a new effort will commence in June to start the Patrol on October 1. There was general consensus that this will be the preferred approach. Lane expressed that, ideally, she would like each of the associations to have their own separate account for the Constable Patrol and that she will help in this process. Susan Fan volunteered to help with recruitment efforts. Lane reminded everybody that they can request a drive with a patrol deputy on duty.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lane provided an update of the near conclusion of construction at the Annunciation Orthodox School, and that the Head of the School, Mark Kelly, is retiring.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm